

## REPORT

*Of the Committee on the Public Buildings, accompanying "A Bill making appropriations for the Public Buildings, for the purchase of a Lot of Land, and furnishing a supply of Water for the use of certain Public Buildings."*

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JANUARY 7, 1819.

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Read, and, with the bill, committed to the committee of the whole, to-morrow.

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The Committee on the Public Buildings  
REPORT:

That the Committee have examined the public buildings, and entertain the opinion that more has been effected towards their completion the *past*, than perhaps in any of the preceeding years. They think the cause of the failure to complete the wings of the capitol, may be attributed to the magnitude of the work, and other causes assigned by the architect in his report. The appropriation made last April, for finishing the wings is found inadequate, and the additional sum of fifty-one thousand three hundred and thirty-two dollars is required to complete the same. This large deficiency is accounted for by the architect, whose estimate, together with a letter from the commissioner is herewith presented.

In order to progress with the centre building of the capitol, the committee propose to make an adequate appropriation, as they think that a competent number of workmen should be constantly employed thereon.

The foundation of the south portico of the President's house having been laid, and as its completion will add greatly to the general convenience of the building, the committee think it ought to be finished. As it must be desirable to finish the President's house as soon as possible, the committee also recommend the building of the north portico. By an estimate of Mr. Hoban, superintendent of the President's house, which is also presented, it appears that the further sum of three thousand nine hundred and forty-two dollars is required to complete the gates, the iron railing, and the enclosure north of the President's house.

The offices to the President's house are so small, and inconvenient, as to induce the committee to recommend an addition to be

made to the office west of said house. The committee find that some plan is necessary to be adopted for conveying water to the several executive offices, as well as the President's house, for extinguishing fires and for other purposes. They understand that there is a lot conveniently situated, with a fountain thereon, fully adequate for the contemplated purposes. That it is believed the lot can be purchased and pipes leading to the several buildings constructed, for the sum of nine thousand one hundred and twenty-five dollars. They therefore recommend that this important object be carried into effect, provided said lot can be purchased for any sum not exceeding three thousand dollars. The committee have thought it their duty again to inquire, as to the time necessary for finishing the wings of the capitol, and the answer of the commissioner gives the assurance of their completion before the probable meeting of the next Congress. From the forward state of the wings, the committee think the commissioner's expectations will be realized. They therefore recommend the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the house now occupied by Congress, be returned as soon after the present session, as the public convenience will permit.

*Office of Commissioner of Public Buildings,  
December 15th, 1818.*

SIR,

Your letter of the 7th instant, requiring a statement of the appropriation necessary to progress with the centre building of the capitol; of the sum necessary to enlarge the offices of the President's house; of the sum required to complete the porticos of said house, and any other appropriations that may be necessary towards the President's house; a statement of the sum required to erect the vaults for the convenience of the public offices; also any other information proper to communicate relative to said buildings, I have had the honor of receiving and beg leave to submit the following as an answer, *in part*:

The paper marked A, exhibits the additions, made by the architect at the capitol, to his estimates of last year, of the sum necessary to complete the wings of that building, amounting to 51,332 dollars.

The paper marked B, shows the sum which will be required for the centre building in the course of next year.

The paper marked C, contains a detailed estimate for the porticos, (prepared in obedience to your requisition,) and also the sum necessary to complete the wall, gates, and footways, north of the President's house:

Amounting to	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 12,255
Deduct the appropriation for this purpose made by								
the act of April last	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,518
								<hr/>
Leaves	-	-						\$ 8,737

to be provided for.

I should have no hesitation in answering your inquiry, as to when the wings of the capitol will be ready for the reception of Congress, but for the disappointment of all my former expectations upon this subject. If the causes of delay stated in the report of the architect (already laid before you) had not occurred; if in short, we had realized our expectations, by finishing the wings just before the meeting of Congress, it is extremely doubtful if it would have been advisable for that body to have occupied their rooms, in the green and damp state in which they must have been found. By embracing another season, the whole can be completed with that deliberation essential to works, where durability and elegance ought to combine, and leave time for proper ventilation, before the probable meeting of the next Congress.

I have the honor to be, with great respect,  
Your obedient servant,

SAM'L. LANE,

*Commissioner Public Buildings.*

*Hon. Joseph Bellinger, Chairman of the  
Committee on Public Buildings, &c. &c. &c.*

A.

(Copy.)

December 12, 1818.

*Samuel Lane, Esq.*

SIR,

I enclose for your inspection a statement of certain expenses on the wings of the capitol, some of which have already been incurred, and others are contemplated for the next season, which from my then recent arrival, were unforeseen by me, and therefore not included in the estimate which formed the basis of the appropriation of last year.

Expenses of taking down work over the arch in the north wing, of building the brick cone to support the cupola, of plastering and finishing the same	- \$ 2,000
Cost of marble work for the galleries of the Senate chamber, contracted for in New York	- 15,000
Marble work for representatives room, executed in Philadelphia	- 1,300
Estimated expense of a new double flight of circular stairs in the south wing, to lead to the representatives room; with the alterations of the vestibule necessary to make the entrance to that room more spacious and convenient	- 8,000
	<hr/> \$ 26,300

The following materials were on hand at the time of making out my former estimate, but as they were procured in Europe, and the bills had not then arrived they could not be included in the estimate, viz: 24 corinthian capitals, for the representatives room, and 12 ionic ditto, for Senate's chamber, from Italy

Ironmongery and copper for roof, from London	- 10,750
	- 14,282 18
	<hr/> \$ 51,332 18

I submit to your consideration, whether a special appropriation for the above should not be requested, amounting to fifty-one thousand and three hundred and thirty-two dollars.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed)

CHARLES BULFINCH.

## B.

(Copy.)

The within estimate is for materials and amount of labor, that will be required for prosecuting the work on the centre of the capitol, in the year 1819. In making this estimate, it is calculated to carry up the walls and partitions to the level of the floor of the principal story, during the summer and autumn; and to have on hand a sufficient supply of freestone to reach to the caves of the wings, to be prepared in the winter of 1819, during which time the carpenters will be also employed in making doors, windows, &c.

This estimate is exclusive of the north and south wings, and of the unexpended balance of the appropriation, made for the centre at the last Session of Congress.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed)

CHARLES BULFINCH,

*Architect of the Capitol, U. S.*

*Samuel Lane, Esq.*

*Commissioner of Public Buildings.*

*Estimate of Materials and Labor required on the Centre of the Capitol,  
during the year 1819.*

Freestone for walls, surface 20,000 ft.

2 feet thick is - - - -	2,800 tons at \$12	\$33,600
Ditto, ashler for inside of lower rotunda 428	12	5,136
Carting the above - - - -	3,228 1	3,228
Blue stone to build back walls, front basement wall, and angles of rotunda - - -	2,500 perches at 2 25	5,625
Bricks, for partition walls and arches - - - -	M 2,000 at 10	20,000
Lumber, of boards and plank for centering of arches, of joist, for windows and door frames, sashes and doors		8,245

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\$77,084



## WORKMANSHIP.

Work on freestone - - - -	at \$12 per ton	33,600
Laying rough stone, 2,500 perches, mortar included - - - -	at 3	7,500
Ditto, 2,000 bricks - - - -	ditto at 5	10,000
Carpenter's work on centres, doors, windows, &c. - - - -		8,460
		<u>\$136,644</u>

C.

(Copy.)

December 12, 1818.

Samuel Lane, Esq.

Commissioner of Public Buildings.

*Report of James Hoban, Superintendent of the President's House, of the cost of finishing the South Portico of that Building.*

267 tons of freestone - - - -	\$13 50	\$3,604 50
1,741 feet, plain work, on ditto - - - -	45	783 45
1,822 feet circular, plain face - - - -	70	1,275 40
1,065 feet circular sunk molded - - - -	1 50	1,579 50
Setting ditto at 15 per cent. - - - -		1,089
6 Ionic capitals carved - - - -		1,380
76 tons of freestone in balustrade - - - -	13 50	1,026
1,298 feet circular, plain work on ditto - - - -	60	778 80
425 ditto, molded - - - -	1 50	637 50
Groined arches to arcade and backing - - - -		392
Setting of ditto, at 15 per cent. - - - -		366 45
Digging foundation and masonry of stairs - - - -		165
850 feet circular, ashler and stone - - - -	1 50	1,275
Arches, stone, and work - - - -		238 85
351 feet Baltimore marble for steps, &c. - - - -	2 75	2,340 25
1,270 feet plain work, on ditto - - - -	1 75	2,222 50
662 ditto, marble paving and work - - - -	1 50	998

Backing of ashler	- - - - -	\$ 195
Setting and fixing iron railing	- - - - -	800
190 feet run of iron railing to steps, &c.	\$ 6 00	1,140
Iron bars and lead for entablature	- - - - -	200
1,596 pounds of sheet copper, and laying ditto	60	957 60
1,200 feet framing and boarding under copper	- 12	144
380 feet ceiling to portico	- - - - - 12	105 60
2,500 feet plank and scantling	- - - - -	150
99 yards plastering, circular	- - - - - 50	49 50
For contingencies, scaffolding, &c.	- - - - -	1,093 10

Amount of south portico, \$25,000

*Of the North Portico, President's House.*

To digging foundation and mason work	- - - - -	\$ 681 30
106 tons of freestone	- - - - - \$ 13 50	1,431
1,568 feet plain face work, on ditto	- - - - - 45	705 60
800 feet ashler to circular walls	- - - - - 1 50	1,200
450 tons large freestone for columns	- - - - - 14	6,300
Work on ditto	- - - - -	7,353 35
Setting of columns, &c.	- - - - -	2,300
17,250 bricks, and laying in backing	- - - - -	258 75
Lead and iron bars	- - - - -	500
Cast iron	- - - - -	250
266 feet cube of Baltimore marble steps	2 75	731 50
539 feet, work on ditto	- - - - - 1 75	943 25
665 feet marble paving	- - - - - 1 75	1,163 75
Setting the marble paving	- - - - -	240
Circular ashler, stone and work	- - - - -	346 50
Marble capping	- - - - -	252
2,744 pounds sheet copper, and laying on roof	60	1,644
2,640 feet roofing and boarding	- - - - - 15	396
1,575 feet of circular ceiling to portico	- - - - - 15	236 25
Contingent expenses, scaffolding, &c.	- - - - -	536

Amount of North Portico, \$27,469 25  
Ditto of South Ditto 25,000

\$52,469 25

*Of the Wall and Gates, North of the President's House.*

4 piers of cut stone to gateways	- - - - -	\$ 2,000
4 ditto, ditto, to footways	- - - - -	920
60 feet run of circular coping	- - - - -	330

120 ditto	straight ditto	-	-	-	540
2 iron gates,	2,000 pounds	-	-	\$2 40	800
2 ditto	1,000 pounds, foot ways	-	-	40	400
4 lamp stands,	800 pounds	-	-	40	320
120 feet run iron railing,	braces, &c.	-	-	6	720
60 ditto	circular, &c.	-	-	7	420

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\$6,420

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(Copy.)

December 22d, 1818.

Samuel Lane, Esq.

Commissioner of Public Buildings.

*Estimate of conveying Water to the President's House and Executive Offices, for the extinguishment of fire, and other purposes, viz:*

3,550 feet run of water pipe, 4 inches bore,			
of Susquehanna heart pine	-	\$ 0 70	\$2,485
2,500 yards of digging	-	30	750
240 metal tubes	-	1 50	360
30 feet square reservoir, paving and walling	-	-	1,700
Roofing and lattice work to reservoir	-	-	500
5 hydrants, one at the President's House, and one at each of the Executive Offices	-	-	250
Contingent expense of work	-	-	80
Contingent expense of lots	-	-	3,000

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\$9,125

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Respectfully submitted,

By, Sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed)

JAMES HOBAN.

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*Estimate for securing the improvements and grounds North of the President's House, from injury by carriages, horses, &c. by means of a Post and Chain Fence, viz:*

To 1,300 feet in length of post and chain fence at 80 cts. \$1,040

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed)

JAMES HOBAN.



Washington, December 28, 1818.

Samuel Lane, Esq.

Commissioner of Public Buildings.

*Estimate of extending the Colonnade Building, West of the President's House, 60 feet, to admit of Stables, Carriage House, Granary, &c.*

56 perches of best granite stone for foundations	- - - - -	at \$ 4 50	\$252
62,650 bricks, all hard, mortar and laying	15		939 75
3,700 yards digging for foundation and areas	25		925
5,600 feet joist, plank and workmanship	20		1,120
11 semi-circular windows, frames, sash, and glass	- - - - -	37 75	415 25
6 strong doors, and frames, locks, hinges, &c.	34 16		204 96
48 feet rack and manger	- - - - -		100
311 yards of paving, flat	- - - - -	75	233 25
750 yards of plastering	- - - - -	40	300
60 feet entablature over columns	- - - - -	4 75	285
395 yards of painting, 3 coats	- - - - -	30	118 50
65 tons 5 feet freestone	- - - - -	13 50	882
1,161 feet plain work on ditto	- - - - -	40	464 40
250 6 sunk molded work on ditto	- - - - -	90	225 45
294 6 column shafts	- - - - -	60	176 70
10 per cent. for setting	- - - - -		174 80
2,640 feet of copper covering, and laying ditto	50		1,320
			<hr/>
			\$8,229 06
			92
			<hr/>
			\$8,137 06
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Respectfully submitted by,

Sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed)

JAMES HOBAN.

