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

other of which upon receipt will be submitted to the President for consideration with two other propositions received & think it probable he will be here by the middle of Oct. If he should not be here by that time it will be transmitted to him at Quincy with all the materials necessary to enable him to judge, and You will be forthwith apprized of the result. Although the terms are higher than have yet been paid for a light House yet upon the whole, I think it so probable that the Business will fall to you that if you will furnish two or more good Bondsmen's names to sign with You with whom Benjamin Lincoln Esq. shall be satisfyed, I will venture so far as to advise that you order your affairs for the undertaking. But as I should be very loth to lead you into the least expence or to appear to assume a decision that lies not at all with me but entirely with the President, I Recommend you not going into any measure, which would hinder a disappointment injurious or inconvenient to you.

The article of Carting is put upon the footing you proposed. The Island or long Chain of Sand Hills is understood to be about two & three miles wide. A place half a mile from the Sea at the widest part would therefore be 2½ miles from the Sound. If the Landing should be equally good on the outside, there will be little carting and not much at most. The article relative to the foundations Cellars, vaults and wells are also put upon the footing you proposed. If you should ultimately go yourself to No Carolina there is another object of the like nature at George Town, Winyaw So Carolina of the like nature which you can take into your Consideration. You can make a visit to it with ease in the course of your building and will be prepared with many things.

When the proposals are ready you shall receive

a copy in order to afford opportunity ~~of~~ which will retard the notification ~~of~~ There is a circumstance ~~of~~ till November or December

George Town is about forty miles north of Charleston — Application has been made for the removal of the Lights on the Hatteras and Shell Castle Isles and the purchase of the Ground is ordered

I am Sir. with respectfull Esteem
Your most obed Servt
Sign'd Tench Coxe
Commissioner of the Revenue

H Dearborn Esqr

Sir

Treasury Department
Revenue Office Sept 29th 1797

I have the honor to transmit to you from considerations both of duty and of prudence a copy of a Letter received by me last night from an English Master Workman who has made proposals to this Office at 32000 Dollars for erecting a Light House on Cape Hatteras, and at 16000 Dollars for erecting a Lighted Beacon House at Shell Castle Island — This attempt is at once so dishonest and imprudent that I am desirous to make its recoils as far as the laws admit upon the man and there is danger of misconceptions & misrepresentations in cases of this nature which are not openly marked with rejection at the moment

I therefore in the present Separated State of the Branches of the Government have deemed it most proper to trouble you with this communication, and with a Copy of an answer which I wrote confidentially to my Father last evening on the receipt of Robert Morris's letter — That answer I shall not transmit till I have Considered the Subject in Concert with our Attorney Gen'l who happens to be within a mile of my Office

With great respect I have the Honor to be Sir
Your most obed & most Hble Servt
Sign'd Tench Coxe Com'r of the Revenue

The President
of the United States