In the year 1838 the Steam Ship Charleston was purchased at Phil^a and sent round to New York for the purpose of being there altered and fitted as a Steam Vessel of War for the Gov^t of Texas, to protect its Commerce from any efforts on the part of Mexico to distract or destroy it by its Cruisers.

I then held by appointment from the President the office of Naval agent in the U. S. and although from my being such agent it was deemed prudent for me not to be known as Contractor, or as being Connected with the outfits of the Steamer, I did nevertheless superviise such alterations and improvements as were deemed necessary to make her serviceable for what she was intended. And I am satisfied that all the improvements and alterations made were made with as strict an eye to economy as was practicable, and althe the amt. expended did much exceed the estimate, there was not in my opinion any money wasted. Indeed, the parties who advanced the money for the payment of the bills would much have preferred a less amount, and were compelled to pay all the bills, as I would not agree to receive the vessel unless completed in the manner agreed upon. I have no doubt that much money was subsequently, unnecessarily expended in New Orleans after the vessel had been transferred to the Gov^t of Texas, but I do not think there was any useless expenditure in the City of New York. Galveston February 1st 1845

Wm. S. Williams