Collectors Office District
of Buffalo Creek May 9. 1818.

Sir.

I have received Your Letter of the
13th ult. on the subject of the Light-House.
The Scite originally selected is at the southern extremity
of the Village of Buffalo, on a Terrace, that is about
Eighteen feet above the level of the water: between
this and the Lake, a distance of nearly three fourths
of mile is low Marshy ground. From low waters
mark to the usual anchoring grounds in Buffalo
Bay, (Marked A.) is at least three fourths of a mile.
The Scite last selected is between Buffalo Creek and
the Lake. I have inclosed a rough Sketch, drawn
hastily with a pencil, in order to give You a fair
view of the Subject. I have taken every possible pains
to procure correct information, from experienced
masters of Vessels who, had long been accustomed
to navigating the Lake. I trust Satisfy You on this Subject
by their certificates, soon as they can be procured.
I am confident the Scite selected by me cannot
be injured by inundation — I have no knowledge
of its ever being inundated. It is in contempla-
tion to make a harbor at the Mouth of Buffalo
Creek, by extending a Wharf into the Lake

The wharf will commence a few rods above where the Light House is to be erected. To accomplish this object, the legislative aid of our State is expected.

I will procure a Statement from Joseph Elliott, Esq. agent of the Holland Land Company, (and will forward it to you in the course of a few days.) which will show conclusively his opinion on the subject of the Light-House, and further, that the proprietor of the old Site, will not dispose of it, on any condition whatever, that would be considered reasonable.

I enclose the Certificates of Capts Cain and Beard, the most Experienced Mariners that navigate the Lake. The certificate of several other, masters of Vessels, will be enclosed in a few days.

I have the honor to be
Sir
with great respect
Your ob. very humble Servt
Oliver Forward

Hon. Sam H. Smith