Treasury Department,
Fifth Auditor's Office, January 21, 1837.

Sir

The Secretary of the Treasury has referred to me your letter of the 14th instant, in which was enclosed one to you from the Keeper of Cape Elizabeth Lighthouse, the object of which was to induce the Department to purchase certain buildings which had been erected by a formed Keeper for his own convenience on the public land, and without the authority of the government, and since sold by him to the present Keeper for One hundred and forty dollars.

It must be obvious, in an establishment so extensive as the Lighthouse establishment of the United States, that it would be very injurious to the public service to sanction the principle that each Light house Keeper might erect whatever buildings he pleased, and on his leaving the trust to demand and receive payment for them from the United States. Many Keepers, without consulting the Superintendents or the Treasury Department

The Secretary of the Treasury has referred to me your letter of the 14th instant, in which was enclosed one to you from the Keeper of Cape Elizabeth Lighthouse, the object of which was to induce the Department to purchase certain buildings which had been erected by a former Keeper for his own convenience on the public land, and without the authority of the government, and since sold by him to the present Keeper for One hundred and forty dollars.

It must be obvious, in an establishment so extensive as the Lighthouse establishment of the United States, that it would be very injurious to the public service to sanction the principle that each Light house Keeper might erect whatever buildings he pleased, and on his leaving the trust to demand and receive payment for them from the United States. Many Keepers, without consulting the Superintendents, or the Treasury, have erected buildings of a cheap and temporary kind for their own accommodation, and, on leaving the service, have had permission to remove such buildings or dispose of them to their Successors, but none such have been or can be paid for by the United States.

The Successors are not compelled to purchase those buildings; it being a matter of arrangement between them and the retiring Keepers.

Should Genl. Chandler be of opinion that a stable and Wood house are necessary for the accommodation of the Keeper, authority will be given to him to have them erected; but those heretofore erected, without authority, must be removed from the public land.

I am, &c.

(Signed) S. Pleasonton
Fifth Auditor and acting
Commissioner of the Revenue

Hon. F. O. J. Smith
House of Repr. U States

Treasury Department,
Fifth Auditors Office, February 2, 1837.

Sir

I have received your letter of the 31st December last, transmitting your Lighthouse account for the quarter ending on that day, and estimate of expenses of the current quarter. By my letter of the 10th September last, authorising the allowance to Mr. Dubose for the three men employed as assistants or guards for the Cape Florida Lighthouse, and of Thompson and Griffin and a third person, not named, from 23d May to 23d July, it was provided that Mr. Dubose should produce the receipts of those men, showing that he actually paid so much to them, and that he should show why the third man besides Thompson & Griffin was not at the Lighthouse when attacked by the Indians. As these evidences of the payments made by Mr. Dubose to these men do not appear with your account, it will remain suspended until they shall be received.

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23d May to 23d July, it was provided that Mr. Dubose should
produce the receipts of those men, showing that he actually
paid so much to them, and that he should show why the third
man besides Thompson & Griffin was not at the Lighthouse when
attacked by the Indians. As these evidences of the payments
made by Mr. Dubose to these men do not appear with your
account, it will remain suspended until they shall be
received.

I have applied to the Secretary of the Treasury to remit
you One thousand eight hundred and fifty dollars to meet
the expenses of the current quarter. You have improperly placed
your estimate on the account. You will in future append it to your
letter, or state it on a separate sheet.

I am &c.

(Signed) S. Pleasonton

Wm A. Whitehead Esq.

Fifth Audt and acting Comm. of the Revenue

Commissioner of the Revenue

Treasury Department,
Fifth Auditors Office, February 10, 1837.

Sir

I have duly received your letter of the 3d instant, requesting to be informed whether the Keeper of Matanzinicus Rock Lighthouse, in consequence of ill health, can be permitted to remain on the
468. main land during the residue of the Winter, he leaving his eldest Son with two other persons in charge of the Light.

You do not inform me whether the son is of age or not, a fact very material in deciding the question propounded. If you know him to be of age however, and otherwise qualified to attend the Light, I should have no objection to the indulgence of the Keeper with leave of absence for five or six weeks, and you will grant it to him accordingly.

I am, &c.

(Signed) S. Reasoner
Fifth Auditor and Acting
Commissioner of the Revenue

John Chandler Esq.