otherwise provide a suitable site, and cause to be erected thereon a
substantial and commodious building for the use and accommodation

The site and building thereon, when completed upon plans and specifi-
cations to be previously made and approved by the Secretary of the
Treasury, shall not exceed in cost the sum of one hundred thousand
dollars; nor shall any site be purchased until estimates for the erection
of a building which will furnish sufficient accommodations for the
transaction of the public business, and which shall not exceed in cost
the balance of the sum herein limited after the site shall have been
purchased and paid for, shall have been approved by the Secretary of
the Treasury; and no purchase of site nor place for said building shall
be approved by the Secretary of the Treasury involving an expendi-
ture exceeding the said sum of one hundred thousand dollars for site
and building. And the site purchased shall leave the building inde-
pendent and unexposed to danger from fire in adjacent buildings by an
open space of not less than forty feet, including streets and alleys.

Approved, March 2, 1899.

CHAP. 337.—An Act To supplement and amend an Act entitled “An Act for the
errection of a new custom-house in the city of New York, and for other purposes,”
approved March third, eighteen hundred and ninety-one.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United
States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the
Treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to acquire, by
purchase, condemnation, or otherwise, for customs purposes, the prem-
ises heretofore selected by the Secretary of the Treasury, under the
Act of September fourteenth, eighteen hundred and eighty-eight, as a vol. 25,
p. 479.
site for a custom-house building, and known as the Bowling Green site,
in the city of New York and State of New York, and the sum of seven
hundred and fifty thousand dollars, in addition to the balance in the
Treasury remaining unexpended under the provisions of the Act of
Congress approved September fourteenth, eighteen hundred and eighty-
eight, entitled “An Act for the erection of an appraiser’s warehouse in
the city of New York, and for other purposes,” is hereby appropriated,
out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and made
immediately available for such purpose.

SEC. 2. That upon the acquisition of said site the Secretary of the
Treasury shall cause to be erected thereon a substantial, commodious,
and fireproof building for the purposes of a custom-house, at a cost not
to exceed three million dollars, exclusive of the cost of the site, and for
the preparation of the plans and the commencement of the work the sum
of one million dollars is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the
Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and made immediately available
for this purpose; and the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to
contract for the completion of said building, including heating and ven-
tilating apparatus, fireproof vaults, elevators, and approaches complete,
within the limit of cost prescribed by law, subject to the appropriations
which may hereafter be made by Congress.

SEC. 3. That the Secretary of the Treasury may, in his discretion,
invite not less than five architects to compete for the preparation and
furnishing of plans, drawings, and specifications, and the local super-
vision of the construction of said new custom-house building, under
the direction and general supervision of the Secretary of the Treasury.

SEC. 4. That the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized and
directed to sell at public or private sale, to the highest bidder, after
due advertisement, but for not less than three million dollars, the pres-
ent custom-house property in the city of New York, bounded by Wall,
William, and Hanover streets, and Exchange place, and to deposit the
proceeds of the sale, after the payment of the usual incidental expenses,
in the United States Treasury as miscellaneous receipts derived from
the sale of Government property; and in case of such sale the Secretary of the Treasury shall lease said premises from the purchaser or purchasers thereof, at a rental which shall not exceed four per centum per annum on the purchase price, for use as a custom-house until the new custom-house shall be ready for occupancy, upon such terms as he may deem advantageous, and such sale shall be subject to such right of lease; and the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized to accept the said purchase price in several payments, from time to time, as he may deem most advantageous: Provided, however, That the use, occupation, and possession of said property shall not be surrendered until the new custom-house is ready for occupation and final payment is fully made.

SEC. 5. That the appropriation of seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars, made in section one of this Act, in addition to the balance in the Treasury remaining unexpended under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved September fourteenth, eighteen hundred and eighty-eight, for the acquisition of the Bowling Green site, and the further sum of one million dollars for the preparation of plans and the commencement of the work of construction, appropriated in section two of this Act, shall be reimbursed out of the proceeds of the sale of the present custom-house property, provided for in section four of this Act, when such proceeds have been covered into the Treasury.

SEC. 6. That all Acts and parts of Acts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed.

Approved, March 2, 1899.