SUBJECT: Moving Light-House buildings, Fort Constitution.

Office of the Chief of Engineers,

United States Army,

Washington, June 27, 1903.

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Hon. Elihu Root,

Secretary of War.

Sir:

1. It is contemplated to construct, with funds now available, emplacements for two 3-inch rapid-fire guns at Fort Constitution, Newcastle, N.H. Estimates have been prepared and submitted by the District Engineer Officer, with plans which present two alternative sites for the consideration of the Department; the first site covers the space now occupied by the buildings of the Light-House Establishment which are used for the purposes of the light-keeper; the second site is directly in front of, and unpleasantly close to, the Commanding Officer's quarters.

2. The Artillery District Commander, the Commanding General of the Department of the East, and the Chief of Artillery recommend that the battery be built on the first site. The adoption of this site will necessitate the removal of the light-keeper's buildings. These buildings were moved, at the expense of Engineer Department appropriations, to their present location in 1897, for the accommodation of a battery which was built at that time.

3. Capt. Harry Taylor, the District Engineer Officer, reports that if these light-house buildings were moved to a site outside the wall of the brick fort, but inside the wall of the stone fort, beyond the site of the proposed range tower, they would be out of the way of any proposed improvement and would be just as convenient to the

light as in their present location.

4. I have the honor to recommend that the matter be presented to the Secretary of the Treasury, with request that permission be granted by his Department for the removal of the buildings in question to the site described in the third paragraph of this letter; the work to be done and the attendant expenses to be paid by the Engineer Department.

5. As the working season in the latitude of Fort Constitution is short, it is further recommended that the Secretary of the Treasury be advised that an early decision in the premises by his Department will be appreciated.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

G. L. Gillespie

Brig. Gen., Chief of Engineers,

U. S. Army.

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