MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

A letter from the secretary of state of the State of Pennsylvania, also a letter from the Secretary of War, in relation to the Marine Hospital at Erie, Pa.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE LIBRARY

JANUARY 17, 1884.—Read and referred to the Committee on Military Affairs and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

I transmit herewith for the consideration of Congress a letter from the secretary of state of the State of Pennsylvania, dated November 26, 1883, inclosing a duly authenticated copy of an act of the legislature of the State entitled "An act to provide for the preservation, use, custody, and disposition of the Marine Hospital at Erie, and making an appropriation for the repair of the same," approved July 5, 1883, and tendering to the United States Government, on behalf of the governor, in pursuance of the provisions of the act, the said Marine Hospital for use as a Soldiers' and Sailors' Home.

The papers having upon their receipt been referred by me to the Secretary of War, I inclose also his letter of the 12th instant, returning the same, together with a report of Capt. Edward Maguire, Corps of Engineers, dated the 10th ultimo, giving a description of the property referred to and expressing his views as to its adaptability for a Soldiers' and Sailors' Home.

CHESTER A. ARTHUR.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
January 16, 1884.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH,
Harrisburg, Pa., November 26, 1883.

SIR: By direction of Robert E. Pattison, governor of this commonwealth, I hereby inclose, for your information and consideration, a certified copy of an act passed by the legislature of Pennsylvania, entitled "An act to provide for the preservation, use, custody, and disposition of the Marine Hospital at Erie, and making an appropriation for the repair of the same," approved July 5, 1883.

I am further instructed by the governor to say that the repairs authorized by this act will be made at an early day, and that in the exer-

cise of the discretion lodged in him by this act he hereby tenders to the United States Government, through you, the Marine Hospital at Erie, in the State of Pennsylvania, for use as a Soldiers' and Sailors' Home in case the said Government elect to receive and adopt the same for such purpose.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

W. L. STENGER,
Secretary of the Commonwealth.

His Excellency CHESTER A. ARTHUR,
President of the United States.

AN ACT to provide for the preservation, use, custody, and disposition of the Marine Hospital at Erie, and making an appropriation for the repair of the same.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That the governor of this commonwealth is hereby authorized and empowered to make such repairs on the Marine Hospital at Erie as may be necessary for its preservation, and that for this purpose the sum of two thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated from the State treasury; said repairs to be made under the supervision of the governor, or such person or persons as he may depute to take charge of the same; the expenditure of the same to be settled in the office of the auditor general; or if the governor should so elect, he may depute the making of said repairs to the mayor of Erie, or the commissioners of Erie County.

SEC. 2. That the governor is hereby authorized and empowered to tender said property, to wit, the Marine Hospital at Erie, or the grounds belonging to it, to the United States Government for use as a Soldiers' and Sailors' Home, in case that the said Government elect to receive and adopt the same for such purpose.

SEC. 3. That the governor is hereby authorized and empowered to cause to be executed, under the seal of the State, all and any instruments which may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this act.

SEC. 4. That the governor is further authorized in his discretion to lease, for such time and upon such terms as he may deem advisable, the said Marine Hospital and the grounds thereof, for manufacturing, mechanical or educational purposes, upon such terms and conditions and to such person or persons or corporation as he shall deem expedient, any lease so made to be upon the express condition that the buildings shall be kept in good repair by the lessee or lessees, and an insurance to the amount of two-thirds of the value of the buildings to be kept thereon for the use of the commonwealth; the buildings to be subject to such alterations as might be approved by the governor.

SEC. 5. Before any lease of said buildings, notice by advertisement for sixty days in one or more newspapers shall be given in the city of Erie, or such form of proposal for the lease of the same shall be prepared as the governor may deem proper.

SEC. 6. If the Government of the United States shall accept the said Marine Hospital as stated in this act, they, the United States Government, shall have full power to take legal possession of the same, by giving the governor of this State an official notice of not less than one year.

JNO. E. FAUNCE,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
CHAUNCEY F. BLACK,
President of the Senate.

Approved the 5th day of July, anno Domino one thousand eight hundred and eighty-three.

ROB'T E. PATTISON.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH,
Harrisburg, November 15, *A. D.* 1883.

PENNSYLVANIA, *ss:*

I do hereby certify that the foregoing and annexed is a full, true and correct copy of the original act of the general assembly, entitled "An act to provide for the preservation, use, custody, and disposition of the Marine Hospital at Erie, and making an appropriation for the repair of the same," approved the 5th day of July, A. D. 1883, as the same remains on file in this office.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the secretary's office to be affixed the day and year above written.

[SEAL.]

JNO. C. SHUMAKER,
Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth.

In the name and by the authority of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Robert E. Pattison, governor of the said commonwealth, to all to whom these presents shall come, sends greeting:

Know ye, that the attestation or certificate hereunto attached is in due form and made by the proper officer, and that Jno. C. Shumaker, whose name is subscribed thereto, was at the time of subscribing the same, and now is, a deputy secretary of the commonwealth, duly appointed and commissioned, and full faith and credit are due and ought to be given to his official acts accordingly.

Given under my hand and the great seal of the State, at Harrisburg, this fifteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-three, and of the commonwealth the one hundred and eighth.

[SEAL.] ROB'T E. PATTISON,
Governor.

By the governor:
W. S. STENGER,
Secretary of the Commonwealth.

EXECUTIVE MANSION.

Respectfully referred to the Secretary of War.
By direction of the President.
November 27, 1883.

FRED. J. PHILLIPS,
Private Secretary.

[First indorsement.]

OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, UNITED STATES ARMY,
December 4, 1883.

Respectfully referred to Capt. Edward Maguire, Corps of Engineers, for report as to the extent and location of the grounds belonging to the Marine Hospital at Erie, Pa., and whether, in his opinion, the locality is well adapted for a Soldiers' and Sailors' Home.

These papers to be returned at an early day.

By command of Brigadier-General Wright.

JOHN M. WILSON,
Major of Engineers, Bvt. Colonel, U. S. A.

[Second indorsement.]

UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE,
Buffalo, N. Y., December 10, 1883.

Respectfully returned to the Chief of Engineers, United States Army; attention invited to the accompanying report.

EDWARD MAGUIRE,
Captain of Engineers, U. S. A.

[Third indorsement.]

OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, UNITED STATES ARMY,
December 12, 1883.

Respectfully returned to Capt. Edward Maguire, Corps of Engineers, for signature.

By command of Brigadier-General Wright.

JOHN M. WILSON,
Major of Engineers, Bvt. Colonel, U. S. A.

[Fourth indorsement.]

UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE,
Buffalo, N. Y., December 14, 1883.

Respectfully returned to the Chief of Engineers, United States Army.

EDWARD MAGUIRE,
Captain of Engineers.

[Fifth indorsement.]

OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, UNITED STATES ARMY,
December 18, 1883.

Respectfully returned to the honorable the Secretary of War, inviting attention to the report of Capt. Edward Maguire, Corps of Engineers, submitted herewith.

H. G. WRIGHT,
Chief of Engineers, Brig. and Bvt. Maj. Gen.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, January 12, 1884.

SIR: In returning herewith the letter of November 26 last from the secretary of state of the State of Pennsylvania, inclosing a duly authenticated copy of an act passed by the legislature of that State entitled "An act to provide for the preservation, use, custody, and disposition of the Marine Hospital at Erie, and making an appropriation for the repair of the same" approved July 5, 1883, and tendering to the United States Government, on behalf of the governor, in pursuance of the provisions of that act, the said Marine Hospital for use as a Soldiers' and Sailors' Home in, case the said Government elect to receive and adopt the same for such purpose, I have the honor to invite attention to the inclosed copy of report of Capt. Edward Maguire, Corps of Engineers, dated December, 10, ultimo giving a description of the hospital grounds and building referred to and expressing his views as to their adaptability for a Soldiers' and Sailors' Home. Accompanying the said report is a sketch showing the boundary lines of the site and the location of the building, &c.

It is respectfully recommended that the subject be presented to Congress with the accompanying papers for such action thereon by that body as may be deemed appropriate.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBERT T. LINCOLN,
Secretary of War.

The PRESIDENT.

UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE,
Buffalo, N. Y., December 10, 1883.

GENERAL: In compliance with instructions contained in the first indorsement of the wrapper herewith, I have the honor to submit the following report upon the "extent and location of the grounds belonging to the Marine Hospital at Erie, Pa."

I am informed by the city engineer of Erie that the extent of the grounds are 102 acres, 60 of which constituted the original reservation, and 42 of which are accretions, or land formed beyond the original water line. They are what are known in Erie as the "Garrison Ground."

The grounds are located at the eastern extremity of the city of Erie, partly on the bluff overlooking Presqu' Isle Bay and Lake Erie. It was here that Maj. Gen. Anthony Wayne was buried in December, 1796. The remains were removed in 1809. The soil is stated to be good and adapted to the growth of all kind of vegetables usually found in that region. There are a few trees of scrub growth along Garrison Run. A

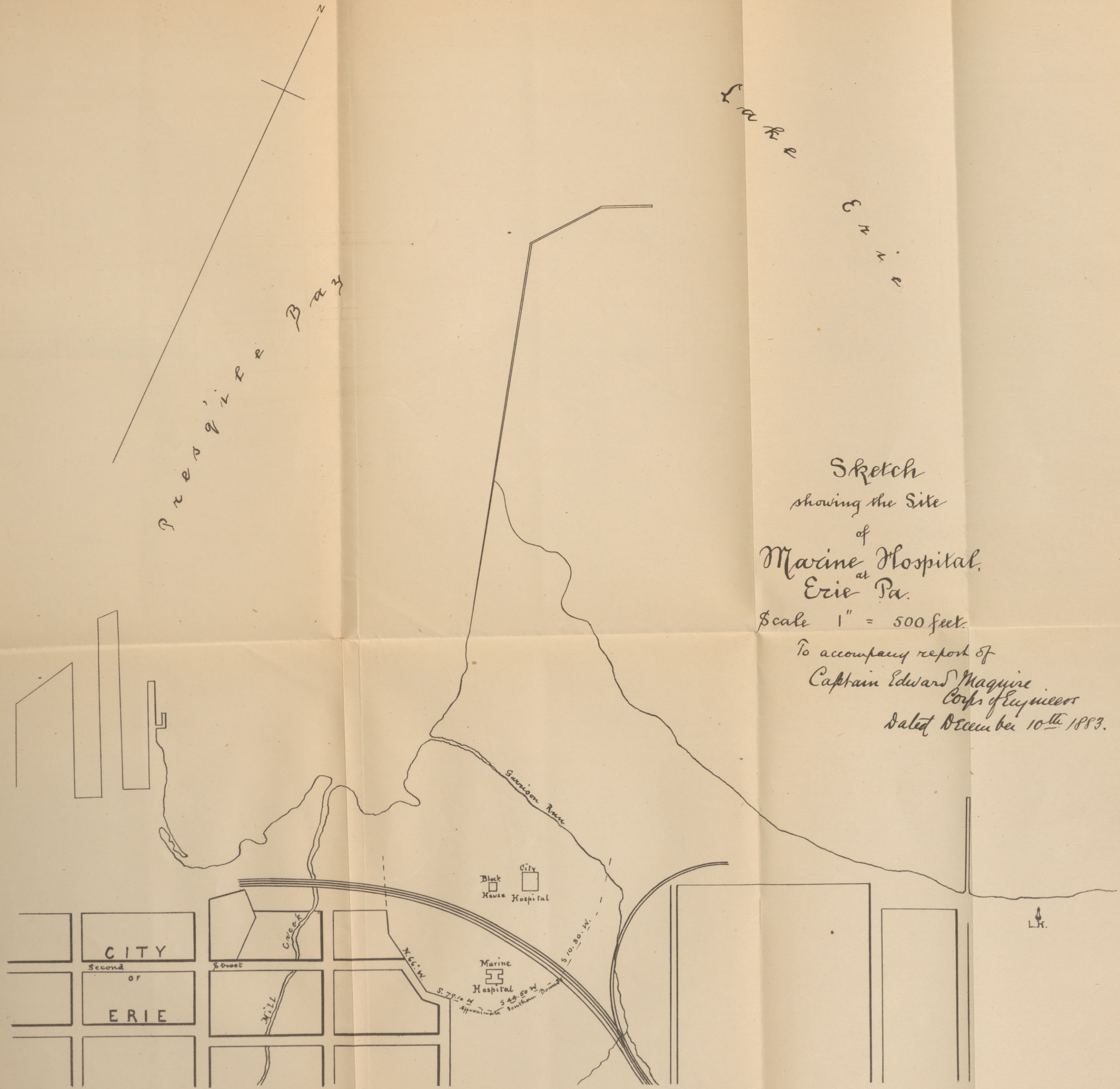
Presque Isle Bay

Lake Erie

Sketch
showing the Site
of
Marine Hospital,
at
Erie Pa.

Scale 1" = 500 feet.

To accompany report of
Captain Edward Maguire
Corps of Engineers
Dated December 10th 1883.



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few young trees have been planted on the northern half of the reservation and seemed to be flourishing.

The Marine Hospital is a large red-brick building with stone trimmings. Two of the wings of the original design have not been constructed and one of the present wings is unfinished. The exterior woodwork is rotten, while some of that in the interior is in bad condition, due to neglect. Much of the plastering would have to be renewed. The plumbing is said to be in good condition, and hot air furnace registers and pipes are in a portion of the building. The kitchen (on the first floor) appears to be of sufficient size and all of the floors are connected by two dumb-waiters, one on each side of the halls. On the second floor is a very large room which could be used as a mess hall. Reading-room and library could be made by removing partitions between some of the small rooms. As far as the building itself is concerned it could readily be adapted to the needs of a Soldiers' and Sailors' Home. The brick and stone work appear to be very good and the foundations and cellar excellent.

To fit it for a Home, however, a considerable outlay of money would be necessary. The location would certainly be delightful during the summer and early fall months. During the winter and early spring months of course it would be bleak.

Besides the Marine Hospital there are on the reservation an old blockhouse and a frame hospital, erected by the city of Erie.

The reservation is almost bisected by a freight yard of the Erie division of the Pennsylvania Railroad. It is a wide cut containing six tracks. That, in my opinion, would be a most undesirable condition of affairs should a Home be established there.

One gentleman in Erie was of the opinion that the title to the reservation was clouded. I know not whether that be so, but of course the proper authorities would see that the title was cleared before accepting the reservation.

I forward herewith a tracing which gives approximately the boundary lines of the reservation and the location of the buildings.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDW. MAGUIRE,
Captain of Engineers.

The CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, UNITED STATES ARMY,
Washington, D. C.