considering the State of matters there as evidencing this Conduct
With a very different appearance and a very opposite
character in the mind of Mr Allibone and myself appeared
to have been for some time a Careless Keeper & Steward
Interest that we should so compleatly alarm him as to produce a
reform - I have therefore been particular in making manifest
the general complexion of his conduct & pointing out the Consequences
to him & the public - The unexpected visit of Mr Sweeny has
taken him by surprize - He has kept Mr Allibone entire
good opinion by getting every thing in order to shew him
at his periodical visits - These were always preceded by notice
It would appear rigid to represent him and procure his removal
this time. Yet I do assure you my feelings as to property
and Humanity are such that I believe it to be doubtfull
whether it be not wrong to suffer him to remain -

I shall be glad to know whether he had leave of
absence when he was last up which was in August &
if he made any report on the Condition of the Light House
I would be glad of a Copy with a note of the time
when it reached you - You will be pleased either to send
him a Copy of my letter with such additions from yourself
as you may think proper or you can write him a
letter to the purport of mine - as you may find it most
eligible -

I am Sir &c &c

Genl. Macpherson
Philadelphia -

Treasury Department
Revenue Office Sept 27th 1797

Sir

It is requested that on the Receipt of this

letter you will take immediate measures for the purchase of the two lots of Land which can be most easily procured and may be most suitable for the erection of the Beacon and of the Light House and their appurtenancies proposed to be built the first upon Shell Castle Island and the second upon Cape Hatteras —

The Beacon upon Shell Castle Island is to be of the Description in the inclosed paper and will not require a lot greater than a common Inn with its Stables and Yard in one of our cities — But the larger it can be obtained the better because it will be a necessary precaution against fire in a case of Wooden buildings to place the Keepers house, Oil vault, and Beacon House at a little distance from each other — As the Island is presumed to be of no value for soil, and this will be a public lot for the purpose of private Commerce, it is possible it may as in other instances be granted to the United States for the encouragement and forwarding of the Buildings —

In regard to the Light House the same observations occur as well as to its dimensions as to the terms of procuring it Yet it has been common to have about ten acres — The State of Massachusetts lately granted without purchase money the whole Island of Segwin supposed to contain about thirty acres and for the site of the Philadelphia Light House two hundred acres were granted by the Penn family without price — The soil in those places is generally of little value and often scarcely deserves the name — Mr Smith in like manner gave the Lots for Cape Fear and Mr Rapier that for George Town — It is understood the Sand Hills of Cape Hatteras are of very little value or use — The inclosed paper will shew that the Light House at first desired by the Legislature of North Carolina would have been built upon ground that would have been granted as of little value or without price — As the Light House will

be 90 feet high the level of the bank of sand Hills at Hatteras under the Sand hills is pretty uniform. the Light House will be visible sometimes ten leagues and generally seven, and as the Shoals are reported by Mr Southerland to extend but five leagues it can make no difference in what part of a strip of two miles by one mile the Ground is given or bought - such a tract would contain 960 Acres - If a purchase is made it must be confined to four acres, as the Legislature have not made the Excepsion of more, and might not confirm it

The privilidge of landing might be expressed, if agreable in both cases, but it does not appear necessary as it is a matter of course that we have a passage to our property

I Mention confidentially that I am apprehensive there may be some disposition to exact by some interested Land Holders or recent purchasers and therefore have said thus much to prepare You

I wish those two Lots to be obtained immediately free or upon any terms for ready money, short of extravagance If they are very extravagant; an Acre or half an acre will be enough and there must be many owners of Ground in the 960 Acres, any part of which appears likely to answer

I am Sir

Your most Obed Servt

Jno Wm Tench Coxe

Comm of the Revenue

Jas Iredwell Esq

Edenton, North Carolina

Treasury Department

Revenue office Sept 28th 1797

Sir

I have received Your letter of the 15th Instant and inclose to You in Conformity two Copies of the necessary Contract one of which is to be returned for the present by You and the