MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., APRIL 21, 1933.

The seventh meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1933, was held in its office in the Interior Department Building on Friday, April 21, 1933. The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman,
Mr. Swartwout,
Mr. Lawrie,
Mr. Howells,
Mr. Clarke,
and Mr. H. P. Caemmerer,

Executive Secretary and Administrative Officer.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting held March 17 and 18, 1933, were approved.

2. RESOLUTION ON THE DEATH OF MR. GREENLEAF: The Commission having heard with deep regret of the death on April 14, 1933, of Mr. James L. Greenleaf, landscape architect member of the Commission of Fine Arts during the years 1918-1927, asked Mr. Clarke to draft a resolution to be adopted by the Commission.

The Commission called attention to the great work which Mr. Greenleaf did in the early part of his term of office in preparing a landscape plan for Greater Arlington, with the cooperation of the Office of the Quartermaster General, which was approved by the Secretary of War in 1925. This plan was contemplated to bring the islands and both shores of the Potomac from the Francis Scott Key Bridge to the Highway Bridge into the park system of the District of Columbia.

During the later years of his term of office Mr. Greenleaf took an active part in promoting the plan for the Greater Washington development, which resulted in the establishment of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

After completing his term of office Mr. Greenleaf became consultant landscape architect member of the Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission, a work in which he was vitally interested.

3. SCULPTURE, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE BUILDING: Under date of April 18, 1933, Mr. Lawrie submitted the following report as to the revised models by Mr. Jennewein for the sculpture of the Department of Justice Building:

SCULPTURE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE BUILDING

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

This is to put on record my seeing the following models today at Mr. Jennewein's studio: the half size model for the pediment at Court A, which is the eagle, Seal of the Department; the half size model for the panel over the entrance door, Constitution Avenue, and the half size model for one pediment on Constitution Avenue, a figure with a sword and the Latin words for the Art of being Just. This was one of the two pediments in sketch form that the Commission criticized. And although the developed larger model is not changed from the sketch, it has the dignity that was missed. I should approve it with the eagle pediment and the panel over the entrance door.

I plan to be at the meeting Friday.

Sincerely,
(Signed) Lee Lawrie.

Mr. H. P. Caemmerer.

Mr. Lawrie said he approved Mr. Jennewein's sculpture and would recommend its approval by the Commission. The Commission considered the report by Mr. Lawrie and on his recommendation approved the revised models.

Thereupon Mr. Lawrie said that Mr. Jennewein asked whether the Commission could pass on the interior sculptural decorations. He said a commercial firm in New York is doing the work and although many of the things are good yet they are not good enough. Mr. Lawrie said he told Mr. Jennewein that if he could

not have this work well done the Commission could not help him and the only thing they could do would be to disapprove the work. Mr. Jennewein said this firm does some things well, as capitals.

Mr. Moore thought the architect should control the ornamental sculpture in his buildings. Mr. Swartwout said, however, that he had been in such a position that he could not do a thing about his interior decorations. Mr. Howells said that if the models have been made and the contracts let the only thing to do is to try to get the firm to remake the models and if they refuse there is nothing more that can be done.

The Commission suggested that Mr. Lawrie inform Mr. Jennewein that the architects, Zantzinger, Borie and Medary, should see to it that the interior ornamental work of the Department of Justice Building is satisfactory. A report was sent to Mr. Jennewein. (Exhibit A)

4. ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY: Mr. Moore called attention to an article by Lorimer Rich, architect, on the Arlington National Cemetery, which appeared in the Washington Sunday Star of April 16, 1933, and in the New York Herald Tribune on April 16, 1933. As the designer of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Mr. Rich is much interested in an improved plan for Arlington. Mr. Moore said he told Mr. Rich to do what he could in bringing the subject of improving Arlington to the attention of officials of the Government but that public opinion is necessary first before Congress will get back of such a movement. Mr. Moore then offered the following resolution:

> Whereas the rapid increase in the number of interments in Arlington National Cemetery since the World War, and the fact that applications for burial places therein, under present rules may reach

into the millions, far exceeding the present capacity of that cemetery; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be and he is hereby authorized and directed to report to Congress on or before January 1, 1934, a plan for the enlargement of the said cemetery, having regard to the maintenance of such natural features of the landscape as should be reserved to maintain its present high degree of dignity and impressiveness.

For the preparation of such plan the sum of ten thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated; and in the preparation of such plan the Secretary of War shall have the advice of the National Commission of Fine Arts.

The Commission approved the resolution and it was sent to Hon. Robert Luce, House of Representatives, to introduce in the House if he deems it desirable.

5. REVISED REGULATIONS, ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY: The Secretary submitted a revised draft of regulations for Arlington National Cemetery, embodying suggestions made by the members of the Commission and by Mr. Peaslee. The Secretary called attention to the fact that certain questions remain to be acted on by the Commission as to types of monuments. The regulations seemed to provide simply for horizontal monuments, nothing being said about vertical stones or flat stones. Mr. Peaslee called attention to the work that has been done for a number of years in Fort Lincoln Cemetery, of which he is the architectural advisor and said that the regulations are stricter than those which govern Arlington. The monuments are given careful supervision. He said that when a monument dealer finds that he can not get bad stones into Fort Lincoln, they are successful when it comes to Arlington National Cemetery. The Secretary suggested that a uniform type of stone be adopted for Arlington National Cemetery the same as prevails in the American Cemeteries in Europe. Major Clarke felt that the American Battle Monuments Commission could be helpful in this.

Mr. Clarke suggested starting with the Chief of Staff. Mr. Moore believed that public sentiment must be aroused in favor of improving the appearance of Arlington and said for this reason he had offered the resolution providing first for an enlargement of the cemetery to the Potomac and a landscape plan before specific recommendations are made as to the monuments. Mr. Peaslee was of the opinion that it would take about two years to get action by Congress as to enlarging the cemetery and that in the meantime continued damage would be done to Arlington. The sand-blasting of inscriptions was regarded particularly bad. The location of the monument on the lot and color of the stone are also important matters.

The Commission felt it unwise to send the revised draft of regulations to the War Department now, believing that it would be better to confer with certain officers of the War Department first to get their views in the matter.

6. ANACOSTIA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL: Mr. Harold W. Baker, Director of Construction of the Municipal Architect's Office, submitted a design for the Anacostia Junior High School to be built at 16th and R Streets, S. E. It was designed in the colonial style of architecture that prevailed in Virginia and Maryland buildings during colonial times. Mr. Swartwout and Mr. Howells inspected the design and recommended its approval. In general the Commission were well pleased with the design and approved it. (Exhibit B)

7. WOODROW WILSON HIGH SCHOOL: The Commission inspected revised designs submitted on behalf of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, by Mr. Harold W. Baker, Director of Construction of the Municipal Architect's Office, for the Woodrow Wilson High School to be located at Fort Reno in Northwest Washington. These designs were prepared in consultation with a

committee representing the Allied Architects, consisting of Mr. Edward W. Donn, Mr. Nathan C. Wyeth and Professor F. V. Murphy. Mr. Baker said the site has already been purchased. Also he said that in these designs they had used the Roosevelt High School as far as the interior plans are concerned but not for the exterior.

Mr. Baker explained the outstanding features in each of the two sets of designs, one of whichcalled for the buildings to face Chesapeake Street and the other facing south toward the Athletic field and Nebraska Avenue. The main units of each design consisted of the main school building, auditorium, gymnasium and power plant; also an alternate study was made for a flat or pitched roof.

The Commission considered the matter with Mr. Baker and the architectural committee and came to the conclusion that to justify an outlay of $1,150,000 a more interesting and improved series of buildings should be erected at the location. Members of the Commission of Fine Arts had visited the site on two previous occasions and again visited the site on the afternoon of April 21, and were convinced that the designs had not been worked out satisfactorily in relation to the topography.

Mr. Donn said that he felt that making the principal elevations face Chesapeake Street was not exactly the thing to do and, therefore, that he had changed the building around to face the most important street in the same way as the McKinley Technical High School has been treated. The Commission criticized the position of the power house and Mr. Donn agreed that it should be put down farther but that this would cost more. Mr. Swartwout said what the Commission was wondering when they visited the site was whether it is

necessary to keep all the buildings on grade; that it seemed to the Commission it would save money if the buildings were fitted to the topography. Mr. Donn then said that as far as he is concerned the arrangement shown in the plan is satisfactory to him and he could see no reason why the main building should not be on a plinth. Mr. Clarke asked Mr. Donn if he was not fitting the site to the building rather than the building to the site. Mr. Swartwout said that the Commissioners of the District of Columbia were losing a splendid opportunity to do a really fine piece of work; they would save money by fitting the buildings to the location. Mr. Moore advised that Nebraska Avenue will be one of the great thoroughfares of the city connecting Massachusetts and Connecticut Avenues. Mr. Clarke recalled that the Commission had asked for a model and was informed that the Municipal Architect did not have the money for it. Mr. Swartwout then said a draftsman could make a plastiline model.

The Commission feel that the Woodrow Wilson High School should represent a group of buildings designed as a unit and built in such a way as to present a pleasing appearance in the landscape. As at present designed, the power house, adjacent to Nebraska Avenue, would in itself create an unsightly appearance and is not justified. Mr. Moore said that the power plant should be arranged so as to be inconspicuous and not emit smoke as the new power plant of the Bureau of Standards.

The Commission also noted that this plan would cause the destruction of several large trees adjacent to Nebraska Avenue, among them a great elm. These the Commission advised should be saved.

Mr. Baker asked if because of the appropriation and the limitation of funds, the flat roof would be objectionable. Mr. Swartwout reiterated his preference for a sloping roof and leaving off ornaments.

The Commission strongly urged that a small scale model be made of the proposed buildings and that careful study be given by the architectural committee above mentioned to this project with a view to better arrangement of the buildings than indicated in the design submitted. Mr. Clarke said the expense involved in making the model will in the ultimate represent a saving to the Government in this project.

The Commission regard the location an especially good one to make the Woodrow Wilson High School an attractive building for the National Capital. Adjacent to it will be the Fort Drive, land for which has already been purchased by the Government.

A report disapproving the plans was sent to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia. (Exhibit C)

8. SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT REGULATIONS: Mr. Moore offered the following regulations, some of which are supplementary to those already formulated, for adoption by the Commission of Fine Arts:

Rules Established Under The Shipstead-Luce Act

The Shipstead-Luce Act giving to the Commission of Fine Arts a certain measure of control of private buildings facing public buildings, parks and parkways was enacted.

Since that time the Commission has given approval or disapproval in individual cases as submitted by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia through the Inspector of Buildings. The spirit of cooperation in the office of the District Commissioners has been manifested from the beginning. The Commissioners have cordially united with this Commission in advancing the good order, dignity and attractiveness of the National Capital.

The experience of the Commission in dealing with individual cases, now makes possible and desirable the formulation of the following short series of general rules, which will be added to from time to time as need arises:

The Commission of Fine Arts will not approve:

First. Extensions of buildings (including bay windows and signs) which are to occupy for private purposes the public property of the United States or of the District of Columbia.

Second. Signs on roofs.

Third. Signs garish in color; or with intermittent lighting.

Fourth. Signs which cover the architectural features of the building--such as doors, windows, cornices.

Fifth. Signs or parts of signs primarily for advertising purposes. The firm or individual name of the occupier, and the kind of business conducted will be approved.

The Commission were unanimously in accord with approving these regulations.

9. APPLICATION FOR SIGN AT 937 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE: Under date of April 10, 1933, an application was received from the Building Inspector of the District of Columbia for an advertising sign at 937 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W. This was to be a new sign 12 x $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet for the John Bright Shoe Store. The Commission disapproved the application because it was proposed to place the sign three feet over the building line.

10. NEW ROOF SIGN FOR ACACIA LODGE BUILDING: Under date of March 29, 1933, an application was received from the Inspector of Buildings of the District of Columbia for a new roof sign for the Acacia Lodge Building at First Street and Indiana Avenue, N. W. Mr. Moore called attention to the fact that this was a large red sign overlooking Union Station Plaza and was very objectionable. Mr. Moore said it has also been objected to by members of Congress. The members of the Commission expressed their disapproval of such signs in the National Capital and the application was disapproved.

11. REAR PORCH FOR 1863 INGLESIDE TERRACE: Under date of April 19, 1933, an application was received from the Inspector of Buildings of the

District of Columbia for enclosing the lower floor of a rear porch at 1863 Ingleside Terrace facing Rock Creek Park. The architect members of the Commission felt nothing in particular could be done to improve the design, so it was approved.

12. SIGN FOR PLAZA DRUG COMPANY, 200 E STREET, N. E.: Under date of April 20, 1933, an application was received for a new sign for the Plaza Drug Company at 200 E Street, N. E. This sign was to measure 20 feet by 18 inches and was designated for a place flat against the building. The sign is to take the place of an old roof sign. The Commission approved the application.

13. WASHINGTON MONUMENT GARDENS: Mr. Moore reported that Mr. Caemmerer had furnished him with a copy of the proof on House Document No. 528, containing the report of the Engineers on the project to develop the Washington Monument Gardens. The Commission expressed their interest in it and decided to consider very carefully objections made by the engineers to the 1901 Plan for the Washington Monument Gardens.

14. GREAT COURT OF THE TRIANGLE: The Secretary reported that he had requested Bennett, Parsons and Frost of Chicago to submit a ground plan for the Great Court of the Triangle south of Pennsylvania Avenue and that this had been received with a letter as follows:

April 17, 1933.

Mr. H. P. Caemmerer,
Secy., Fine Arts Commission,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

In response to your recent request we are mailing separately, two prints of a drawing of the Great Plaza (not completed), showing driveways and their connections to surrounding streets. Two prints of the "General Plan of the Triangle" explanatory of the scheme as a whole are also being sent.

At this stage of the Triangle development the position of the future approach to the Great Plaza from Pennsylvania Avenue has not been determined, but the scheme contemplates a driveway near the east end.

The location of the driveway as shown on the Great Plaza blue print is that suggested by Mr. Delano on a study made by him, and discussed by the Board of Architectural Consultants, to show the building which will ultimately extend from the new Post Office Department Building along the north side of the Plaza to 14th Street.

The driveways to Pennsylvania Avenue shown on the blue line print of the "General Plan of the Triangle" are tentatively located directly opposite those under construction passing through the Department of Labor and Interstate Commerce Commission Building.

Very truly yours,

BENNETT PARSONS & FROST
HTF-C (Signed) H. T. Frost.

The Secretary had also prepared a memorandum on the subject of an examination of the plans by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission with a view to making street and driveway adjustments. The memorandum as follows was read by Mr. Moore:

April 20, 1933.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS:

I sent a set of the prints for the Great Plaza, just received from Bennett, Parsons and Frost, to the National Capital Park and Planning Commission today, with the request that, if possible, they advise the Commission of Fine Arts by our meeting on Friday whether they are satisfactory as to location of the driveways in and out of the Great Plaza.

Mr. Eliot telephoned, saying that he has given the plans a preliminary examination and finds that the plans are not satisfactory and that they must have much more information concerning the project from Bennett, Parsons and Frost before the National Capital Park and Planning Commission would approve the design. They involve many changes in streets in the locality; also re-arrangement of street car lines in which the District of Columbia Government is particularly interested. Mr. Eliot said the National Capital Park and Planning

Commission would take up the matter at once with a view to having a report for the Commission of Fine Arts concerning the project at the meeting in May.

(Signed) H. P. Caemmerer,
Secretary.

The Commission felt it of vital importance that the question of driveways for the Great Court be settled before the plans be taken up with regard to architectural landscape development.

15. MERIDIAN HILL PARK: Mr. Peaslee reported that he was not satisfied with the planting that has been done in the lower garden of Meridian Hill Park and felt that the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks was not carrying out the suggestions made by Mr. Clarke during an inspection of the park last summer by him (Mr. Peaslee), Mr. Clarke, and Mr. Hanson of the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks. Mr. Clarke said that at that time a request was made of Mr. Hanson that a check-up be made of the planting with the plans as prepared by Mr. Vitale's office and that inquiry at the office of the landscape architect of the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks disclosed that this had not been done.

Mr. Peaslee said that in times past there has been disagreement as to these plans. Mr. Payne has arbitrarily gone ahead and done things that were not recommended in the plan with the result that there are corrections to be made. Mr. Peaslee said he wanted to get pressure from the Commission to force Payne to file with the Commission a report of the conference held last year between Mr. Clarke, Mr. Peaslee and Mr. Hanson. Mr. Clarke suggested that Mr. Moore write to Colonel Grant asking for the plans to Meridian Hill Park that were approved last summer. Mr. Clarke said we ought to have a complete and proper plan before any more work is done. Mr. Peaslee suggested that

Mr. Moore and Mr. Clarke talk directly with Colonel Grant. This suggestion was concurred in by the Commission.

The Commission inspected Meridian Hill Park during the afternoon, particularly the planting in the lower garden. The Commission felt that the lower garden could be materially improved by some additional planting. Mr. Clarke advised that thick ground cover be used for the open spaces adjacent to the cascades rather than grass. As for the masonry, the Commission felt that it is satisfactory. There seemed to be some doubt as to whether it would last many years. In general the park represented a completed work in so far as the masonry construction is concerned.

On Saturday, April 22nd, Mr. Clarke considered the landscape plan of Meridian Hill Park with Mr. Payne. Mr. Clarke said the planting done this spring has been done without following the plan.

Mr. Clarke also called attention to the following:

> "The red cedars have been planted. Also dwarf, low growing evergreens have been planted in the small soil pockets along the edge of the water terraces. All of these are most inappropriate, and absolutely contrary to the type of planting we suggested. The Junipers naturally grow on dry hillsides and not at the water's edge. Certainly some attention must be given to plant ecology. I suggested using plant materials which would grow naturally along the water's edge and give the desired character to the planting, such as grasses, sedges, cat-tails, arrow-leaf, iris, and so on."

Mr. Clarke offered to go over the planting in Meridian Hill Park in the near future with Mr. Payne, Mr. Hanson and Mr. Peaslee. Mr. Clarke said that he had expected that Mr. Hanson to make a memorandum of suggestions made during an inspection of the park by him with Mr. Peaslee and Mr. Hanson last summer but that there has been negligence on the part of Mr. Hanson in this matter.

Mr. Clarke advised that the firm of Vitale and Geiffert should be authorized to revise existing plans as may be necessary, which could thereupon be approved by the Commission of Fine Arts. A letter was sent to Colonel Grant embodying these suggestions. (Exhibit D)

16. ARLINGTON MEMORIAL BRIDGE:

(a) Columbia Island Plaza. The Commission made a trip of inspection to Columbia Island Plaza and considered the question of taking up construction work on the Plaza. After careful consideration and an inspection of the site, which was very muddy and covered with water in places, the Commission felt that it would be inadvisable at this time to begin construction of the Great Plaza. The Commission felt that whenever the curbs are built the plaza should be paved at the same time. The Commission believed that in the absence of Mr. Kendall abroad the project had best be held in abeyance for a while.

(b) Memorial Avenue. Mr. Moore brought to the attention of the Commission a letter received from McKim, Mead and White, dated April 18, 1933, inclosing one sent by McKim, Mead and White to John L. Nagle, designing engineer of the Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission, in regard to the plan for the Memorial Avenue. (Exhibit E)

After the Secretary had read the correspondence, the Commission concluded that there was not such a great divergence between the points raised by McKim, Mead and White and the views of the Commission. At the same time the correspondence was referred to Mr. Gilmore D. Clarke for special attention and he reported to the Commission as follows:

> A copy of the communication sent Mr. Moore by McKim, Mead and White, dated April 18, enclosing copy of a letter addressed to Mr. Nagle was sent to me. Many of the points raised by the architects

have been taken care of in the last plan submitted to the Commission for the Arlington approach, west of Columbia Island. The kind of trees, and the arrangement of them, is in conformance with recommendations of the Commission. Inspection of the plan showed that a few additional trees (White Oaks) should be placed at locations indicated in red on a blue print of the plan which is enclosed. Without these, the planting would appear too thin for a number of years. I suggest that the print be returned to Colonel Grant with the suggestion that the additional trees be added. Trees having a caliper of not less than 4½ inches should be used.

I doubt whether trees (oaks) having a caliper of much over 4½ inches can be purchased in quantity. The two formal rows should be made up of oaks uniform in height and branching habit (branches should begin at a uniform height above ground). If nursery grown trees cannot be obtained then collected trees must be secured. These should be root-pruned and allowed to grow over two growing seasons before moving. One-half of the root system should be pruned the first year and one-half at the beginning of the second year. In so doing the roots cut should be in quadrants of a circle.

One of the points raised by the architects is that the inside rows of trees are spaced 230 feet apart. I think the distance apart of the rows is not in too great variance with the decision made by Mr. Vitale. The decision to place them as shown on the plan was apparently determined by the pylons. The fact that the rows are 30 feet further apart than originally contemplated, more or less arbitrarily, is not important. The relation of these formal tree rows to the pylons and the hedges appears satisfactory. If the hedges are shown correctly located, I think it would be unfortunate to have the trees nearer.

Another point raised is that the trees are not spaced laterally so as ultimately to allow the niches in the hedges to center in the spaces between two trees. I do not think this important or necessary. The hedges will reach a height of not less than 12 feet and obscure the boles of the oaks behind them. It would be, in my opinion, more interesting to vary the rigid formality to this degree.

The bases for the lighting posts are already built and I assume conform with the architect's plan. The light standards must, of course, relate to the future locations planned for the niches in the holly hedges.

As for lamp posts along the Memorial Avenue, Mr. Moore said that he felt the time had come to decide definitely on the actual design of the lamp posts to be used on the Memorial Bridge. The "D. C." lamp posts now on the bridge seem rather too large and should be regarded as temporary. Mr. Moore said

he wrote to Mr. F. J. Adams of McKim, Mead and White about the matter, who replied by letter of April 20, 1933, as follows:

Mr. Charles Moore,
The Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Moore:

Receipt is acknowledged of yours of April 19th.

Enclosed are two blue print copies of the latest sketch for lamp posts for the bridge and it is hoped the rest of the Arlington project. This new drawing was prepared by Mr. Kendall to accord with the ideas developed in consultation with the Commission of Fine Arts when the matter was last under discussion. It is the design referred to in the letters he wrote you under date of June 8, 1932, and to Colonel Grant, June 9, 1932.

Yours very truly,
MCKIM, MEAD AND WHITE.

FJA:MR

The Commission inspected the blue print submitted by Mr. Adams and regarded the design a good one. However, whether this type of lamp post is to be adopted for the Memorial Bridge is to be finally determined in further conference with Mr. Kendall. Mr. Swartwout said he was getting sick of the white china bowls for lights and rather prefers the lamp post design by Thomas Hastings in front of the Public Library in New York City. These globes are of ground glass, which appears to melt into the atmosphere. Mr. Swartwout also considered a long line of glass globes to look like a row of beads. He was of the opinion that an attractive lamp post for the Memorial Bridge could be designed. A report was sent to Colonel Grant. (Exhibit F)

(c) Great Entrance to Arlington. Mr. Moore stated that he was very much disappointed over the paving at the Great Entrance to Arlington and said also that in a recent visit with Mr. Gilbert to the place, Mr. Gilbert was very much dissatisfied with it. The chief objection Mr. Moore said is to the

expansion joints put in also to be traffic guides. These look like street car tracks and are contrary to the advice of the Commission. There is also an ugly point in the pavement. The Commission decided to visit the site in the afternoon.

The Commission recalled that at a meeting held in New York City at the office of McKim, Mead and White last October an agreement had been reached with Mr. Kendall and Mr. Nagle representing the Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission, that the expansion joints should not be constructed so as to appear as traffic guides. Attention was called to the letter addressed to Colonel Grant on the subject on October 29, 1932. (Exhibit H)

The Commission visited the site in the afternoon and were horrified at the appearance of the pavement, which shows the traffic guides so crudely constructed as to appear just like street car tracks. The Commission felt that the design of the great entrance itself having been so carefully worked out by Mr. Kendall and the Commission having advised fully as to the pavement, this ignoring of their advice was unwarranted. A letter of protest was sent to Colonel Grant. (Exhibit G) (See also G-1 and G-2)

17. JOHN ERICSSON MEMORIAL PLANTING PLAN: Colonel Grant submitted a landscape plan prepared by the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks for the John Ericsson Memorial near the Lincoln Memorial. The plan was given particular attention by Mr. Clarke, who advised as follows:

April 24, 1933.

Mr. H. P. Caemmerer,
Secretary, The Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D. C.

Planting Plan Ericsson Memorial

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

I conferred with Mr. Payne relative to this plan and on Saturday afternoon, with Mr. Moore, saw the work which had been accomplished thus far.

Mr. Payne explained that he had changed the planting scheme so that it no longer conformed to the plan submitted. He said that one type of Juniper had been used, namely, Juniperus squamata. That is satisfactory. He said he suggested adding plants of Juniperus sabina tamariscifolia at the corners where the ramps interesected the curb.

It would tend toward greater simplicity to omit the eight dwarf pines and I so recommend. Mr. Payne agrees with me that it would be most desirable to substitute a ground cover for the grass areas. Mr. Payne suggested Myrtle (Vinca minor) and I concur that this would be satisfactory. This treatment would make the maintenance of the area simpler. The use of grass in these small circles should be discouraged in favor of ground covers requiring less maintenance.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke.

A report was sent to Colonel Grant. (Exhibit I)

18. DESIGN FOR OIL STATION AT NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE AND 27TH STREET, N. W.: In accordance with the suggestions made at the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts on March 17 and 18, 1933, Mr. Julius Wenig, architect, presented sketches for an oil station at New Hampshire Avenue and 27th Street, using as a basis blue prints of oil stations on the Bronx Parkway, that had been loaned by Mr. Clarke. The Commission did not think that Mr. Wenig had really produced a good design. He said that his building is so much smaller than the oil stations in the Bronx Parkway that it was difficult to adapt those designs to it. Thereupon the Commission suggested that Mr. Wenig prepare a sketch of a colonial type of oil station for the location proposed. He said he would do this and submit it to the Commission as soon as completed.

19. GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD STATUE: The Secretary brought to the attention of the Commission a letter (Exhibit J) received from the American University, advising that the executive committee has agreed to a tax of not to exceed $700 for assessed benefits for curbs, gutters and paving in creating the circle at Massachusetts and Nebraska Avenues, N. W., for the General Artemas Ward Statue. As stated in the letter the dedication plat is to be officially signed and sent to the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia.

The Secretary stated that he had brought this matter to the attention of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission with the suggestion that they now proceed to buy the remainder of the land needed to create the circle as they had offered to do when they heard of this gift from the American University.

20. AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION: Under date of April 19, 1933, the following letter was received from the office of John Russell Pope, as to the landscape plan for the American Pharmaceutical Association Building:

Mr. H. P. Caemmerer,
Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D. C.

Re: American Pharmaceutical Building.

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

Planting and grading plans and a perspective have been sent to the Capital Parks and Planning Commission in care of Colonel Grant for tomorrow's meeting.

These same drawings are also meant for the consideration of the Commission of Fine Arts on Friday.

I understand that Dr. Kelly of the Association will be present at these meetings. Copies of these plans will be forwarded for the records of the Commission.

Very truly yours,
OFFICE OF JOHN RUSSELL POPE
(Signed) Otto R. Eggers.

Dr. Kelly telephoned, stating that the plans are now before the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, which has taken them up for consideration. The Commission in the near future will expect a report from the National Capital Park and Planning Commission as to these plans.

21. NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS: The Commission adopted the suggestion of the Secretary that the next meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts be held in Washington on Friday, May 26.

During the afternoon the Commission made an inspection trip to the site of the Woodrow Wilson High School at Fort Reno, Fort Lincoln Cemetery, Saint Elizabeth's Hospital, the great entrance to Arlington, the Mount Vernon Highway and Meridian Hill Park. The Commission adjourned at 7:00 p. m.

C O P Y

April 24, 1933.

Dear Mr. Jennewein:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on April 21, 1933, considered your revised models for the Department of Justice Building sculpture, which were inspected by Mr. Lawrie a few days ago. Upon the recommendation of Mr. Lawrie the Commission approved the models.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. C. Paul Jennewein,

538 Van Nest Avenue,

Bronx, New York.

EXHIBIT A

C O P Y

April 22, 1933.

Dear Sirs:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on April 21, 1933, approved the design submitted in your behalf by Mr. Harold W. Baker, Director of Construction of the Municipal Architect's Office for the Anacostia Junior High School to be built at 16th and R Streets, S. E. It is designed in the Colonial style of architecture that prevailed in many of the charming buildings of Maryland and Virginia and the Commission were well pleased with it.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Board of Commissioners
of the District of Columbia,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT B

C O P Y

April 26, 1933.

Sirs:

The Commission of Fine Arts, after considering with the Associated Architects the revised plans for the Woodrow Wilson High School on the Fort Reno site at their meeting on April 21, 1933, are constrained to disapprove them.

The buildings are distinctly not fitted to the site. For this reason the plans involve a large waste of money. The appropriation has been reduced to such an extent that every dollar should be made to count. The buildings should be simplified, and should depend for success on good proportions and a nice adaptation of the structures to the site. This would permit a less expensive basement, and a much better lighting for it.

The location of the heating plant is unfortunate. The result would be to put a high smokestack in the vista of Nebraska Avenue, which is now under development from Connecticut Avenue to Massachusetts Avenue, and which will soon take its place among the finest thoroughfares of Washington.

Also the plans as prepared involve the sacrifice of several fine trees, which should become features of the school grounds. The Commission feel that the plans have never been well studied. And yet the site is commanding and the location is in the midst of a park area which demands consideration--especially in the planning of so large and so expensive a group of buildings.

The Commission feel that to erect the buildings as planned would be the extravagant use of public money to produce unpleasant results--all of which could easily be avoided by intelligent study to adapt the buildings to the site instead of going to the expense of making the site fit the buildings.

Those members of the Associated Architects who had visited the site concurred with the Commission, and it was agreed that a rough scale model should be made on the basis of a more advantageous disposition of the buildings.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully yours,
(Signed) Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Board of Commissioners
of the District of Columbia,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT C

C O P Y

April 29, 1933.

Dear Colonel Grant:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on April 21, 1933, considered the planting done recently at Meridian Hill Park and inspected the park during the afternoon. Attention in particular was given to the planting in the lower garden by Mr. Gilmore D. Clarke, landscape architect member of the Commission. He calls attention to the following:

> "The red cedars have been planted. Also dwarf, low growing evergreens have been planted in the small soil pockets along the edge of the water terraces. All of these are most inappropriate, and absolutely contrary to the type of planting we suggested. The Junipers naturally grow on dry hillsides and not at the water's edge. Certainly some attention must be given to plant ecology. I suggested using plant materials which would grow naturally along the water's edge and give the desired character to the planting, such as grasses, sedges, cat-tails, arrow-leaf, iris, and so on."

Early last fall Mr. Clarke, Mr. Peaslee and Mr. Hanson spent a whole day going over the planting in Meridian Hill Park, and it was understood that Mr. Hanson would make a transcript of notes on the subject, but this has never been done.

In the opinion of the Commission it is deemed highly important that the planting in Meridian Hill Park should be checked with the plans made by Vitale & Geiffert and that firm should be authorized to revise the existing landscape plans in such ways as are deemed necessary.

The members of the Commission are deeply interested in seeing the landscape features of Meridian Hill Park properly carried out. Mr. Clarke would like, in the very near future, to devote another day to an inspection of the park in company with the landscape architect of your office and Mr. Peaslee.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully yours,
(Signed) Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant 3d, Director,
Public Buildings and Public Parks
of the National Capital,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT D

McKIM, MEAD & WHITE,
101 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK

WM MITCHELL KENDALL
T J VAN DER BENT
LAWRENCE GRANT WHITE
JAMES KELLUM SMITH

FREDERICK J ADAMS
GEORGE FRANCIS MORSE
LOUIS ROBERT HOLSKE

HERBERT LUCAS,
ASSOCIATE

April 18, 1933.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL BRIDGE

Mr. Charles Moore,
The Commission of Fine Arts,
Department of Interior Building,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a copy of letter to Mr. John L. Nagle, which is self-explanatory.

Of course, you will understand the office memoranda we quote are merely our version of happenings as recorded at various dates, and do not purport to convey the official mind of the Commission.

Yours very truly,

FJA:HR

Copy to Major Gilmore D. Clark.

EXHIBIT B

April 18, 1933.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL BRIDGE

Mr. John L. Nagle,
Designing Engineer,
Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission,
Navy Building, Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Nagle:

Referring to the drawing entitled "Memorial Approach Drive - General Plan", revised March 30, 1933, received with your letter of April 12, 1933, we would note the following particulars in which it does not accord with the decisions of the Commission of Fine Arts as understood by us.

The formal trees were to be in two rows on each side of drive, arranged as described in excerpts from our office memoranda of meetings as quoted following:

"Memorandum of matters discussed at meeting in office of McKim, Mead & White, October 17, 1932.
Present: Messrs. W.M.Kendall, Gilmore D. Clark, F.J.Adams.

CEMETERY APPROACH - TREES:
Mr. Clark stated the rows of trees nearest the hedge would be aligned but those in back arranged to give an informal aspect. The trees were white oaks about 6" diameter."

"Memorandum of matters discussed at meeting of National Commission of Fine Arts, at office of McKim, Mead & White, October 24th, 1932.

Present: Messrs. Moore (presiding) Swartwout, Cross, Winter, Clark, Weinman and Secretary Caemmerer. For the Arlington Bridge Commission - J. L. Nagle. For architects - W.M.Kendall, F.J.Adams.

TREES:
Mr. Clark stated it had been agreed to have the first line of trees regularly spaced. The second row was to be spaced to close the gaps in the first row. At places there were to be three rows, the latter being grouped to give a rounded effect on the north and south outer sides. He also stated all the trees were to be white oak. Mr. Nagle was to confirm the above information about trees and hedges at the highway to Mr. Wayne."

"Memorandum of matters discussed at meeting of the National Commission of Fine Arts, at office of McKim, Mead & White, February 23, 1933.

Present: Messrs. Moore, Swartwout, Cross, Lawrie, Howells, Weinman and Secretary Caemmerer of the Commission, Major Gillette and Mr. J.L. Nagle, representing Col. Grant's office, W.M.Kendall and F.J.Adams.

TREES ALONG CEMETERY APPROACH:

Major Gillette submitted a drawing showing proposed trees. The arrangement discussed at meeting of October 24, 1932 was again confirmed by the Commission:

'Mr. Clark stated it had been agreed to have the first line of trees regularly spaced. The second row was to be spaced to close the gaps in the first row. At places there were to be three rows, the latter being grouped to give a rounded effect on the north and south outer sides. He also stated all the trees were to be white oak. Mr. Nagle was to confirm the above information about trees and hedges at the highway to Mr. Payne.

Mr. Nagle said the ground was graded for two rows of trees.'"

The trees as shown on the drawing referred to above are not located to provide for the niches as located by our drawings centered on pairs of lamp-posts along the curb. As you are aware, Mr. Kendall has repeatedly urged that the niches be put in. That they are not to be abandoned would appear to be evident from our understanding of remarks of the Chairman of the Commission of Fine Arts as also recorded in our office memorandum of the meeting of October 24, 1932, to the following effect:

"Mr. Moore said it was considered advisable to leave out the niches in the hedge until there was something to set in them (the idea being to leave no obvious invitation for outsiders to agitate for placing of possible inappropriate monuments in the niches.)"

The width between the boles of the front rows of trees was established at 200' at an inspection at the site by Mr. Vitale representing the Commission of Fine Arts and Mr. Kendall. This was in March of 1928, pursuant to the suggestion made in our letter to Col. Grant, dated February 24, 1928.

The plan received by us shows the trees 230' apart.

Because of the wide divergence in intent between the drawing and our understanding of the arrangement approved by the Commission of Fine Arts, we feel the work should not proceed until the matter has been reviewed with the Commission.

Yours very truly,

FJA:MR

Copy to Mr. Charles Moore,
Major Gilmore D. Clark.

C O P Y

April 27, 1933.

Dear Colonel Grant:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on April 21, 1933, considered the letter sent by McKim, Mead and White to Mr. John L. Nagle, designing engineer of the Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission, on April 18, 1933, regarding the plan for the Memorial Avenue.

The Commission referred the matter to Mr. Gilmore D. Clarke, landscape architect member, who has submitted the inclosed report, in which the Commission fully concur.

Columbia Island Plaza: The Commission advise that the ground is still so soft and unsettled that the expense of putting in the curb now is not justified unless the entire plaza can be paved at the same time. As the ground appears still to be settling, the Commission question whether it would be advisable, at this time, even to pave the plaza.

Mr. Kendall is now abroad and the construction of Columbia Island may bring up certain questions concerning which he should be consulted. Therefore, the Commission deem it best to hold the development of Columbia Island Plaza in abeyance until Mr. Kendall returns. For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant 3d,
Executive and Disbursing Officer,
Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT F

has spent many millions of dollars to make Washington a well-ordered, dignified and beautiful capital. The large work has been done; there remains the finishing of details on which success of the whole conception depends. If these details are not carried out according to the spirit of the large plan, a sense of failure and incompetence results. The people will not get the results they have paid for and have a right to expect.

Many of these details may have to await more prosperous times. That the members of the Commission understand. Such postponements they, as citizens, are anxious to further. What they do ask is that the necessary economies be carried out in a truly economical manner, by necessary omissions and simplifcations; but never by violations of good order and good taste.

This letter is written to you, who have always cooperated with the members of the Commission of Fine Arts, in the hope and confident expectation of your further cooperation in order to perfect the great and noble plans in which we have been sharing during past years.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant 3d,
Executive and Disbursing Officer,
Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT G

May 1, 1933.

McKim, Mead and White,
101 Park Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

Subject: Planting along Memorial Avenue
to Cemetery.

Gentlemen:

With reference to your letter of April 18th, relative to the planting along the Memorial Avenue to the Cemetery, please be advised that since I received that letter, the whole matter of the planting in question has been referred to the Commission of Fine Arts for the third (or fourth) time, and I now have a blue print of our latest drawing, which has been corrected in red and signed by Mr. Gilmore Clarke.

This drawing was returned in substantially the same condition as it was in when we gave it to the Commission of Fine Arts, the only exception being that Mr. Clarke added about 14 oaks on each side of the avenue. These additional trees were distributed uniformly along the length between the Boundary Channel Bridge and the Memorial Entrance, and their net effect is to increase the density of the planting. Mr. Clarke did not, however, formalize the second row of oaks, and he reaffirmed a previous statement that the first or formal rows should be spaced 230 feet apart in order that the trunks would fall symmetrically between the pairs of the foremost pylons. His reasons for his revisions are indicated on the memorandum which he submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts, photostat copy is also attached hereto.

With respect to the layout of these trees, may I inform you that we have endeavored to follow the ideas as given to us both by you and by the Commission of Fine Arts. In all cases where these ideas were divergent, they were resubmitted to the Commission and were, as I thought, thoroughly threshed out and decided upon in open hearing. At all events, we in this office felt that we were proceeding along definitely determined lines.

EXHIBIT G-1

McKim, Mead and White - Planting, Memorial Avenue to Cemetery. 5/1/33.

As you will recall, most of our discussions have centered around the elimination of the semicircular niches which were shown in your original drawing. These niches were omitted at the suggestion of the Commission of Fine Arts and with the complete approval of Colonel Grant. As to the formality of two lines of trees on each side of the avenue, I think Mr. Clarke's memorandum states the position of the Commission of Fine Arts.

We had expected to do the planting of the white oaks this fiscal year but the Bureau of the Budget recently impounded the funds we had set aside therefor. At the present moment, we cannot tell when the planting can be done.

Very truly yours,

For the Executive Officer:

John L. Nagle,
Designing Engineer.

Incl. 1 Photostat cy. memo.
from Mr. Clarke.

CC Mr. Moore.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL BRIDGE COMMISSION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE AND DISBURSING OFFICER
NAVY BUILDING
WASHINGTON

May 2, 1933.

Mr. Charles Moore, Chairman,
The Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D. C.

Subject: Memorial Avenue to the Cemetery,
revision of planting plan by Mr. Clarke.

Dear Mr. Moore:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of April 27th with the report and revised drawing by Mr. Clarke accompanying.

As you are aware, all of the work mentioned in your letter will have to be postponed owing to the impoundment of funds which were available. Furthermore, it does not appear likely that any money will be available during the coming fiscal year for any of this work.

With regard to the photostat copy of the letter from McKim, Mead and White to Mr. Nagle, I believe that all points mentioned therein have been fully covered by Mr. Clarke, and a copy of Mr. Clarke's report has been sent to the Architects.

Very truly yours,

U. S. Grant, 3d,
Executive and Disbursing Officer.

EXHIBIT G-2

C O P Y

October 29, 1933.

Dear Colonel Grant:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting in New York City October 24, 1932, at the office of McKim, Mead and White, considered a drawing for the square at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery, as presented by Mr. Nagle, who attended the meeting in your behalf.

The Commission explained to Mr. Nagle their entire agreement with Mr. Kendall that the chief consideration was the preservation of the integrity and importance of the square. They were opposed to temporary curbs and to jointings to guide traffic, preferring markings on the pavement where necessary. They favor the homogeneous uniform paving of the entire square, even with a black paving. They hope, however, that money be found to carry the color of the paving through the square.

The Commission also discussed the completion of the Memorial Avenue, and as was suggested at the meeting on October 4th, the Commission recommend planting an 8-foot holly hedge on each side of the Avenue, without alcoves, since they can be provided later if needed. Also the Commission recommend planting one row of trees on each side of the Avenue, in back of which additional trees two or three deep should be planted informally. They should be white oak trees, not less than 50 feet apart.

The Commission desire to express their appreciation of Mr. Nagle's sympathetic and very intelligent presentation of the conditions prevailing at this time.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant 3d,
Executive and Disbursing Officer,
Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT H

C O P Y

April 28, 1933.

Dear Col. Grant:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on April 21, 1933, received from you the planting plan for the Ericsson Memorial. It was given particular attention by Mr. Gilmore D. Clarke, landscape architect member of the Commission.

In your absence Mr. Clarke talked with Mr. Payne of your office in regard to the plan. Mr. Payne stated that (as often happens) he had changed the planting scheme so that it no longer conformed to the plan as submitted. Mr. Payne said that one type of juniper had been used, namely, Juniperus Squamata. This Mr. Clarke deems satisfactory. Mr. Payne suggested adding plants of Juniperus Sabina Tamariscifolia at the corners where the ramps intersect the curb.

Mr. Clarke advises that it would tend toward greater simplicity to omit the eight dwarf pines and Mr. Clarke so recommends. Mr. Payne agrees with Mr. Clarke that it would be desirable to substitute a ground cover for the grass areas. Mr. Payne suggested Myrtle (Vinca minor) and Mr. Clarke concurs. This treatment would make the maintenance of the area simpler. The use of grass in these small circles should be discouraged in favor of ground covers requiring less maintenance.

The prime necessity in this planting, however, is large trees between the monument and the river. The monument needs to be seen through trees, particularly from Columbia Island.

The Commission regard as unnecessary and disturbing three of the four ramps. A plain green surface would have been more dignified and impressive. This simplicity should be considered in all future work.

The print you submitted is herewith inclosed.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant 3d, Director,
Public Buildings and Public Parks
of the National Capital,
Washington, D.C.

Exhibit I