Proposals for Light Ho.

Treasury Department
Revenue Office March 18th 1817

Proposals will be received at the office of the Commissioner of the Revenue, for building a Light House, at or near Presque isle on Lake Erie, of the following materials, dimentions and description:

The Light House to be of Stone or hard brick; the form octagon; the foundation to be of Stone, to be laid as deep as may be requisite to make the fabric perfectly secure, and to be carried up three feet above the Surface of the earth, from the commencement of the foundation to the bottom of the water table; the wall to be four feet thick; the interior diameter of the base, from the bottom of the water table to the top thereof, where the octagonal pyramid is to commence, to be nine feet six inches, and the internal diameter seven feet six inches at the top or floor of the lanthorn; the water table to be capped with hewn Stone, at least eight inches wide, and sloped to turn off the water. From the Surface to the top of the building the walls to be twenty feet in height and graduated as follows:

The first five feet from the foundation wall, to be three feet thick, the next seven feet to be two and a half feet thick, and the next five feet to be two feet thick. The top of the building, to be arched, reserving an entrance on the side to the lanthorn, and to have a Stone cornice covered with copper so as to preserve it from the weather. The trap door to be framed with iron and covered with Copper.

On the top of the Stone or brick work there are to be a Sufficient number of Substantial iron Sleepers, bedded there and Sloping from the Centre, which are to be covered first with Sheet iron, over which is to be laid a Course of Sheathing paper, well soaked in, and paid with tar, and then with Sheet copper over the iron. The whole to be rivetted together, so as that the Floor of the Lanthorn thus prepared, shall be perfectly tight and strong, and as durable at least as upon the ordinary mode of laying the Copper on wood.

The ground Floor to be paved with brick or Stone, a Sufficient number of Strong wooden Stairs, with a Safe hand railing to lead from the ground Floor to the Lanthorn, with Substantial plank Floors on the joists of each Story. The Light House to have three windows, each to have eight panes of glass, ten by twelve inches, in strong frames, with Shutters and proper Fastenings, painted with two coats of paint, and a Substantial panneled door, three Feet wide and five and a half Feet high, iron hinges, lock and latch complete, on the lower Floor. There is to be an iron ladder from the upper Story to the entrance into the Lanthorn.

A complete iron lanthorn, in the octagon form, to rest on the platform of the pyramid, to be eight Feet in diameter, and nine Feet high, the eight Corner pieces of which to be two and a half inches Square above the platform, and three inches Square below it, to run six Feet into the Stone or brick work, and to be there Secured with anchors. The Space between the posts at the angles to be occupied by the Sashes, which are to be of iron, moulded on the inside, Struck Solid, and of Sufficient Strength so as

not to work with the wind, each sash to be glazed with Strong double glass, ten by twelve inches of the first quality Boston manufacture, excepting on one side, where so much of the space as would otherwise be filled with Sashes, is to be occupied by an iron framed door, covered with copper, two and a half feet wide, and four and a half feet high.

The top of the lanthorn to be a dome, four feet high, and covered with copper, thirty-two ounces to the square foot formed by fifteen iron rafters, concentrating in an iron hoop at the top, which forms the funnel for the smoke to pass out of the lanthorn into the ventilator, in the form of a ball, sufficient to contain fifty gallons, and large enough to secure the funnel against rain the ventilator to be turned by a large vane, so that the hole for venting the smoke may always be to leeward. The lanthorn to be surrounded by an iron ballustrade, two feet high, each rail or rod to be three quarters of an inch square, inserted in the braces between the eight posts. The lanthorn and ballustrade to be covered with three coats of good paint.

The door, sashes, window frames &c. to be well painted, and the building whitewashed, and furnished with two complete electrical conductors, or rods with points.

Separate proposals will, likewise, be received for building a Frame Dwelling House, one Story of Seven feet Stud, Seventeen feet front by twenty five feet from front to rear, with a cellar under it, well stoned, six feet deep, ten feet wide, and fifteen feet long in the clear, to be pointed with lime mortar

The House to be divided into three rooms, a parlour, Kitchen and bed room: twelve feet from the front a line is to run through the house, which forms the parlour, and the remainder of the house the Kitchen and bed room. Between the front door and Chimney, Stairs are to be made leading down Cellar and into the Chamber. The walls of the House are to be boarded with good inch pine boards, feathered edged, and on these are to be laid a good coat of Cedar or pine (without sap) Shingles. The roof is to be single pitch, boards to be jointed and halved and well seasoned, and to be covered with like good shingles as the walls. There is to be a good Chimney with two fire places, and an Oven & iron mantle trees. Also two outside doors, and such inside doores as are necessary to keep the rooms distinct, and to pass up Chamber and down Cellar: these to be hung on iron hinges, with thumb latches, and the outside doors to have good locks. A sufficient number of Windows, each to have Sixteen panes of glass, ten by twelve inches, with Shutters and fastenings. The inside walls and ceilings to be lathed, and plastered with good lime mortar, and all the floors to be doubled a line [illegible] through. The house to be well painted, with a double coat on the outside, the roof as well as the walls.

~~Sealed proposals will be received for letting up the said Light House within one year after it shall be built, with Patent Lamps and Reflectors, Fire Bucks for keeping the Records and all the~~

The whole work to be executed in a workmanlike style, to be inspected and approved by the Collector at Presqu'isle, Pennsylvania, or his agent, and to be completed on or before the first of August 1818

Seperate proposals will be received for fitting up the said Light House, within one month after it shall be built, with Patent Lamps and Reflectors, Tin Butts for keeping the Oil, and all the necessary apparatus, in the same manner as the Light Houses of the United States have been fitted up by Mr. Winslow Lewis; the whole to be approved by the Superintendant of the establishment.

Persons disposed to contract, will be pleased to transmit their proposals to the Collector of the Customs at Presqu'isle Pennsylvania or to the Collector of the Customs at Boston previously to the tenth day of May next by whom they will be immediatly thereafter forwarded to the Treasury Department, when notice will be given of the accepted offer.

Samuel H. Smith

Commissioner of the Revenue

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