

To the Elgin County Council

The Committee appointed to erect the New Registry office in this County beg leave to submit the following Report

Our Committee beg to state that the Registry Office is about being completed and will be found a very substantial structure equal if not superior to any in the Province.

Your Committee endeavored to have the Building erected as nearly to the Government Plans as circumstances would admit and wherever they found an alteration or addition to the plan was an advantage they adopted such as was considered necessary.

Your Committee are very much opposed to extra work and alterations which involve an addition to the contract price of a building. However your Committee would inform the Council that the Plans and the specifications furnished by the Government were very defective even so much so that practical men who examined into the details stated their inability to construct the works as indicated in the specifications. A correspondence was had with other Counties where New Registry Offices were erected and the same difficulties were experienced as in this County. Your Committee suggested to the Government the necessity for a new plan being adopted the only reply obtained was to the effect that no new plan would be adopted. Your Committee had therefore no alternative but to put the plans in the hands of a Contractor and make such alterations where the plan was found defective as the work progressed. Your Committee considered necessary and which was made apparent after the work commenced.

The first defect in the specifications was the depth of the foundation which was stated to be the four feet. And additional eighteen inches being necessary to make a hard bottom which the construction of the walls with heavy arches forming the roof of the vaults require to support the least giving way of the foundation would have been fatal to then construction. The extra work at foundation including a layer of concrete 200 feet in length cost one hundred and eighty six dollars.

The next item of extra work is for Beading the walls which makes a better finish than the common method. This cost Twenty four Dollars.

In the plan only four windows were laid down. This your Committee considered insufficient for the size of the building and ordered three additional windows which being made of wrought iron cost \$125 each (the Toronto price being over that sum). The plan only gives one chimney which your committee deemed insufficient ordered an additional one for the vault which with flues with wall cost \$35.

A Well and pump not in contract cost \$35

A Brick Porch considered necessary for convenience and appearance although not in plan was ordered by your Committee being well finished with Cut stone finishings.

Slate roof &c. costing \$225

Your Committee would state to your honorable

Council that the Contract price for the building was	\$6740
Paid for extra work a detailed	
Statement of Which is hereunto announced	988
Making a total of -----	\$7728

All of which is respectfully submitted

John McCausland

Chairman

Committee Room

10 November 1874