Department of Commerce and Labor

LIGHT-HOUSE ESTABLISHMENT

5027

OFFICE OF ENGINEER, 1ST AND 2D DISTRICTS
28 PEMBERTON SQUARE
BOSTON, MASS.

July 14, 1903.

The Light-House Board,

Washington, D. C.

Sirs:

Referring to the Board's letter of July 8, 1903, No. 5027, with its inclosure, I have the honor to report that I have examined the site at Fort Constitution, New Castle, N. H., to which it is proposed by the War Department to move the dwelling of the Keeper at Portsmouth Harbor, N. H. Light Station.

The proposed site is immediately behind the granite scarp wall, the construction of which was abandoned about thirty-five years ago. The wall is fourteen feet high. If that part of it which will be in front of the dwelling be removed, to permit a view from the dwelling, to enable the Keeper to readily and clearly see when to start the fog signal, and to permit direct access from the dwelling by a foot bridge over the surf immediately outside the wall to the tower; and if the use of a battery of 100 pdr. Parrot guns, mounted at the granite scarp only a few feet from where the dwelling will be, and now said to be used for firing salutes, is to be discontinued, I see no objection to moving the dwelling to the site proposed.

It is between the granite scarp and the old brick scarp one hundred feet behind it. If the dwelling be moved to

it, I recommend that a lot of that depth, extending back to the brick scarp and with a front of eighty feet, be cleared of piles of granite that now encumber it, be covered with soil, turfed and graded and enclosed with a suitable fence by the War Department, and that the fuel house and w. c., as well as the dwelling, be moved to it. I also recommend that the dwelling at the new site be placed upon a substantial stone underpinning to permit a cellar with a clear height of six feet four inches, as at present under the dwelling, the rocky sites (old and new) permitting no cellar under the ground; also that any damage caused to the buildings in moving them, be repaired by the War Department; that a brick cistern like the present cistern be built in the cellar; that that part of the scarp wall in front of the dwelling be removed down to the soles of the embrasures, taking down the four upper courses, and that a foot bridge be built from the scarp wall in front of the dwelling directly to the tower, like the bridge at present in place.

Respectfully yours,

H. Craighill

Lt. Col., Corps of Eng'rs, U. S. Army,
Engineer First Light-House District.