MINUTES OF MEETING OF COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., MARCH 16,1927.

The eighth meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1927 was held in its office in the Interior Department Building on Wednesday, March 16, 1927.

The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman,
Mr. Mowbray,
Mr. Delano,
Mr. Taft,
Mr. Garfield,
Mr. Morris,
also Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary and Executive Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The minutes of the Meeting held February 17, 1927, were approved.

Mr. Morris suggested an amendment to page 7, paragraph 9, as to the treatment of the approach to the chapel at Aisne Marne, to the effect that instead of one gravel walk there should be two walks, each with a bordering of wood land and separating one from the other by a wide sloping of grass or tapis vert. It was decided to give this matter further consideration at the time the drawings for the landscape treatment of the chapel, which are being restudied, are submitted.

2. G. A. R. TABLET: Under date of March 2, 1927, the Secretary of War resubmitted the question of design for the proposed Tablet of the Grand Army of the Republic, to be placed in the Arlington Memorial Amphitheater, by letter as follows:

> "In my capacity as Chairman of the Commission on the Erection of Memorials and Entombment of Bodies in the Arlington Memorial Amphitheater, I wrote a letter to Commander-in-Chief Frank A. Walsh, of the Grand Army of the Republic, concurring in the recommendation of your Commission for the installation of a tablet commemorating the 30th day of May of each year as Memorial Day.
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> Since my letter, Commander Walsh has visited my office and discussed the matter with me. Commander Walsh insists, on behalf of the Grand Army of the Republic, that the entire General Order No.11, issued by General Logan, be incorporated on the tablet. In view of the position taken by Commander Walsh, it is requested that your Commission further consider this matter and make recommendations as to the size, lettering, approximate cost, suitability and location of the tablet bearing General Order No.11."

The Secretary of War wrote to Commander Walsh on February 25, 1927, as

follows:

"In reply to your letter of January 11, 1927, in reference to the installation of the tablet in the Arlington Memorial Amphitheater commemorating the establishment of the 30th day of May as Memorial Day, under the provisions of the joint resolution of Congress approved June 19, 1926, I have the pleasure to inform you that the Commission of Fine Arts has acted on your application and I am attaching herewith a copy of their recommendation in so far as it pertains to the construction and installation of this tablet.

This recommendation is approved by the Commission on the Erection of Memorials and Entombment of Bodies in the Arlington Memorial Amphitheater, as it is believed that the design and plan of the tablet, as outlined by the Commission of Fine Arts, will be in keeping with the dignity and simplicity of the Amphitheater.

It is requested that the design for this tablet, as recommended by the Commission of Fine Arts be forwarded to this office as soon as completed, in order that it may be approved by the Commission on the erection of Memorials and Entombment of Bodies in the Arlington Memorial Amphitheater and the Fine Arts Commission, as this will be necessary before the tablet can be accepted."

Mrs. Mary Logan Tucker, daughter of General Logan, appeared before the Commission in the interest of the tablet and urged for the inscription the entire General Order No.11, saying:

"I come to you in the interest of the tablet to be erected at the Arlington Cemetery, bearing my father's Order No.11. There has been a design made and this Committee appeared before the Secretary of War. I was one of the members of the Committee. We left the design with the Secretary of War and he was to send it forward for your consideration. It has already been gone over very carefully as to shape and size of the tablet, and we recommend that the tablet contain the entire Order No.11 as written by my father. The design is very simple. The eagle at the top of the design is to be omitted. The tablet is to be of white marble. We have had it gone over by a company here in Washington, who have agreed to put it in place for the amount which the G. A. R. has made available ($1,000). I have no feeling about the Order, but I do not think anyone has a right to use simply a portion of the Order; otherwise it would not be General Order No.11. It has been read every year since the issuance of that Order in all National Cemeteries. No objection has ever been raised in regard to reading it. It has been read and it will continue to be read as part of the proceedings of Decoration Day. Now I can only leave it in your hands, gentlemen, but I do appeal to you to see that the wishes of the G. A. R. and my own wishes, as the only surviving member of my father's family, and as a member of the Committee, are given favorable consideration."

Also, Judge Hosea B. Moulton, Past Commander, Department of the Potomac, Grand Army of the Republic, was present, who said:

"I represent the Commander in Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, who could not be here. I have had several conferences with the Secretary of War and we left with him a sketch and specifications for the tablet. He said he would send them over here."

The design showing the entire Order No.11 was thereupon inspected. It showed that the upper part of the design, showing the eagle, is to be omitted, leaving only the wording of the Order. Judge Moulton said that at the 57th Annual Encampment of the G. A. R., attended by 1200 delegates, a resolution was unanimously adopted to erect this tablet bearing the entire General Order No.11, and that the Secretary of War has agreed to this. He said the marble tablet, which is to be 3'6" x 5'6" would be made here in Washington by a firm which has offered to produce the tablet for $1,000. Thereupon Mrs. Tucker and Judge Moulton withdrew from the meeting.

Lieut. Col. Robert Sterrett, Q. M. C., Executive and Disbursing Officer of the"Arlington Amphitheater Commission", then conferred with the Commission in regard to the tablet. Colonel Sterrett filed a copy of correspondence had by the Secretary of War with Judge Moulton of the G.A.R. and the specifications for the tablet (Exhibit A).

The Commission gave the matter very careful consideration. Mr. Moore said he had brought the matter to the attention of Mr. J. F. Manning, Jr., dealer in monuments here, who had advised that to inscribe General Order No.11 properly, with its 2300 letters and figures, would require a tablet measuring 6'9" x 9'3", and would cost at least $3500.

The Commission decided that from an artistic point of view they would prefer the simple tablet and inscription recommended to the Secretary of War at the meeting of the Commission on February 17, 1927,-that a good tablet according to such design could be secured with the amount at hand. On the other hand, the Commission did not favor a tablet showing simply extracts of

General Order No.11. The Commission therefore advised that if a tablet bearing the entire General Order No.11 is to be adopted by the G. A. R., with the approval of the Secretary of War, it will require a tablet measuring 6' 9" x 9' 3", costing from $3500 to $4,000, and of which a full-sized detail of the drawing of the lettering should be submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts. It was agreed that the tablet should be erected on the wall back of the figure of Victory, opposite the east entrance to the Amphitheater. (Exhibit B).

4. ROBERT LINCOLN MEMORIAL: Mr. Moore stated that he had been requested by Mrs. Robert Lincoln to advise as to a monument for her husband, Robert Lincoln, who is buried in the Arlington National Cemetery, and that the Secretary of War and the Quartermaster General have endorsed a suggested site for the monument on the east slope of the Cemetery near the Arlington Memorial Bridge approach; that the plot of ground set aside for the monument is to be given special landscape treatment, as the plot is to be large enough for a number of graves. Colonel Sterrett said the War Department will give careful attention to these plans of Mrs. Lincoln.

5. GARNET-PATTERSON SCHOOL: Mr. Harris submitted a revised design of the Garnet-Patterson School, to be built at Vermont Avenue and U Street, N.W. The Commission noted that Mr. Harris had carried out the suggestions made at the meeting of the Commission on February 17th, particularly as to the treatment of the wall and the group at each end of the building.

The design was approved with the suggestion that it might be well to project the cornice line and make it a little heavier, with simply a band instead of a border line under the first row of windows.

Mr. Moore urged that the specifications for the building allow for planting. Mr. Harris agreed that this should be done; that in asking for money to construct the building the landscape feature was included as part of

the scheme, but thus far in awarding contracts he has found it difficult to include the landscape work. However, Mr. Harris said, the school authorities have agreed to give particular attention to landscape treatment of the school grounds in the District of Columbia.

6. UNIFORM FLAG DISPLAY, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Mr. W. C. Wood, of the Americanization Committee, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Mr. Harvey Wiley Corbett, Architect, Mr. C. H. Reilley, Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and Captain G. F. Unmacht, Department Adjutant of the American Legion, appeared before the Commission to present the matter of Uniform Flag Display in the District of Columbia.

Mr. Corbett said the Veterans of Foreign Wars had asked him to design a flagpole which would meet the approval of the Commission. "In regard to the idea to begin with", he said," it seems to me it is a very worth while conception of decoration because it unifies flag decoration in a city. The Veterans Association approached the problem with the thought of trying to get a scheme of decoration which would be economically possible for the various property owners and they brought a flagpole which was being used in 3,000 cities and towns of the United States. It has been simply a shaft, sometimes of wood, sometimes of metal, like a pipe, very small in diameter, but the flag always of the same size. You see it in various cities on flag days. It makes the decoration uniform and saves the expense of decorating the buildings with flags. I believe the Commission have approved the principle of the idea. Mr. Wood showed me a copy of your letter of February 24, 1926, to that effect. It was as a result of that letter that Mr. Wood came to me,and I worked with him for some weeks with the form of pole, always having to consider the fact that the the flagpole would have to be produced at a price which the little merchant could reach. Now these poles are so they can be taken apart and

preserved with the flags and can be brought out again on special occasions. I designed the new flagpole and we have brought a model of it with us. It measures 14½ feet high, 1½ inches at the base, and is designed for a 4' x 6'flag."

This sample flagpole, with flag, was taken out and placed in front of the Interior Department Building, where the Commission made an inspection of it. The Commission, after careful consideration, approved the design, with the suggestion that the flagpole should be 1 3/4 inches in diameter at the base, uniformly tapered throughout and that the finial should be very simple, omitting the sharp point.

The Commission were informed that this flagpole would be produced for $14.50, as compared to the small $9.75 flagpole now used throughout the United States,-about 2,000,000 of them.

The Commission decided that this flagpole would be acceptable for business streets, but for Pennsylvania Avenue and other important avenues, and boulevards such as Sixteenth Street, the French style of street decoration of pennant and mast, such as is used on the Champs Elysees, is to be preferred. (Exhibit C).

7. NAVY AND MARINE MEMORIAL: Mr. Harvey Wiley Corbett, Architect of the Navy and Marine Memorial, submitted blueprints of a revised design for the Navy and Marine Memorial, drawn on a reduced scale, as requested by the Commission of Fine Arts in their letter of January 19, 1926, to the Navy and Marine Memorial Association. It was drawn on a 30% reduction.

The Commission inspected the design. Mr. Corbett said the birds are being cast by a ship construction company. As to the question raised that wind storms would break down the birds, Mr. Corbett said that they have been tested, five men having hungon the end of a wing without bending it.

The Commission called attention to a statement in a circular published by the Navy and Marine Memorial Association that contributors of $100 or more

are to have their names inscribed on the pedestal. Mr. Corbett said there will be no names of donors on the pedestal; that the pedestal will be of dark green granite, designed in a crescendo to represent the ripples of waves. Mr. Taft said such design of the pedestal was particularly pleasing to him.

The Commission felt that the Navy and Marine Memorial Association was proceeding with undue haste in the casting of the monument, as no model has been finally approved. Mr. Moore read the following letter, dated March 3, 1927, received from Admiral Fiske, regarding the memorial:

> "Representative A. Piatt Andrew wrote me, a few days ago, a letter showing much apprehension about the possibility of having names of certain donors engraved on the Navy and Marine Memorial. I replied to Mr. Andrew that nothing would be done in connection with this Memorial which is not consistent with its dignity and importance.
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> Mr. Corbett has informed me that this subject had also been brought to your attention and caused some concern to you. In view of this, I have taken up the matter with my committees, and we have found that the idea of engraving names of donors was the suggestion advanced over two years ago by a professional advisor or campaigner, whose services have long been discontinued. I wish to assure you, in the name of this Association, that no names of donors will appear on the Memorial, and the only two inscriptions which are contemplated are:
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> 1. A general dedication on the panel back of the wave.
> 2. A quotation from the Bible which will appear on the shield in front of the wave.
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> The quotations under consideration at present are the following: "There is sorrow on the sea; it can not be quiet".Jer.49:23.
>
> or
>
> "They that go down to the sea in ships,
> That do business in great waters;
> These see the works of the Lord,
> And His wonders in the Deep". David, 107th Psalm.
>
> The Association is considering whether it is advisable to have the names of some great sea events or important individuals or heroes who died at sea engraved elsewhere on the Memorial; above all, however, we wish you to be fully satisfied that nothing is being done or will be done, which is not in keeping with the great dignity and importance of this sea memorial, and that this Association keenly feels its responsibility to the Commission of Fine Arts, whose instructions it has followed in the past and will continue to follow until the task is accomplished. We are endeavoring to erect in our Capital a monument of which the Commission of Fine Arts and the people will be proud."

The full size plaster model of the pedestal, wave and gulls will

be ready for foundry work April 10th. If we are able to locate a space large enough, this model will be assembled and the members of the Art Commission will thus be able to satisfy themselves that the instructions given by them have been fully carried out."

With high regard, I remain,

Ever sincerely yours,
Bradley A. Fiske,
Rear Admiral, U.S.N. (Retired), Chairman.

P.S. I am sending copy of this letter to Representative A. Piatt Andrew.

Mr. Corbett presented a design of East Potomac Park showing the location proposed for the memorial,-along the river bank of the park, at the point of intersection of the proposed canal. Mr. Corbett said they are planning to place the memorial on an "island", at the crossing of the river shore drive, and at a point where the monument would receive the maximum silhouette from the water.

Later in the day the Commission talked with Hon. A. Piatt Andrew in regard to the Navy and Marine Memorial, who said he was not at all pleased with the design, but that if it was acceptable to the Commission of Fine Arts he felt the site proposed (which he noted from a map of the park) was doubtless a good one, as the location did not seem to be conspicuous. Also, the Commission conferred with Hon. Irwin Laughlin, of this city, who submitted a copy of the circular setting forth the offer of the Association to inscribe the names of donors on the Memorial, as above mentioned.

The Commission felt that the Navy and Marine Memorial Association was exceeding its authority in securing funds not authorized, as the model has not been finally approved; and that there should be a distinct understanding between the Navy and Marine Memorial Association and the Commission of Fine Arts in this matter, as the Commission would not allow the names of donors to appear on the Memorial. A report was sent to Admiral Fiske. (Exhibit D).

8. SEVILLE INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION COMMISSION: The Commission were in conference with Governor W. E. Campbell, Commissioner General of the Seville International Exposition Commission, Mr. John M. Denison, Secretary, several other members of the Commission, and with Mr. William Templeton Johnson, of San Diego, California, who has been selected as the architect to design the permanent building at Seville for the United States Government.

Mr. Johnson submitted sketches of a Spanish-American structure, well designed, and in accordance with specifications, so far as space requirements are concerned, furnished by the State Department. The Commission regarded the general character of the proposed building fine. The size of the patio was considered, height of rooms, and the necessity for a heating apparatus. Mr. Johnson said the temperature at Seville does not go down to freezing, but that in the modern buildings adequate provision is made for heating equipment. Roses bloom there all the year.

The Commission considered the location proposed for the permanent building in connection with the temporary exhibition building and the picture auditorium. The design indicated the sites for these buildings at the points of the triangular two-acre plot, which has been made available for use of the United States Government. The Commission felt that the main building should be built on an axis at the point of the triangle and be properly related to two adjacent streets, with the smaller buildings located one on each side of the main building. Governor Campbell said he has thought that the two acres of ground, which was being leased during the period of the Exposition, is more than the United States Government would want to maintain with the consulate, and that he had planned at the close of the Exposition to buy one corner of the triangle having the permanent

building on it. The Commission agreed that this was an important matter to be taken into consideration in connection with the location of the building and advised that the architect give further study to the arrangement of the building on the grounds at Seville. Governor Campbell said the building will measure 70' x 90' and will be built of stone, concrete or brick.

9. MERIDIAN HILL PARK: Lieut. Col. Grant, Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks, submitted to the Commission the question of design for the Lower Garden of Meridian Hill Park, the sum of $100,000 towards the completion of which having been appropriated by Congress in the Appropriation Act for the District of Columbia, for the fiscal year 1928 (Public No.688, 69th Congress, page 37):--

> "Not exceeding $95,000 for the improvement of Meridian Hill Park, including continuation of construction of the wall and main entrance on Sixteenth Street, the wall on Fifteenth Street, and commencement of construction of the wall on W Street, from Fifteenth Street to Sixteenth Street, together with entrancesto the park, and grading, all in accordance with plans to be approved by the Fine Arts Commission; and not exceeding $12,500 for the erection of minor auxiliary structures: PROVIDED FURTHER, That not to exceed $5,000 may be expended by contract or otherwise for architectural or other professional services without reference to the Classification Act of 1923, or civil service rules, as approved by the director."

Colonel Grant submitted part of the old model of the Lower Garden of Meridian Hill Park, showing the W Street wall, and through Mr. H. W. Peaslee, Architect, sketches of it. Colonel Grant said that he hoped plans for this part of the park could be approved before June 30th so that construction work could be begun on it with money available.

Colonel Grant stated that the objection in Congress against completion of the park seems to have been due to what they regard an excessive height of the wall, especially along W Street. The secretary called attention to a copy of the Hearings before the Subcommittee on Appropriations of the Senate

for the District of Columbia (fiscal year 1928), which Mr. Moore attended and at which he made a full explanation of the situation to the Subcommittee. It was noted that Senator Jones in particular wanted the W Street wall reduced to four feet, which was agreed to by the Subcommittee.

Mr. Peaslee said the plans provide for an average height of the W Street wall of 5' 3" to grade, with open balustrade, which is to be 2 feet higher. The balustrade is to be given special study, with entrances to the park at 15th and W Streets, and at 16th and W Streets.

Mr. Moore stated that Mr. Greenleaf was very desirous to keep the W Street wall rather high to "hold up" that end of the park. This was given special consideration in connection with the problem. In view of the fact that members of Congress had asked for a four foot wall, the Commission thought that a wall 4½ feet in height with balustrade and a clipped allee of low planting along W Street, omitting the sidewalk outside of the park, would give sufficient height to the south end of the park; that the entrance at Sixteenth and W Streets and at Fifteenth and W Streets should be carefully studied and designed with a walk along the south border of the park to connect them. Consideration was also given to having a winding walk at this end of the park, but it was thought the allée above mentioned would be preferable. The Commission felt that the public would readily use and prefer this walk in the park, in going along W Street, rather than one outside the wall along the street. Attention was called to the Warwick terrace wall in England.

Mr. Peaslee was asked to prepare designs embodying these features, for consideration at the next meeting of the Commission.

10. NAVAL HOSPITAL BUILDINGS: Under date of March 10, 1927, the following letter was received from Rear Admiral C. H. T. Lowndes (M.C.)U. S. N., Comannding

the United States Naval Hospital:

> "In the near future we expect to repaint the temporary buildings in the hospital grounds at 23rd and B Streets, N.W. These buildings are of concrete with porches and windows painted white and the base sidings painted grey. It is thought that valuable suggestions may be given by the Fine Arts Commission. The Commanding Officer will appreciate any advice."

The Commission made an inspection of the buildings and grounds with Rear Admiral Lowndes and with his Executive Officer, Captain Wood, who stated that the temporary buildings were used during the war for hospital purposes, but are now largely used for storage purposes. They are very inconvenient for use by patients, he said, and before doing anything with the buildings in the way of repair work, the advice of the Commission was desired.

The Commission noted that the buildings, located near the Lincoln Memorial, were of an unsightly appearance and that in their present location they are an obstruction to the approach of the Arlington Memorial Bridge. The Commission advised that if it is found necessary to retain the buildings a while longer and to repaint them, they should be painted in the same color scheme of the main building; on the other hand, if the buildings are to be torn down, a permanent building should be erected to take their place so as to provide such additional hospital space as may be needed. (Exhibit E).

11. WAR MEMORIAL, MYSTIC, CONNECTICUT: Mr. Louis Simon, Chief of the Office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, submitted a design for a World War Memorial proposed for erection on Government grounds at Mystic, Conn.

The Commission inspected the design and regarded it entirely unsuitable to be placed on Government grounds. Mr. Simon said he felt the same way about it and that this was one of a number of designs that had been submitted from time to time for memorials to be placed in Government buildings in the States, so that he desired the advice of the Commission in the matter.

The Commission suggested that a local war memorial committee in the States could obtain information as to a design from a Chapter of the American Institute of Architects in their immediate locality, through whom advice from an architect of standing could be secured. (Exhibit F)

12. ASHEVILLE, N.C., CITY AND COUNTY BUILDINGS: On March 15, 1927, the following telegram was received by Mr. Moore from Mayor John H. Cathey, of Asheville:

> "Your communication March ninth received. Civic Center is certain to be wrecked unless Committee from your Commission visits Asheville. With your permission I will appear before your Committee tomorrow with complete drawings of proposed county building. We want your Committee to see contract between the two proposed structures in working drawing detail. I am fighting for good architecture here, at a time when the very heart of the city is at a stake and my persistence is based on belief that you gentlemen will aid me further if you can find it possible. City will pay all expenses of any number of your Commission to Asheville."

Mr. Moore stated that on receiving the telegram he replied to Mayor Cathey that if he would come to Washington the Commission would see him; that some days ago Mayor Cathey had endeavored to have a representative of the Commission of Fine Arts go to Asheville. Mr. Moore said in response to that invitation he had sent a letter to Mayor Cathey on March 9th, as follows:

> "The members of the National Commission of Fine Arts appreciate the invitation to visit the City of Asheville in order to look over the Civic Center and to discuss its development. The members regret that such a visit is impossible because they live in various cities and are busy persons. Their meetings in Washington are arranged long in advance. Enjoyable as such a visit as you propose would be, the Commission feel that it is quite unnecessary. The situation is so clear, and the method of procedure is so evident that the Commission could only repeat what already has been said.
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> Members of the Commission know the general situation at Asheville and are familiar with the lay of the land. They understood perfectly the plans to bring order out of present chaotic conditions, due to the rapid growth of the city. They immediately recognized the evident fact a civic center such as planned would change the entire aspect of Asheville and give coherence and distinction to the city. This would be moving in the direction that enlightened cities are taking not only in this country but also throughout the world.

The Commission also recognized the fact that as planned the chief feature of the civic center - indeed the cause of its creation - is the City and County group. That the two buildings should harmonize with one another in design was too evident to need argument. That one should be romantic and the other classic in design would simply imply a want of knowledge and result in a display of bad taste. Asheville would gain an unenviable notoriety among American cities."

Mayor Cathey appeared before the Commission with Mr. Kenneth R. Ellington. Mayor Cathey urged that some member or all the members of the Commission of Fine Arts go to Asheville and meet with their Planning Commission to help them straighten out their building problem; that bids for the new County Building are to be opened on April 5th, which is to be classical in design and will not harmonize with the City Building. Mayor Cathey said the City of Asheville would pay all expenses of the trip. He showed from newspapers that this building problem has been made the subject of keen controversy.

The Commission considered the matter very carefully, and decided that their letter of February 18, 1927, to Senator Overman, clearly set forth the statement that the proposed City and County buildings did not harmonize in design, whereas they should be similar since they are to be "twin buildings"; that it was incumbent for the city and county authorities to come to an agreement on this matter, so that it would be useless for the Commission of Fine Arts to consider the subject further. The Commission therefore decided they would not go to Asheville. Thereupon Mayor Cathey asked that the architect members of the Commission write a letter to him reaffirming their views as to this building project. The architect members of the Commission decided that the Chairman should write the letter.

13. TABLET FOR BRIGADIER GENERAL SMEDLEY D.D BUTLER: Under date of March 2, 1927, the following letter was received from Major General John A. Lejeune, Commanding the U. S. Marine Corps, regarding a proposed tablet to

be erected in honor of Brigadier General Smedley D. Butler, M.C., in Washington, by a group of Philadelphia citizens, known as the Butler Memorial Commission. General Lejeunestated--

> "The Butler Memorial Commission had in mind erecting it in the office of the Major General Commandant of the Marine Corps. That office is a small room, and is visited by very few people, and the size of the proposed tablet seems to me to be disproportionately large for placing in a small office. Alternative locations at the Marine Barracks, this city, and Quantico, Virginia, have also been suggested. General Butler was recently in command of the Marines at Quantico for over four years, and the construction there of permanent buildings will probably begin in the near future. It appeals to me that it is probably most desirable to give the tablet a temporary home somewhere in Washington, and later on remove it to Quantico and place it on one of the permanent buildings there when such buildings are completed.--"

General Lejeune requested the advice of the Commission in the matter of location, and design for the tablet, Schemes A and B having been received from the J. E. Caldwell Company of Philadelphia.

The designs showedthe head of General Butler in relief, enshrined within a wreath, and an inscription underneath.

The Commission advised flattening the head and using a ribbon band instead of a wreath; that the rosettes be omitted, and that the lettering be carefully studied; also that the tablet be not placed in the Navy Building, which is a temporary building. (Exhibit G)

14. BATHING POOLS, MCKINLEY HIGHSCHOOL GROUNDS, SECOND AND T STREETS, N.E.: Lieut. Col. U. S. Grand 3d, Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks, submitted a design for two bathing pools to be erected on the McKinley High School Grounds, at 2nd and T Streets, N.E., the first of a series of bathing pools to be erected in different parts of the city.

The Commission considered the designs carefully and recommended certain changes, which were noted on the designs, advised a more convenient location

of the building in relation to the pools and nearby school buildings.

15. EAST POTOMAC PARK DEVELOPMENT. The Commission considered the development of the upper end of East Potomac Park, in connection with the question of constructing bathing pools in the park, as had been contemplated in the plan of the park. Colonel Grant said that to meet the requests of Citizens Associations of Washington it had been decided to construct bathing pools in different parts of the city, and that after these pools have been built it is proposed to build the large pools in East Potomac Park. Mr. Moore suggested using the proposed canal through East Potomac Park for a bathing pool. Colonel Grant replied that he thought difficulty would be experienced in the construction of it, as the river water could not be used for it; but that this suggestion could be taken up when designs for the pools are made.

16. "WHITE HOUSE GATES": By Act approved March 3,1927 (Public No.769, 69th Congress), it was provided---

> "---That the Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital is hereby authorized to remove the iron gates from West Executive Avenue between the grounds of the White House and the State, War and Navy Building, but the stone piers to which they are attached shall not be disturbed."

Colonel Grant said the Act does not remedy the traffic situation at that location since it is the piers that are a hindrance to automobile drivers; that there is no authority to take the gates out of the city, although at one time they were desired for the Hayes Memorial Park in Ohio. The Commission felt that a subsequent Congress would order the gates and piers removed, and suggested that Colonel Grant give consideration to relocating them at one of the entrances to the National Capital.

17. WORLD WAR MONUMENT AT BREST, FRANCE: Under date of March 15, 1927, Major X. H. Price, Secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission,

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submitted the following letter with a revised design for the World War Memorial at Brest, France:

> "Referring to your letter of February 8, 1927, commenting upon designs submitted by the Howard Shaw Associates for a memorial monument at Brest, France, I have the honor to advise that these comments were adopted by the American Battle Monuments Commission as the basis of a request to the architects for a new study of Design "B". This new study has now been received, and is transmitted herewith for your consideration. For your information, we may say that the architects in sending us this sketch stated that it was "a preliminary drawing, the design of which requires more study in detail and general proportions."

The Commission inspected the design but were not pleased with it and requested that the architects give it much further study, and to omit much of the ornamentation at the top. Also the Commission desired a perspective showing the proposed monument in relation to its location at the water front. (Exhibit H).

18. AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT WORLD WAR MEMORIAL: The secretary submitted A Memorandum with a report from Mr. Delano that he and Mr. Morris had called on Mr. Flanagan with reference to the model for the Agricultural Department World War Memorial; also that Mr. Fraser had called on him, inspected the model and that he thinks Mr. Flanagan should have the full sized model completed by the middle of April (Exhibit I).

The Commission expressed the hope that the model would be completed very soon, in view of the long time that has elapsed since Mr. Flanagan undertook the work, and requested Mr. Delano and Mr. Morris to keep in touch with Mr. Flanagan about the model until it is finished.

19. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS; PROJECTS HELD IN ABEYANCE: The Commission decided to meet for two days at the next meeting, Thursday and Friday, April 14 and 15; Thursday, May 26th; and Friday July 1, 1927.

In view of the lateness of the hour, the Commission decided to defer action until the next meeting on the following projects before them:
Historical Markers for the State of Virginia; Signs and Billboards, D.C.; Public Buildings Program--future location of the "District Buildings", suggested for the north side of Pennsylvania Avenue between Third and Seventh Streets, N.W.; Landscape Plan for the American Cemetery at Brookwood, England (Exhibit J); Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The Commission adjourned at 6:45 p.m. The Commission had as their guests at luncheon Hon. Robert Luce and Hon. A. Piatt Andrew, House of Representatives; Hon. Irwin Laughlin; Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant 3d; and Mr. Louis Simon, of the Office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department.

COMMISSION ON THE ERECTION OF MEMORIALS AND ENTOMBMENT OF BODIES IN THE ARLINGTON MEMORIAL AMPHITHEATER

ROOM 1051- C TEMPO BUILDING NO 5 20TH & C STS. N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

RECEIVED
THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS,
WASHINGTON, D. C.
MAR 16 1927
NOTED

March 15, 1927.

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Chairman of the Commission of Fine Arts,
Washington,
D. C.

By direction of the Secretary of War, I am herewith submitting copies of two letters and specifications from Past Commander Hosea B. Moulton, Department of the Potomac, G. A. R., containing additional information in reference to the proposed Memorial Tablet commemorating the establishment of the 30th day of May each year as Memorial Day.

Robt Sterrett

ROBT. STERRETT,
Lieut. Colonel, Q. M. Corps,
Executive & Disbursing Officer.

3 Incls.
Copy let. 3-8-27
" " 3-14-27
Specifications

Exhibit A

(C O P Y)

DEPARTMENT OF THE POTOMAC

G. A. R.

Washington, D. C., March 14th, 1927.

My dear Mr. Secretary:-

pursuant to our conversation of recent date I have to advise you. That as far as I am aware, the accompanying blue print and enclosed specifications of the Logan Memorial Tablet commemorating the establishment by the Grand Army of the Republic of the 30th day of May each year as a National Memorial Day as per order of General John A. Logan dated May 5th, 1868, meets and complies with all suggestions touching the matter that I have received from yourself the Commander in Chief Walsh of the Grand Army of the Republic, and President Moore of the Fine Arts Commission.

If there is any objection to any feature of the Tablet I would thank you to advise me at once as the Tablet must be ordered without delay, in order to have it completed and installed by the 30th day of May next.

You will remember that the Statute authorizing the Memorial Tablet provides that it is to be prepared and presented by the Commander in Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic and the Statute provides that it shall be presented to and accepted by the Secretary of War.

I hope to see President Moore of the Fine Arts Commission this afternoon and shall explain to him the need of an early reply to your communication.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Hosea B. Moulton,
For G. A. R. Committee.

Hon. Dwight F. Davis,
Secy. of War.
Washington, D. C.

(C O P Y)

March 8, 1927.

Hon. Dwight F. Davis,
Secretary of War,
War Department,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I learned at your office yesterday that you had not received from Mr. Moore, President of the Fine Arts Commission, a reply to your letter of recent date addressed to him asking for information as to size, lettering, etc., of the tablet to be placed in the Amphitheatre at Arlington, to contain General Logan's Order Bo. 11 establishing the 30th day of May as Memorial Day.

In view of the need of haste I have proceeded to obtain an estimate of the cost of the establishment of the slab indicated by the blue print that I left with you when Commander-in-Chief Walsh, Governor Van Sant of Minnesota and myself called upon you, with this exception: All agreed that the eagle on the of said slab should be omitted and that takes off 1 foot of the height, so that now the slab will be 3 feet 6 inches wide, 5 feet 6 inches high and composed of the finest Vermont marble, the same as that of which the Amphitheatre is constructed; the lettering, at the suggestion of Mr. Moore, to be in the letter V form, all capitals to be one-half inch high and all other letters nine-sixteenth of an inch high; the workmanship to be as fine as can be produced; the marble slab to be of pure white marble 1½ or 2 inches thick as deemed best, to be fastened to the wall by strong extension bolts in the vicinity of each of the four corners, the head of said bolts to be in the form of a star heavily plated with gold so that the four stars will represent those worn by General Logan as Major General; and the entire order of General Logan to be engraved thereon.

The marble company here whom Mrs. Tucker, the daughter of General Logan, desires to construct the tablet is the same firm that constructed her father's tomb in the national cemetery at the Soldier's Home, this city, and that is conceded by every person to be one of the finest pieces of work of its kind in this District.

In this matter I am acting by virtue of the direction of the Commander-in-Chief and with his entire approval, and I shall thank you if you advise me as early as may be convenient if the foregoing suggestions meet with your approval.

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) Hosea B. Moulton,
Past Commander,
Department of Potomac, G. A. R.

(C O P Y)

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 9, 1927.

SPECIFICATIONS

For a MARBLE TABLET to be engraved with the exact and entire wording of ORDER number ELEVEN, issued under date of MAY 5, 1868, by General John A. Logan as Commander in Chief of the G. A. R. for the purpose of establishing May 30th of each year as a NATIONSL MEMORIAL DAY. To be placed in the Amphitheatre Building, Arlington National Cemetery.

DESIGN

To be a plain, oblong, perfect white marble slab with flat faces, straight top, front edges slightly rounded to lessen danger of accidental chipping.

MATERIAL

Number Two, white Rutland, Vermont Marble.

FINISH

All surfaces, that will be exposed to view when tablet is in place, to have a fine, rubbed finish.

DIMENSIONS

3'6" wide, 5'6" high, 0'2" thick.

LETTERING

V incised Roman type, per sample detail on blue print plan submitted. Arrangement of lettering as outlined on scale drawing of tablet on said blue print. Letters to be tinted after cutting with a dull lead color of the same shade as the coloring in the lettering on the tablets in the "Lincoln Memorial" in Washington, D.C.

LOCATION AND FASTENING OF TABLET

Said Tablet is to be fastened against a wall in said Amphitheatre Building, location and position to be as may hereafter be determined. Tablet to be secured in position by Four (4) bronze expansion bolts, 3/4" in diameter and extending three inches into the wall of building, or further if found necessary by reason of the nature of the wall. The rosettes covering the heads of said bolts are to be in the form of five pointed stars, 0'2" wide, and to be gold plated on exposed surfaces.

COPY

March 17, 1927.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Your letter of March 2, 1927, was received, in which you say that since your letter concurring in the recommendation of the Commission of Fine Arts for the installation of a tablet commemorating the 30th day of May as Memorial Day, Commander Walsh had visited your office and had insisted on behalf of the Grand Army of the Republic that the entire General Order No.11 issued by General Logan be incorporated on the tablet. You further say that in view of the position taken by Commander Walsh, it is requested that the Commission of Fine Arts further consider this matter and make recommendation as to the size, lettering, approximate cost, suitability and location of the tablet, bearing General Order No.11.

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on March 16th gave consideration to your letter. In view of the fact that General Order No.11 contains 2300 letters and figures, the dimensions of the tablet should be approximately 6' 9" x 9' 3", including a simple panel borderx, 5½ inches wide. No ornamentation should be placed on the tablet beyond such as is included in the very simple border. The approximate cost of such a tablet, suitably lettered, would not be less than $3,500. The tablet should be located in the Museum Room of the Amphitheater on the wall directly opposite the east door. The material should be Tennessee marble, or it may be white marble of the best quality. Studies for such new design should be submitted before an order for the tablet shall be placed. The specifications should be approved by the Commission of Fine Arts to insure suitable lettering,-such lettering should be the Roman V-cut letter executed by hand, and carefully designed so as to present a monumental inscription.

The Commission do not quite understand the meaning of your term "suitability". If the Commission righly interprets your use of the word, the Commission then adheres to its former recommendation that a smaller tablet, following in its inscription the Act of Congress authorizing the erection of the tablet, be installed in the location specified. Such a tablet can be produced within the sum understood to be at the disposal of the Grand Army of the Republic, namely $1,000.

The Commission recognize the high quality of workmanship and design in the Arlington Memorial Amphitheater and they are guided in their recommendations by the noble character of the tablets erected in the Lincoln Memorial and in the Army War College. The Commission feel that these standards should be maintained in all tablets erected in the District of Columbia.

For the Commission:

Very respectfully, yours,
Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Hon. Dwight F. Davis, Chairman,
Commission on the Erection of Memorials
and Entombment of Bodies in the
Arlington Memorial Amphitheater,
War Department, Washington,D.C.

EXHIBIT B

COPY

March 17, 1927.

My dear Mr. Wood:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on March 16, 1927, inspected the flagpole, designed by Mr. Harvey Wiley Corbett, Architect, which you submitted for use by the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars for the proposed Uniform Flag Display in the District of Columbia. The Commission noted that this flagpole is to be 14½ feet in height, having a 4 x 6 foot flag.

The Commission of Fine Arts thoroughly appreciate the desire of the Americanization Committee of the Veterans of Foreign Wars to attain a suitable, dignified and effective decoration of streets on national holidays and have given the matter very close attention. The members of the Commission have observed the effects of the flag displays in various cities and have reached certain conclusions:

1. The comparatively narrow streets, where the height of pole and size of flag bears some relation to the width of the thoroughfare, such a display as you propose is effective where it is continuous and regular. Breaks in the display always diminish and often nullify the effectiveness of the display. The flagpole you submitted is approved with the suggestion that the pole be 1 3/4 inches, instead of 1½ inches, in diameter at the base, uniformly tapered throughout, 14½ feet high; the finial should be very simple, without a point.

2. On wide streets, like Pennsylvania Avenue, the Commission feel that the flagpole decoration will be ineffective and will fail to accomplish the object you seek. On Avenues like Sixteenth Street, the interference of trees and lampposts, and signal lights, would destroy the effect. These disturbances would be increased by the difficulty in securing uniform cooperation on the part of so many diverse interests,-apartment houses, private houses, churches and institutions. In former suggestions to you the Commission advised that an opportunity is offered to your organization to make a real study of street decorations as applied to the National Capital. Such decorations would involve the use of the pennant, as effectively employed in Paris, the use of masts carrying large displays of bunting, and other like decorations. The Commission feel that the status of street decoration has not advanced for a quarter of a century.

For the Commission:

Very respectfully, yours,
Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Mr. W. C. Wood,
Americanization Committee,
Veterans of Foreign Wars,
New York, N. Y.

EXHIBIT C.

COPY

March 28, 1927.

My dear Admiral Fiske:

Your letter of March 3d was read at the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts on March 16, 1927. At the same time the Commission had before them letters and circulars of solicitation sent out by you or by the Navy and Marine Memorial Association. This correspondence discloses the fact that a fundamental misunderstanding between your Association and the Commission of Fine Arts exists. Inasmuch as no permits for the construction of the proposed memorial can be issued until the location and design have been approved by the Commission of Fine Arts, it will be necessary to clear this misunderstanding.

In the first place, the Commission of Fine Arts in the letter of January 19, 1926, definitely disapproved the location at Hains Point. In the same letter the Commission expressed the decided opinion that the design was not monumental in character, but rather romantic; that it should not be executed in the size suggested, but should be studied from the viewpoint of a garden ornament. When such studies had been made the Commission expressed a willingness again to consider the design from the new standpoint. Such action the Commission is still ready to take, but no approval of any design has as yet been given by the Commission of Fine Arts.

The correspondence sent from the Office of the Navy and Marine Memorial Association proves that contributions have been solicited on the basis of placing the names of contributors of $100 or more on the monument. Such an assurance is unwarranted by the law as interpreted by the Commission of Fine Arts. The Commission would not feel warranted in giving their approval to a project complicated by engagements not warranted by the law. The Commission feel that it is best to have a definite understanding on this point before any further steps be taken in the matter.

For the Commission:
Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Rear Admiral Bradley A. Fiske (Retired)
Navy and Marine Memorial Association,
12 West 8th Street,
New York City.

EXHIBIT D.

COPY

March 21, 1927.

Dear Admiral Lowndes:

In response to your request, the Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on March 16, 1927, inspected the temporary buildings in the United States Naval Hospital grounds. It is understood that it is desired to repaint them, and in such event the Commission recommend the same color scheme as is used for the permanent buildings.

However, as these temporary buildings seem to have served their purpose and are in need of considerable repair, the Commission of Fine Arts advise that they be taken down. In their present location they are also an obstruction to the approach to the Arlington Memorial Bridge.

It is to be understood that such additional space as the Naval Hospital may need would be provided by a new permanent building.

For the Commission:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Rear Admiral C. H. T. Lowndes (M.C.), U.S.N.,

Commanding, U. S. Naval Hospital,

Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT E.

COPY

March 28, 1927.

Dear Mr. Simon:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on March 16, 1927, inspected the design submitted by you for a World War Memorial to be erected on Government grounds at Mystic, Connecticut.

The Commission regard the design entirely unsuitable for a monument, and disapproved its erection on Government grounds.

With regard to your inquiry as to what a local World War Memorial Committee, or a similar Committee in the States, could do to obtain advice as to designs, the Commission suggest that such Committees consult the Chapter of the American Institute of Architects in their immediate vicinity, through whom advice as to a designer could be secured.

For the Commission:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. Louis Simon,

Office of the Supervising Architect,

Treasury Department,

Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT F.

COPY

March 19, 1927.

Dear General Lejeune:

Your letter of March 2d, concerning the proposed tablet in honor of Brigadier General Smedley D. Butler, U.S. Marine Corps, received the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on March 16, 1927, when also designs for the tablet, submitted by the J. E. Caldwell Company of Philadelphia, were considered.

The Commission suggest that the portrait relief be flattened; instead of the wreath a circular band would be preferable; the lettering should be actually designed in the model, using the Roman letters. The tablet lacks dignity and monumental character. The rosettes should be omitted.

The Commission understand that the donors desire to have this tablet erected in the Marine Headquarters at Washington. Obviously the "Navy Building" would not be a suitable place for it,as that is a temporary building. The Commission therefore suggest that, if erected, the tablet be placed in some one of the permanent buildings under your jurisdiction.

The designs are herewith sent to you, with the suggestion that you return them to the J. E. Caldwell Company.

For the Commission:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Major General John A. Lejeune,
Commandant, U. S. Marine Corps,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT G.

COPY

March 25, 1927.

Dear Major Price:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on March 16, 1927, inspected the revised design for a World War Monument at Brest, France, prepared by the Howard Shaw Associates, Architects, which you submitted with your letter of March 15th.

The Commission feel that the architects have not as yet produced a satisfactory design, monumental in character.

For the Commission:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Major X. H. Price, Secretary,
The American Battle Monuments Commission,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT

March 17, 1927.

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Commission of Fine Arts.

Attached hereto is a report from Mr. Delano of March 2, 1927, to the effect that he and Mr. Morris called on Mr. Flanagan on March 1st as to the Agricultural Department World War Memorial, and inspected an enlarged model, noting "that there has been scarcely any variation" from the small approved scale model. Also, that Mr. Flanagan plans to have the model (full sized) ready by May 30th, and that Mr. Fraser was arranging to see him in regard to the matter.

Mr. Fraser called on Mr. Flanagan on May 5th. Mr. Fraser reports as follows: (message by long distance from New York City)

> "I have been to see Flanagan and noted that he had incorporated most of the things the Commission asked about in the work. He is working on it now regularly and I think at the present time he is working entirely on the model trying to complete it as soon as possible,-not only working himself, but has some one aiding him with the lettering. He is carrying out the commission as fast as possible. I think he should have the full sized model completed by the middle of April."

H. F. Gummer

Secretary.

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED · BY · CONGRESS · MAY · 17 · 1910

CHARLES · MOORE · Chairman
JAMES · L · GREENLEAF — WM · ADAMS · DELANO
H · SIDDONS · MOWBRAY — LORADO · TAFT
MILTON · B · MEDARY · Jr. — ABRAM · GARFIELD
H · P · CAEMMERER · Secretary

OFFICE · OF · THE · SECRETARY · INTERIOR · DEPARTMENT · BUILDING · WASHINGTON · D · C

RECEIVED
THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS,
WASHINGTON, D. C.
MAR 1927
NOTED

March 2, 1927.

My dear Mr. Caemmerer:

Mr. Morris and I went yesterday afternoon to see Flanagan, who is working on the war memorial for the Agricultural Department. I believe the small scale study was approved by the Fine Arts Commission and as far as I can see, the work has been brought up to larger scale exactly as approved; there has been scarcely any variation.

Mr. Morris and I suggested some changes which we felt would better the design but it is a pretty weak effort and I am trying to get Mr. Fraser to go up and see it and make some suggestions, which I think Mr. Flanagan would probably welcome. Not having had anything to do with the appointment of Mr. Flanagan, I feel that rather a weak member of the sculptural profession has been chosen to do this work.

As for any responsibility which he owes to the Commission of Fine Arts and the Agricultural Department, this does not seem to exist. There would be no difficulty whatever, it seems to me, in getting the model ready for the 30th of May, Decoration Day, when I believe he has promised to have it in shape, but he talks in a very light and airy way about completing it. Morris and I suggested that he owed a certain responsibility to the Commission of Fine Arts for having appointed him, to get the thing done, but he simply puts aside such suggestions as beyond the dignity of an artist. I do not know what can be done with such a man. Unfortunately he has been paid in part; otherwise I should be in favor of withdrawing the commission. Believe me

Very faithfully yours,

Wm Adams Delano

Mr. H. P. Caemmerer,
The Commission of Fine Arts,
Washington, D. C.

We can't do anything

Flanagan has promised to have this and put the figure

THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS, MARCH, 1923

JOHN J. PERSHING, Chairman
ROBERT G. WOODSIDE, Vice Chairman
DAVID A. REED
JOHN PHILIP HILL
FINIS J. GARRETT
D. JOHN MARKEY
Mrs. FREDERIC W. BENTLEY
X. H. PRICE, Secretary

RECEIVED
THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS,
WASHINGTON, D. C.
MAR 28 1927
NOTED

STATE, WAR, AND NAVY BUILDING
WASHINGTON

March 15, 1927.

The National Commission of Fine Arts,
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

Referring to your letter of January 18, 1927, suggesting that certain studies be made in connection with the landscape and walks in the Brookwood American Military Cemetery, I have the honor to enclose a letter giving Mr. Swartwout's comments on these suggestions. The Commission agrees with the Architect, in feeling that the further development of the cemetery should be along formal lines.

It is requested that we be given your freest comments in this matter with special reference as to whether or not you will approve the hedge as shown in the drawings.

Respectfully,

X. H. Price

X. H. PRICE,
Major, Corps of Engineers,
Secretary.

Enclosures:
(1) Extract letter 1/20/27
(2) Front elevation, Brookwood Chapel.
(3) Section & Plot Plan, Brookwood Chapel.
(4) Panoramic photograph of Brookwood Cemetery.
(5) Photograph Album.

EGERTON SWARTWOUT,
Architect,
18 West 34th Street.

January 20, 1927.

Major X. H. Price,
Secretary, American Battle Monuments Commission,
State, War and Navy Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Major Price:

I am in receipt of your letter of the 19th, informing me that the Battle Monuments and Fine Arts Commissions have both approved our design for the Brookwood Chapel, and enclosing a copy of the letter from the Chairman of the Fine Arts Commission.

I note that the suggestions of the Fine Arts Commission have to do entirely with the landscape setting. In regard to the last paragraph of their letter I presume the Fine Arts Commission understands that no attempt was made by me to restudy the location of the flagpole or the walks around it, as I regarded that as more or less fixed, and as Paul Cret agreed with me the general look of it was not at all bad. At present the flag pole is rather conspicuous because it is a very crude, simple sort of thing, clumsy in shape and set in a large piece of concrete. I really do not see any other position for the flagpole, unless the Commission should decide to put it not on the long central axis of the Cemetery, but on the short transverse axis, somewhat in a position balancing the service building. My own personal feeling, from a very careful study of the actual site, is that the flagpole will look very well in its present location if it is redesigned. The Cemetery at Brookwood is rather unusual in that it is decidedly long in shape with quite a formal center approach. As you enter the American cemetery gate at right angles to the public cemetery road, you see before you a broad, straight avenue well laid out and bordered by well kept planting and trees, and flanked on each side in the middle distance with very distinctly marked and formal grave plots. In the middle distance in the center of the grave plots is the flagpole, and in the background will be the Chapel with a scattering grove of low pines at the back. This is the first view of the Chapel and practically the only view. I feel confident that the Chapel will look better with a properly designed flagpole directly on the axis in the present location than it would if the flagpole were omitted. I felt this when I stood in the gateway examining the site. I, naturally, assumed at that time that the flagpole location was fixed and I designed the Chapel accordingly with a low, flat roof. If the flagpole was not there I would have carried the roof higher and made something more of the top of the Chapel in order to keep it from looking squatty. I feel confident that if the Fine Arts Commission had seen

this site under the same conditions that I did, they would agree with the statement made above. As to the suggestion of the elimination of the flagpole entirely, that of course is beyond the province of the architect to decide.

* * * * *

In regard to the recommendation of the Fine Arts Commission as to the landscape treatment immediately around the Chapel, I fully appreciate the desire of the Commission to adopt the informal treatment which is common to a great many cemeteries, winding paths and irregular planting and a naturalistic setting, as is evidenced by the suggestion of the "flag stones set flush with the grass." To a great extent this informal treatment seems to be adopted in the English and Colonial portions of the Brookwood cemetery, but, on the contrary, the American Cemetery, as at present laid out, is formal in the extreme. There is a long, perfectly straight approach from the gateway and a distinct cross axis, and the graves are very near together and each marked with a rather large cross so that there are four distinct blocks of graves which are very formal in appearance. The service house is formal in character and the paths stiff and straight and regular. The type of building that has been approved for the Chapel is formal in the extreme. Now it seems to me most decidedly that the whole layout has progressed so far in the formal direction that if we put this very formal and simple chapel at the end of a formal treatment and then have it fade out into the landscape back of it, it would be a distinct mistake. And there is another practical objection to the suggestion of the Commission; the little grove at the back of the Chapel is not nearly as much of a grove as would appear from the photographs. The trees are scrubby little pines, rather far apart, and there is practically no underbrush. The soil in this part of Surrey seems to be entirely sand and very little grows on it except low scrubby pines. It is not a particularly attractive country. The English cemetery seems well planted and there are some good sized trees in it, but I imagine that this has been artificially stimulated with fresh soil and trees have been a long time in developing. I donot pretend to speak with authority in matters of gardening, but I seriously question whether the grove could be replanted without destroying what is already there. On my visit to the site I had strongly the feeling that there must be some definite background to the Chapel which can only be obtained by a hedge or some similar planting of trees. I also felt at the site a necessity for two spots on each side of the Chapel so that there would be something to balance the flagpole, and that is the reason for the introduction of the tripods. These could be urns or anything in stone that would give an accent at this place, and I think the little stone benches would help in the composition. As to the treatment of the paths, I cannot see how the suggestion of the Art Commission can be followed without a considerable expense in the rearrangement of the whole cemetery, as the paths are now well

laid out and well finished in gravel. I do not mean to convey to your Board that I feel that the treatment we have shown is the only formal treatment possible, and I would be very glad to follow any suggestions the Art Commission had on this subject, but I do feel it would be a distinct mistake, in view of the present conditions, to eliminate some kind of a formal treatment forming a background to the Chapel.

* * * * *

Please be assured that what is above written is not in any way a criticism of the action of the Fine Arts Commission, but rather in the way of an explanation, as I feel confident if the Fine Arts Commission saw the site with the Chapel built as approved, they would at once feel the necessity of the formal treatment I have outlined.

Yours very truly,

(signed)Egerton Swartwout.

ES:MH

Jun 15, 2017