Office of Light-House Board
Portland Me.

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October 19th 1880.

To the Chairman
Light House Board
Washington D.C.

Sir:

Referring to letter from the Board of 5th instant, on the subject of a Keeper's dwelling upon the Portland Breakwater, I have the honor to report.—

Firstly, that a dwelling is not necessary,—though it would, undoubtedly, render the care of the light much less burdensome, and it is to be regretted that when the new Head of the Breakwater was built, it was not made large enough to accommodate a small house with the light on top.

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Secondly as to its practicability. It is undoubtedly practicable though at a very considerable expense. The location is much too narrow on top (only 10 feet), and the necessary width would have to be obtained by building up a stone foundation on one, or both slopes, which would be very expensive, and, as General Thom in charge of the harbor suggests, would probably interfere with the scour of the channel. The house built on this foundation must be of brick. The exposure is altogether too great for a wooden structure and of one story, ceiling studded, to prevent obscuring the light from the harbor side (whence it must be visible).

The Breakwater Head is octagonal, 25 feet in diameter. By removing the present (iron) iron tower, an octagonal two story dwelling might be built, carrying the lens in the centre at the summit. But this would involve a very considerable expense for a very inconvenient and contracted dwelling.

General Thom, in charge of the harbor, dislikes, very much, the idea of putting a building upon a foundation carried up from the breakwater Slopes

Should the Board decide to remove the present tower, and erect a dwelling carrying the lens, upon the Breakwater Head, I will, as soon as practicable,

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make drawings and estimates thereof,
with a view to an appropriation.

Very respectfully
Your obdt. Servt
G. E Blunt
Lieut. Col. Engrs Bvt. Col. U.S.A
Engineer 1st. L. H. District