

Robert Armstrong to Andrew Jackson, October 14, 1834, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

COLONEL ROBERT ARMSTRONG TO JACKSON.

Nashville, October 14, 1834.

My Dear Genl, Your Son and Majr. Donelson have both written you the perticulars of the unfortunat burning of the Hermitage House. We heard the news Last evening but not the extent of the Damage. I sent One of the Young men Out of the Office¹ up After supper who returned by Sun up this morning. I learne from Majr. D. and the Young man I sent up that all the furniture and valuables *with the papers, letter Books* etc. have been with the exception of some furniture upstairs (the Wardrobe and *Large bedsted*) saved. Some few things were singed in geting out but on the whol I expect, every thing was done that could be done, and I have no doubt it was purely accidental. The House can be rebuilt on the Old site for \$2,000 or 2,500. The Dineing room wing is but Little injured. I will go up this evening and see your Son and also Mr. Rife, The Carpenter doing Majr D. work, and the One who built my House and will write you in a day or two. I will see what will be his Estimate and Austins for its *Compleate Rebuilding* and inform you. Should you be Disposed to do any thing on it or Commence a New House I will do any thing that you may direct that will forward your Wishes. I would recommend the Old Situation for I know the *walls and foundations* were *good* and I have but little doubt that a Contract Could be made for its rebuilding and Complete finish *as before* , for \$2000 or 2500, Takeing Bond and security etc. etc., no payment untill finishd. You will please excuse me for offering any opinion on the Subject, but Suffer me to assure you, that it will give me pleasure to attend to any commands you may have, in the absence of Andrew, and your Connections. 21

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1 Armstrong was postmaster at Nashville.

My Dear Sir I cannot describe to you my feelings upon hereing of this unfortunate conflagration and your friends here feel deeply for you not for the amt of the loss, but they know your attachment to House. it was put up while you were in the service of your Country and in Command in the South. Please excuse me,

Your friend

I was verry near you at Wythe C. H.2

2 Wythe Court House, now known as Wytheville, Va.

[*Indorsement in Jackson's hand:*] Col R. Armstrong answered on its receipt, to make a contract for rebuilding the House, recd. on the 24th of Octbr. A.J.