Office of Light-House Engr
ELEVENTH DISTRICT.
Detroit, Mich., August 1, 1

Prof. Joseph Henry
Chairman L.H.B. Board
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Board's letter of the 12th inst. inclosing a copy of a letter of the 9th inst. from the Honorable the Secretary of the Treas. which transmits a copy of a communication dated Chicago, Aug. 1st, 83, signed by the Hon. J.D. Ward for himself & the Hon. C.B. Farwell, all relating to the sale of the old Port Clinton Light House Site, on the 1st inst.

In accordance with the direction contained in your letter, I have the honor to make the following report on this subject.

Just below the middle of last

55.

Major O'M Poe, Acting Engineer Secretary
your Board, through a private note, called
my attention to the fact that the sites of
discontinued light houses at Port Clinton
Saylorsport Ills. were ordered to be sold dur-
ing the month of June, 1873 by letter from
Honorable the Secretary of the Treasury dated
October 10th, 1872.

Upon examining the records I found
this to be true. I also found that there had
been some correspondence between private
parties, & the Honorable the Secretary of the
Treasury, relative to the purchase of these
sites at private sale. From these facts I
concluded that it was a more important
matter than I first supposed & fearing that
a hurried sale during the month as ordered
would give dissatisfaction I addressed
communication to your Board, of which

the annexed (marked A) is a copy.

In the meantime on the day I had addressed a communication to D. D. Streeter, Postmaster Highland Park of which the annexed (marked B) is a copy.

Before I had received a reply either of these communications I was ordered by the War Department to St Louis on special service. I arrived at Chicago on my return from this duty on Saturday morning the 21st of June, although very weary and exhausted, I concluded to go out and visit the sites in person. I devoted the day to this. Mr. Streeter, the Postmaster at Highland took me to both sites. I inquired about the value of the lots, but no one would tell me, hence I concluded to advertise the sale thirty consecutive times instead of only six as is the general rule. I returned

to my home the same night and on Sunday the 22nd and on Monday the 23rd addressed your Board a letter of which annexed (marked C) is a copy. Find in this letter a form of advertisement, recommendations contained in this letter were approved by your Board according the advertisement of which the annexed (marked D) is a copy was published. also attach to this the printed advertisement as it appeared in the papers.

After this advertisement appeared the papers, I sent for thirty copies of same them, caused my clerks to cut it out each copy and sent one to the Postmaster at Highland Park with the request that he display it in his office. I sent another copy to the ticket agent at Glencoe station with the request that he display it along

side of the hole through which he ar
tickets. These requests were complie
with. I considered the former the m
prominent spot near the Port Clinton
of the latter the most prominent near
Saylorsport site of I think as still. I se
copies to every one who had ever written
concerning these sales one copy to the
C.B. Farwell M.C., who represents that di
trict, addressed to him at Lake Forest
which is his residence. If he did not g
it it was the fault of the mails. If I ha
had the least intimation that the Hon J.
Ward M.C. was temporarily sojourning a
Highland Park or any where near the sit
to be sold, I certainly would have sent h
a copy also.

Now to reply to the letter signed
the Hon J.A. Ward M.C. for himself & the H

L B. Farwell I will take up the re
as enumerated in that letter as ha
caused "great dissatisfaction among th
people of Highland Park"

"1st The property is worth £1,500 - to £2,
It sold for £750 -"

Answer - The property sold for the highest
amount bid. The advertisement wa
a solemn contract between me on
behalf of the Government & the bidde
Therefore I was compelled to accept
the bid of £750 -

"2nd - The sale took place at the depot on
mile from the premises."

Answer - It took place precisely where the
advertisement said it would & at
the most accessible & convenient pl
in my judgement. It took place a
a spot where there were the most

convenient arrangements to
the sale. Every one who desired to
the sites had ample opportunity
the thirty days to see them. Many
of those who came to bid visited the
Port Clinton site before the sale began
on the same day on which it began.

3rd Many who would have bid knew
nothing of the sale as they had never
seen the official advertisement for
ther seems to have been given.

4th- The Chicago Inter-Ocean & Chicago
Journal are certainly papers of very
wide circulation. I have seen & read
the Milwaukee Sentinel at a consid-
erable distance from Milwaukee.
Therefore if many of those who would
have bid had never seen the official
advertisement, it only shows that the

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did not read the papers sent for as stated before the annexed advertisement was published for three consecutive days in the above mentioned newspapers, when for matters of far greater magnitude than this was, it is customary for economy sake, ~~enjoined~~ upon us, to advertise only six consecutive days.

2d. That part of the 3rd reason which reads as follows, viz: "from other seems to have been given" I consider it unnecessary to reply.

4th - After the sale commenced it was announced by the Officer in charge that no checks, nothing but money would be taken; the desk must be counted out as soon as the bidding ceased."

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Sure - The advertisement said distinctly as follows, viz:
The terms of the sale are cash in United States or National bank currency before the bid is accepted
Q. On some time before the advertisement I was questioned on this point & invariably answered all alike, that the terms of the advertisement would be complied with to the letter; that this was my only safeguard against deception & thickery; that some one might present a check for payment which might prove worthless & that then the sale would have to be made again at the same expense to the Government as the original and I was right in doing so. I could not have protected the public interest

in any other way. I cannot
pected to know the bank account
bidders, nor their signatures, nor
f the cashiers of all the banks in
ago. I am not authorized by law
to receive any other funds than public
5th - "There were entirely responsible bid
ons present who offered $1,000 - but
had not the currency with them
their checks, though perfectly good, would
not be accepted"
Sun - Whoever stated this to the Hon. Ed
Ward M. b. stated an infamous false
hood. $1,150 - was the highest amount
bid. When I asked the bidder for the
money he said that he had only $1,0
with him but that his wife had the
balance & it would take him about
twenty minutes to get the balance
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as she was visiting only about
miles distant. I then said that
next lowest bidder should have
he had the cash. The next lowest
der was a Mr. Silvermann, an Ar
lite real estate agent from Chi
His bid was $250 - He declined
take it. I then learnt that the hi
est bidder could get his money in
short time: that being prudent
ing pick-pockets he had ordered h
wife to stay at a short distance off
with the bulk of his money. I there
awaited his return after he paid
$500. I accepted the bid

One single reference to $1,000
made by another gentleman (an Ar
lite dealer) whose name I do not kno
After the first sale was perfected

before the second one began
to me. "Major I should be very
at you if this second lot goes for
than $1,000 - for I have $600 - cash
my pocket & a certified check for $5
& I would have paid $1,000 - for the
lot if I had had the cash" or word
this effect. He made no bid high
than the $750 - & as above stated the
bidder who offered $750 - refused to
take it when I offered it to him,
fore I ascertained the facts as to t
whereabouts of the highest bidder is now

With regard to the remainder
the letter referred to me for report, I thi
I have answered all the points in it.

My only safety against any chan
seemed to me to lie in the strict confor
mity to the words of the advertisement.

any variance from this would
be justly entitled to be called an
regularity. I cannot conceive that
single individual can be found, not
attended the sale, so depraved so un
cipled as to say that I did not conduct
the sale exactly in accordance with the
language & meaning of the advertisement
even to the minute of beginning it.

In conclusion I beg to state
that this is the first time during my
term of service of over eighteen years in
the United States that any official act
mine has been assailed in this manner
I cannot forbear saying that I feel very
much grieved & mortified to think, that
two gentlemen, occupying so exalted a
position, should have written such a
letter to the Honorable Secretary of the

Treasury without first taking a
more [illegible] to ascertain the facts
the case,

Very respectfully
G. Weitzel
Major of Engineers
Engr 11th Dist