

2-8-1882

Message from the President of the United States, transmitting a communication from the Secretary of War, of the 6th instant, together with plans and estimates for barracks and quarters in the Military Division of the Pacific and at Fort Monroe, Virginia

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Recommended Citation

S. Exec. Doc. No. 95, 47th Cong., 1st Sess. (1882)

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M E S S A G E

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

A communication from the Secretary of War, of the 6th instant, together with plans and estimates for barracks and quarters in the Military Division of the Pacific and at Fort Monroe, Virginia.

FEBRUARY 8, 1882.—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 War, of the 6th instant, together with plans and estimates for barracks and quarters in the Military Division of the Pacific and at Fort Monroe, Virginia, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1883; also the correspondence accompanying the same.

CHESTER A. ARTHUR. .

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
February 8, 1882.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, February 6, 1882.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit special estimates submitted by the Quartermaster-General for barracks and quarters in the Military Division of the Pacific and at Fort Monroe, Virginia, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1883, amounting to \$202,597.53; also the correspondence accompanying the same, and plans of the proposed buildings.

These estimates have been carefully prepared, and I now submit the same under sections 1136 and 3663 of the Revised Statutes, with the recommendation that an appropriation be made of the amount estimated.

Attention is respectfully invited to the great expense which would be incurred by engraving and printing the large number of plans of buildings accompanying the estimates herewith, and to the length of time required for the work. It is therefore suggested that only the estimates and reports attached thereto need be now printed.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBERT T. LINCOLN,
Secretary of War.

To the PRESIDENT.

BARRACKS AND QUARTERS.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, D. C., July 20, 1881.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith the annual estimates for barracks and quarters operations for the Division of the Pacific for 1881-'82, and invite attention to a memorandum statement accompanying prepared in this office:

The estimated cost of the projects, as recommended by the division commander, is \$333,500. The appropriation will not afford anything like this sum.

I have noted on the memorandum referred to the sums which I am able, as now informed, to advise the secretary to authorize for each post, and whether from construction reserve fund or from allotment, as also such projects as, in my opinion, should be submitted to Congress.

Total from reserve fund.....	\$12,883 66
Total from division allotment.....	72,283 35
Total for Congressional action.....	185,767 53

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,
Quartermaster-General, Bvt. Major-General, U. S. A.

To the honorable SECRETARY OF WAR,
Washington, D. C.

WAR DEPARTMENT, July 25, 1881.

The recommendations of the Quartermaster-General are approved.

By order of the Secretary of War:

C. H. CARRINGTON,
Acting Chief Clerk.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, D. C., September 16, 1881.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith special estimates for barracks and quarters, covering proposed projects at the following posts, during fiscal year of 1882-'83:

Boise Barracks, Idaho.....	\$10,143 44
Fort Canby, Wash.....	9,859 48
Fort Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.....	6,560 25
Fort Lapwai, Idaho.....	7,800 00
Fort Klámath, Oreg.....	15,221 13
Fort Walla Walla, Wash.....	35,163 62
Vancouver Barracks, Wash.....	90,519 61
Fort Halleck, Nev.....	7,500 00
Fort Monroe, Va.....	16,830 00
	202,597 53

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,
Quartermaster-General, Bvt. Major-General, U. S. A.

To the Hon. SECRETARY OF WAR,
Washington, D. C.

PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO, CAL,
November 9, 1881.

SIR: I would respectfully request that the recommendation of the honorable Secretary of War to Congress for \$45,800 for new buildings at Vancouver Barracks, Wash., be so far modified as to request that that sum be asked for buildings for headquarters of the Department of the Columbia, for the following reason:

At present the headquarters are occupying soldiers' barracks that belong to the post of Vancouver. The department officers are occupying quarters that should be

long to the post and depot of Vancouver. I desire to turn over to the post one large barrack building (now used as headquarters) that will accommodate two companies of troops; also, eight buildings, used as officers' quarters, to the post and depot at Vancouver, and to build other and suitable buildings for the department.

This change will better facilitate the public business, bring the officers together, and, at the same time, greatly improve and benefit the military post and depot.

This change will not add anything to the sum already recommended, but will benefit the public service.

I therefore recommend that the above sum be dropped from the estimate for Vancouver Barracks and added to the estimate for buildings for headquarters of the Department of the Columbia.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

NELSON A. MILES,

Brigadier-General, Commanding Department of the Columbia.

To the ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,

Military Division of the Pacific, Presidio, San Francisco, Cal.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION PACIFIC
AND DEPARTMENT CALIFORNIA,
Presidio, San Francisco, November 9, 1881.

Respectfully forwarded to the Adjutant-General of the Army approved.

IRVIN McDOWELL,

Major-General, Commanding Division and Department.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,

Washington, November 19, 1881.

Respectfully referred to the Quartermaster-General for report.

By order of the Secretary of War.

C. MCKEEVER,

Acting Adjutant-General.

Respectfully returned to the Hon. the Secretary of War.

The annual estimates for Vancouver were forwarded to the War Department with others on the 16th September last. They may be summed up as follows:

Headquarters building.....	\$15, 101 36
Quarters for troops.....	45, 800 00
Sewerage.....	10, 316 25
Two sets company officers' quarters.....	7, 200 00
Bath-house.....	533 00
Wagon-shed.....	366 00
Stable for commanding general.....	545 00
Repairs, post and depot.....	10, 658 00
	90, 519 61

* This amount, on the 25th of July last, the Secretary decided to ask Congress to grant.

The present request appears to be to so modify that decision as to ask that the \$45,800 estimated for quarters for troops shall be added to the sum devoted to building for headquarters, in which case buildings now occupied by headquarters would be restored to the post as follows, viz:

One large barrack, which would accommodate 2 companies of troops.

Eight buildings now used as officers' quarters.

The total estimate is, as already stated, \$90,519.61. Unless the Senators and Representatives and Delegates from the Northwest unite in supporting these estimates I think their success will be very doubtful.

In view of the heavy expense of building headquarters at military posts, Congress, on 23d June, 1879, modified the law in effect, abandoning the policy of placing headquarters of departments at military posts, since they discovered that no military post possessed the buildings deemed necessary to accommodate military headquarters of a department or division.

M. C. MEIGS,

Quartermaster-General, Bvt. Major-General.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE,

November 28, 1881.

BARRACKS AND QUARTERS.

Special estimates for barracks and quarters for fiscal year ending June 30, 1883.

Post.	Designation.	Cost.	Total.	Remarks.
Boise Barracks, Ind. T...	Stable and corral	\$2,789 35	\$10,143 44	Recommended by di- vision commander and Quartermaster- General. Estimates approved July 25, 1881, by Secretary of War for special appropriation.
	Officer's quarters	6,500 00		
	Hay covering	854 09		
Fort Canby, W. T.....	Officers' quarters	3,400 00	9,859 48	
	Office and school room	2,908 98		
	Barracks	3,550 50		
Fort Cœur d'Alene, Ind. T	Completing unfinished buildings.	6,560 25	7,800 00	
Fort Lapwai, Ind. T.....	Four sets company officers' quarters.	5,666 10		
Fort Klamath, Oreg.....	Commanding officers' quarters.	7,728 28		
Fort Walla Walla, Wash.	Barracks	1,350 00	15,221 13	
	Water-power	476 75		
	Guard-house	3,274 34		
	Repairing six sets company quarters.	22,349 28		
	Bath rooms and sheds to officers' quarters.	2,500 00		
	Repairing cavalry stable...	2,200 00		
Vancouver Barr'ks, Wash	New cavalry stable	2,340 00	38,163 62	
	Four hay barns	5,500 00		
	Headquarters building	15,101 36		
	Quarters for troops	45,800 00		
	Sewerage	10,316 25		
	Two sets company officers' quarters.	7,200 00		
	Bath house	533 00		
	Wagon shed	366 00		
Stable for commanding gen- eral.	545 00			
Fort Halleck, Nev	Repairs—post and depot...	10,658 09	90,519 61	
	Company quarters	7,500 00		
Fort Monroe, Va.....	Two sets officers' quarters..	7,500 00	16,830 00	July 18, 1881, Secretary of War decided to ask Congress for special appropriation.
	Subsistence storehouse, &c..	1,400 00		
	Laundry building	5,930 00		
	Repair shops	2,000 00		
* * *	* * *	*	*	
			202,597 53	

NOTE.—The current annual appropriation is for temporary structures, repairs, and rents. New buildings, especially permanent ones, many of which are now reported as much needed, require special legislation and appropriation.

The appropriations for buildings at military posts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1882 (see act of March 3, 1881, 21 Statutes, 447, 448), were as follows:

Military post near Musselshell River, Montana (Fort Maginnis)	\$55,705 84
Military post near the northern boundary of Montana (Fort Assinaboine).....	45,000 00
Buildings for military headquarters at San Antonio, Texas	50,000 00
Buildings for military quarters at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.....	30,000 00

Total

Respectfully submitted,

M. C. MEIGS,

Quartermaster-General, Bvt. Major-General, U. S. A.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE, September 16, 1881.