

MINUTES OF MEETING OF COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., OCTOBER 3 and 4, 1924.

The second meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1925 was held in its office in the Interior Department Building, on Friday, October 3, and Saturday, October 4, 1924.

The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman,
Mr. Greenleaf,
Mr. Fraser,
Mr. Ayres,
Mr. Mowbray,
Mr. Delano,

also Mr. H. P. Gaemmerer, 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 August 8, 1924, were approved.
2. ERICSSON MEMORIAL: Lieut. Col. C. O. Sherrill, Executive and Disbursing Officer of the John Ericsson Memorial Commission, requested advice by letters dated September 6, and October 3, 1924, as to whether the Commission of Fine Arts had approved full-sized models of the Ericsson Memorial, as required by the contract.

Mr. Fraser stated that it is customary for sculptors to make a full-sized model where the statue is to be in bronze, but in the case of stone, sculptors find it better to work with a scale model of one-half or one-third size. Mr. Fraser stated further that he had made a working model of the Ericsson Memorial of about one-half size and that it was complete. Mr. Delano said he saw the model, and that it was satisfactory to him.

The Commission approved the working models of the Ericsson Memorial

and decided that they were adequate to fill the contract requirements that the sculptor shall complete "full size models of the sculpture and pedestal" for the approval of the contracting officer, and that they are adequate for the purpose contemplated.

Upon the recommendation of Mr. Fraser, the Commission approved the use of Pink Milford Granite for the Ericsson Memorial.

Mr. Fraser stated that the erection of the Ericsson Memorial was costing him from \$6,000 to \$7,000 more than originally contemplated, due to questions pertaining to the site, for which he was not at fault. The Commission said that Mr. Fraser should be reimbursed for this additional expense, and Colonel Sherrill was advised accordingly. (Exhibit A).

3. PLANS FOR THE EXTENSION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY: Mr. Greenleaf submitted, for the approval of the Commission, plans which had been prepared by the Office of the Quartermaster General and forwarded to the Commission by the Secretary of War for the Extension and Improvement of the Arlington National Cemetery.

Mr. Greenleaf stated that he had examined the plans and that they set forth in general principles the form of development which should be followed in relating Arlington to the park system of the District of Columbia, and in providing a suitable approach for the Arlington Memorial Bridge, with its connecting parkways. Mr. Greenleaf said the plans provide for the re-location of the State road now extending along the east side of Arlington and removal at some future time of the Arlington Experimental Farm of the Agricultural Department, which must take place if this area is to receive proper park development and the Arlington Memorial Bridge a proper terminus on the Virginia side.

Mr. Greenleaf pointed out that instead of the present State road there would be the Virginia Shore Parkway, which would pass under the Arlington Memorial Bridge, with side ramps to reach the upper level; likewise the spur railroad now passing through the area would be tunneled, if it is necessary to maintain it. Meanwhile, details of the plans, such as the lay-out of roads and walks through the Experimental Farm area, are indicated by dotted lines, for study in connection with the final plan for the Virginia approach to the Arlington Memorial Bridge, the location of which is also indicated by dotted lines on the plans. The Commission approved the plans and commended them to the Secretary of War for his approval. (Exhibit B).

Mr. Moore stated that during the past week he had occasion to call on Major General W. H. Hart, Quartermaster General of the Army, during which he talked to General Hart about Arlington matters, and that the Quartermaster General expressed much interest in the project.

4. AVIATOR MEMORIAL: Under date of October 2, 1924, the following letter was received from Lieut. Col. C. O. Sherrill, Officer in Charge of Public Buildings and Grounds, requesting advice as to a suggested location of the Aviator Memorial, on the north side of the State, War and Navy Building:

"The advice of the Commission of Fine Arts is requested as to the appropriateness of a location on the sunken terrace north of the State, War and Navy Building for a monument to those who died in the Air Service of the United States during the World War. This Memorial is to be given to the Government by Mrs. Louis Bennett as a memorial to her son.

"Of course, I understand it will hardly be possible for the Commission to give a definite opinion until the definite design of the Memorial is completed, but it is my understanding that the Commission has already examined the tentative model of this proposed Memorial designed by Mr. Lukeman, and, therefore, is cognizant of the possibilities with suitable modifications. The purpose of this

letter is to get the general view of the Commission as to the appropriateness of this site, which so far as the surroundings go would appear to be at least unobjectionable, and the donor is very much interested in having the Memorial placed at this location if practicable.

I would be very glad if you could give this consideration at your meeting tomorrow."

The Commission disapproved placing the Aviator Memorial in the sunken terrace on the north side of the State, War and Navy Building. The site was regarded inappropriate and unsatisfactory for the proposed memorial; also in that location it would be out of scale with the surroundings. The Commission felt that the memorial might very properly be placed in Bolling Field.

Mr. Moore called attention to a suggestion made by Mr. Gilbert a few days ago that the sunken terrace of the Treasury Department should be raised, thereby providing additional space for vaults and files; and that the sunken terrace in front of the State, War and Navy building could be raised for a similar purpose. Such a rearrangement would bring the floor of the Treasury Department three steps above Pennsylvania Avenue and give much greater dignity to the building; the same thing could be done with the State, War and Navy building. (Exhibit C).

5. STONE MOUNTAIN MEMORIAL COIN: Mr. Gutzon Borglum, sculptor, submitted photographs reduced to the half-dollar size, of his revised models for the Stone Mountain Memorial Coin. The Commission examined the photographs and felt that considerable improvement had been made in the design. The Commission made several suggestions as to adjusting the lettering on the reverse, and leaving off the abbreviation "Ga." on the obverse. Mr. Fraser urged that Mr. Borglum, in making the die, measure the design from the inside of the rim and not the outside, so that the coin would show the entire design.

Mr. Borglum said he would make these changes in the model immediately and resubmit photographs of them for final approval.

(Mr. Borglum submitted photographs of his models as finally completed, which were approved by the Chairman and Mr. Fraser in behalf of the Commission, and the Director of the Mint was advised accordingly) (Exhibit D)

6. ANACOSTIA PARK FIELD HOUSE: Under date of October 3, 1924, Lieut. Col. C. O. Sherrill, Officer in Charge of Public Buildings and Grounds, submitted the following letter, with plans for the proposed field house in Anacostia Park:

"There is inclosed herewith the plans for the proposed field house in Anacostia Park, showing the elevations and floor plans.

It is requested that these plans be considered at the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts today and that I be advised as to the suitability of the proposed building from an architectural point of view".

The Commission examined the drawings and they were approved with the suggestion of Mr. Ayres and Mr. Delano that the four posts shown in the "Lounge" be omitted, since they disturb the room, and that if necessary ventilating equipment may be placed in the center of the ceiling. (Exhibit E).

7. STATUE OF SERENITY: Mr. H. W. Peaslee, architect, appeared before the Commission in behalf of the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds with drawings for the pedestal and showing the inscriptions for the Statue of Serenity, to be placed in Meridian Hill Park. The Commission advised that the material selected for the pedestal should be a marble or other stone harmonizing with the statue itself.

The Commission revised the proposed inscriptions, eliminating those heretofore suggested for the sides of the pedestal and combining them so

as to appear on the front of the pedestal, the title to be in Spanish:

S E R E N I D A D

In memory of
William Henry Schuetze
Lieutenant Commander, United States Navy
1853 - 1902

Roman letters and Roman numerals are to be used. The Commission suggested that the inscription be submitted to Mr. Charles Deering for his approval. (Exhibit F).

8. THE HARDING MEMORIAL: Since the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts on August 8, 1924, the Harding Memorial Association decided upon an architectural competition for the Harding Memorial, in which four leading architects were to take part, and under date of September 18, 1924, Mr. Moore received the following telegram from Brigadier General Charles E. Sawyer, requesting advice with reference to an architectural adviser for the memorial:

"Who do you recommend as advisor for competition. Mellon wanted Trowbridge but he is not available. Wire reply".

While the matter was being taken up with the members of the Commission, a despatch was received of the sudden death of General Sawyer, on September 23, 1924.

The Harding Memorial Association having entered this competition contrary to the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts, the Commission felt that it would be better if the architects selected for the competition would decide among themselves as to an architectural adviser, and that they also could select the jurors. The Harding Memorial Association was informed accordingly. (Exhibit G).

9. FIRST DIVISION MEMORIAL: Mr. Cass Gilbert, architect, called

upon the Commission and discussed with them the question of a plaza treatment for the First Division Memorial. Mr. Gilbert drew a sketch and said he thought it would improve the appearance of the memorial to extend the present ground plan of the memorial the entire length of the State, War and Navy building. The plan contemplated an expenditure of about \$75,000. Mr. Gilbert was desirous of having an immediate decision, because dirt was available for the additional grading proposed.

The Commission visited the First Division Memorial with Mr. Gilbert and considered the matter carefully on the grounds. Mr. Gilbert was of the opinion that there was no definite plan for the development of this park area, so that he thought the scheme he was suggesting would not interfere with any approved plan of development.

Mr. Greenleaf said that two years ago when the question of locating the First Division Memorial was decided, he urged the placing of the memorial on the edge of the park, rather than in the linden grove, and that he always felt the Commission of Fine Arts had a definite plan for these grounds, conforming to that suggested by the Mall design of the Plan of 1901--a bosque of trees, except that on the main axis (on which the First Division Memorial has been placed) there should be a tapis running down to B Street, between a fine development of linden trees. Mr. Greenleaf regretted that the plan he had recommended was not adopted, whereby the First Division Memorial would have been given a plaza treatment at the extreme north end of the vista, taking up the adjacent roadway; but that now it is better to let the roadway remain where it is, and no roadway should ever be constructed on the south side of the memorial.

During the discussion it was also suggested that instead of a formal

plaza treatment as proposed by Mr. Gilbert, the grounds about the First Division Memorial might be raised and slope gradually into the park area, in which event it would be necessary to raise the trees near the memorial.

In the absence of a plan which carried with it the necessary funds to carry out the development proposed, the Commission of Fine Arts thought it inadvisable to have the dirt hauled to these grounds at this time. After further consideration with the members of the Commission, Mr. Gilbert said that he would bring the matter to the attention of Colonel Sherrill, with the suggestion that he consult the Commission in regard to the project.

10. **SHELBY COUNTY (TENNESSEE) WAR MEMORIAL:** The American Federation of Arts referred to the Commission of Fine Arts a sketch received from F. H. Venn and Company, 811 Dudley Street, Memphis, Tennessee, for a proposed war memorial to be erected to the memory of Shelby County men.

The Commission felt that the design did not come in the category of the fine arts and advised that it be returned without comment.

11. **IMPROVEMENT OF STREET LIGHTING, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:** Since the meeting of the Commission on August 8th, the District Commissioners submitted photographs of improvements made in the design of the new lamp posts. These were examined by Mr. Ayres, Mr. Delano, and Mr. Fraser, in New York City, who made further suggestions. Photographs of this revised work were forwarded by Major J. F. Bell, District Engineer Commissioner, to Mr. Ayres, who decided that the Commission should make a final inspection of the models in Washington on October 3.

The Commission visited the establishment of Messrs. Lombard and Ludwig, Inc., Architectural Sculptors, 309-14th Street, N.W., where they

made a final inspection of the models for the single arc light lamp post (No.19) and the duplex incandescent lamp post (No.20), and approved them. Minor suggestions were made to the modeler in matters of detail. The Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia were advised of the approval of the models. (Exhibit H and H-1).

12. MCKINLEY MANUAL TRAINING HIGH SCHOOL: Mr. A. L. Harris, Municipal Architect, submitted a scale drawing for the McKinley Manual Training High School. With minor suggestions the design was approved.

13. ENGINE HOUSE NO.29. The Commission approved a design submitted by Mr. Harris for Engine House No.29, to be erected at Conduit Road and Reservoir Street.

14. CONCRETE TRASH RECEPTACLE: The Commission inspected two concrete trash receptacles, which had been constructed by Colonel Sherrill and placed in front of the Rest House and Comfort Station at Hains Point, in East Potomac Park.

The Commission observed that these receptacles were made of good material but they looked awkward, and the Commission felt it would be better to place them in large parks, such as Rock Creek park, than in small parks. Also, an oval type, such as the old jars of Roman times, was thought to give a more pleasing design, and it would have the further advantage that the winds will be less able to scatter the trash.

The Commission recommended that six or eight concrete trash receptacles be placed at various places in one of the parks to ascertain whether or not it would be advisable to use any of them permanently in the parks of Washington. (Exhibit I)

15. STATUE OF GENERAL SAN MARTIN: Under date of September 11, 1924, the Commission received the following letter from Lieut. Col. C. O. Sherrill, Officer in Charge of Public Buildings and Grounds, protesting against the erection of the statue of General San Martin on the reservation at Eleventh Street and Massachusetts Avenue, and suggesting a site in Pension Park:

"Reference is made to your letter in which you state that the Fine Arts Commission recommends the triangle on the north side of Massachusetts Avenue in the vicinity of Eleventh Street as a site for the San Martin Statue.

This site was presented to the Argentine authorities, who were informed of your recommendation in connection with an inspection of a number of the sites mentioned in my letter of July 26, 1924.

They did not at all favor the site on Massachusetts Avenue.

It is requested that the suitability of the site in Judiciary Square in accordance with the sketched plan enclosed be taken up by you with the individual members of the Commission as early as possible as to its appropriateness from an artistic standpoint.

It is also requested that I be advised as to the view of the members of the Commission on the suitability of the reservation at the south end of the Connecticut Avenue Bridge.

The Argentine authorities are exceedingly anxious to start work on the project and consequently it is desirable that the action of the Commission be expedited as much as possible".

The Commission visited the site proposed in Pension Park (Judiciary Square), but unanimously disapproved placing the statue at that site, as it would be out of scale with present and future buildings. No large object should intrude on the quiet of the park.

The Commission disapproved placing the statue at the south end of the Connecticut Avenue Bridge, since it was thought this reservation is too small for the statue, and further it is a site which should be reserved for a fountain.

The Commission again inspected the site at Eleventh Street and Massachusetts Avenue, and decided that they regard it the most appropriate

site for the statue in Washington, there being a number of equestrian statues on Massachusetts Avenue, and the avenue itself is one of the most prominent in the District of Columbia. (Exhibit J).

16. SUCCESSOR TO MR. FRASER: Mr. Fraser's four-year term having expired, the Commission considered the question of his successor. The Commission felt unanimously that they would regard the appointment by the President of Lorado Taft, sculptor, of Chicago, highly desirable, in view of the eminent place which Mr. Taft holds as a sculptor and a critic of sculpture in this country.

 The Commission returned from the inspection trip at 6:15 p.m. After dinner at the Cosmos Club, the Commission resumed the session and adjourned at 10:30 p.m. Colonel James A. Moss, (U.S.A. retired) was present during the evening to confer with the Commission with reference to securing a design for a suitable poster, to be used by the United States Flag Organization in connection with their work of instructing the people of this country as to the proper use of the flag. The members of the Commission met informally on the morning of October 4th and considered projects under way for the development of Washington.

C O P Y

October 6, 1924.

Dear Sir:

Your letters of September 6 and of October 3, 1924, with reference to the Ericsson Memorial, received the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on October 3, 1924.

The working models of the Ericsson Memorial, submitted by the sculptor, Mr. Fraser, have been examined and they are approved by the Commission of Fine Arts. They are considered by the Commission as filling the contract requirement that the sculptor shall complete "full size models of the sculpture and pedestal" for the approval of the contracting officer, and adequate for the purpose contemplated. When a statue is made in bronze, it is the practice to make a full-sized model of the figure. When it is cut in stone, sculptors find it necessary to make the last and working model one-half or one-third size.

The Commission of Fine Arts approve the use of Pink Milford Granite for the memorial.

Mr. Fraser's small scale model of the Ericsson Memorial was approved by the Commission of Fine Arts on September 3, 1920. The sculptor should be reimbursed for the extra expense to which he has been subjected with reference to this memorial since that time, due to questions pertaining to the site, for which the sculptor was in no wise at fault.

Very respectfully,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Lieut. Col. C. O. Sherrill,
Executive and Disbursing Officer,
John Ericsson Memorial Commission.

EXHIBIT A.

C O P Y

October 6, 1924.

Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting in Washington on October 3, 1924, approved the plans submitted with your letter of August 6, 1924, for the development and improvement of the Arlington National Cemetery.

These plans involve the future extension of the cemetery to occupy the original Arlington estate. They also relate Arlington to the Park System of the District of Columbia, provide an adequate and appropriate terminus for the Virginia end of the Memorial Bridge, and a suggested connection with the Mount Vernon highway.

The Commission understand that while no attempt has been made to draw these plans in detail, they nevertheless show the broad lines which should be adhered to in developing this area. They also carry out the general principles adopted by the Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission, in relating the Bridge to the Plan of Washington.

The Commission has the honor of commending the plans as prepared in the Office of the Quartermaster General, and to advise that they be approved as the working plans for future improvements.

Sincerely yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Hon. John W. Weeks,
Secretary of War,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT B.

C O P Y

October 9, 1924.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of October 2, asking the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts as to the appropriateness of placing the proposed Aviator Memorial on the sunken terrace on the north side of the State, War and Navy building, received consideration by the Commission at their meeting on October 3, 1924.

The Commission unanimously disapproved placing the Aviator Memorial in that location. The memorial would be out of scale with the building and would augment the disturbing element produced by the sunken terrace. The Commission feel that an appropriate site for this memorial is Bolling Field.

The Commission are strongly of the opinion that at some future time the sunken terrace, both in front of the Treasury Department building and the State, War and Navy building, will be raised to the level of Pennsylvania Avenue, thereby not only providing additional space for vaults and files, but also improving the appearance of the entrance to each of these buildings.

Very respectfully,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Lieut. Col. C. O. Sherrill,
Officer in Charge of
Public Buildings and Grounds.

EXHIBIT C.

C O P Y

October 14, 1924.

Dear Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts approve the design for the Stone Mountain fifty-cent piece, prepared by Gutzon Borglum, sculptor. A photograph of the obverse and the reverse of the approved design is enclosed.

Very respectfully,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Hon. R. J. Grant,
Director of the Mint,
Treasury Department.

EXHIBIT D.

C O P Y

October 8, 1924.

Dear Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on October 3, 1924, approved the plans which you submitted with your letter of October 3, for the proposed field house in Anacostia Park. The Commission advise that the four posts shown in the "Lounge" be eliminated. They disturb an otherwise fine room. If necessary, ventilating equipment may be placed in the center of the ceiling.

Very respectfully,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Lieut. Col. C. O. Sherrill,
Officer in Charge of
Public Buildings and Grounds.

EXHIBIT E

C O P Y

October 6, 1924.

Dear Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on October 3, 1924, considered the plans of the pedestal and the lettering proposed for the statue of Serenity, which you submitted, with Mr. H. W. Peaslee, architect.

The Commission advised the architect that the material selected for the pedestal should be a marble or other stone harmonizing with the statue itself, so that there shall be no break in color between the two. The Commission also recommend that the inscription be revised and cut only in front of the pedestal, substantially as follows:

S E R E N I D A D

In memory of
William Henry Schuetze
Lieutenant Commander, United States Navy,
1853 - 1902

Roman letters and Roman numerals should be used. The Commission suggest that the inscription be submitted to Mr. Charles Deering for his approval.

Very respectfully,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Lieut. Col. C. O. Sherrill,
Officer in Charge of
Public Buildings and Grounds.

EXHIBIT F

C O P Y

October 6, 1924.

Dear Miss Sawyer:

I received the telegram of September 18th from General Sawyer, asking advice as to an architectural adviser for the Harding Memorial, and was taking up the matter with the members of the Commission of Fine Arts when a despatch announced General Sawyer's sudden death. The Commission heard the news with deep regret.

The Commission of Fine Arts gave consideration to the question of selecting an architectural adviser for the Harding Memorial at their meeting in Washington on October 3, 1924. The Commission felt that inasmuch as an architectural competition has been decided upon by the Harding Memorial Association and the architects for the competition have been selected, it would be best if these architects would decide among themselves upon an architectural adviser. They might also select the jurors.

Yours very truly,
Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Miss Isabelle A. Sawyer,
Secretary to the Executive Committee,
The Harding Memorial Association,
Marion, Ohio.

EXHIBIT G

Copy
The Harding Memorial Association
Marion, Ohio

October 9, 1924.

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

My dear Mr. Moore:

Very much appreciate your letter of the 6th inst. and your expression of sympathy over our loss of General Sawyer.

Of course all details concerning the competition will now be taken over by the General's successor, Mr. Hoke Donithen of this city, but I am sure he will appreciate all the help you have given us.

Very truly yours,
The Harding Memorial Association,
by Isabelle A. Sawyer.

C O P Y

October 8, 1924.

Dear Sirs:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting in Washington on October 3, 1924, made a final inspection of the single arc light lamp post (No.19) and the duplex incandescent lamp post (No.20), and approved them. The Commission understand that it is desired to install lamp posts of this type on the streets of Washington in the near future.

The task of securing acceptable designs for the new lamp posts has been one which required much time and thought, since in the preparation of the designs the electrical appliances to be placed in the lamp posts had to be considered, which made the problem quite difficult. The Commission desire to express their appreciation of the cooperation of your Electrical Department in producing the designs for these new lamp posts.

The Commission consider that the design now in use for ordinary electric lighting is superior to that used in any city in the United States. They trust it will continue to be the standard design. For extraordinary lighting, where greater power and height is required, the designs approved by the Commission have been based on the standard now in use, in so far as it was possible so to do. The largest, double lamp, has been so designed as to accommodate the electric requirements and develop a consistent form.

Very respectfully,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

The Board of Commissioners
of the District of Columbia.

Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT H.

C O P Y

Engineer Commissioner
of the District of Columbia
Washington

October 11, 1924.

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

My dear Mr. Moore:

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia, I wish to extend to you and the other members of the Commission of Fine Arts, our sincere appreciation of the cooperation which the Commission has accorded the District of Columbia in the development of its new lamp post standards.

We have realized the difficulties involved in perfecting satisfactory designs for the larger posts which have been lately approved. We feel however that, due in large part to the constructive criticism and helpful suggestions of the members of the Commission of Fine Arts, we now have splendid designs of which Washington may justly be proud.

Very sincerely yours,

J. F. Bell,

Major, Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army,
Engineer Commissioner, D. C.

EXHIBIT H-1.

C O P Y

October 8, 1924.

Dear Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting in Washington on October 3, 1924, inspected the concrete trash receptacles, at the rest house and comfort station at Hains Point, East Potomac Park.

The Commission felt that in Rock Creek Park they probably would not look awkward, but in the smaller parks they do look awkward. The Commission suggest that the receptacle take the form of one of the old jars such as have been used from time immemorial for oil and wheat and other grains. The proportions are those of an egg. The design is particularly pleasing and is easier to cast than the design of the concrete trash receptacle submitted. The proposed design has the further advantage that the winds will be less able to scatter the trash deposited in it.

The Commission were of the opinion that there should be a grate on these concrete trash receptacles, but felt that before recommending one it might be preferable to erect six or eight of these concrete trash receptacles in the parks, to ascertain if grating is necessary to prevent trash, particularly loose paper, from scattering.

Very respectfully,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Lieut. Col. C. O. Sherrill,
Officer in Charge of
Public Buildings and Grounds.

EXHIBIT I.

C O P Y

October 6, 1924.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of September 11th, concerning a location for the Statue of General San Martin, and with which you submitted a sketch suggesting a site in Judiciary Square, received careful consideration by the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on October 3, 1924.

The Commission unanimously are opposed to placing the statue in Judiciary Square. It would be out of harmony with the surrounding buildings, both those built and those contemplated. No large object should intrude on the present quiet. The Commission cannot approve placing an equestrian statue on the reservation at the south end of the Connecticut Avenue Bridge. The space is too small for this particular statue. Moreover this site should be reserved for a fountain, which is the form of embellishment needed to end this long vista.

After again inspecting the site heretofore recommended, namely the triangle at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Eleventh Street, N. W., the Commission regard it as the most appropriate site in Washington for this statue. Massachusetts Avenue is the one avenue extending through the District of Columbia. Equestrian statues of General Scott, General Thomas and General Sheridan, and the Admiral Dupont memorial fountain, are located on this avenue, and the avenue offers sites for still other notable statues in the future.

The Commission of Fine Arts therefore advise the location of the statue of General San Martin on Massachusetts Avenue, on the reservation between Tenth and Eleventh Streets, N.W.

Very respectfully,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Lieut. Col. C. O. Sherrill,
Officer in Charge of
Public Buildings and Grounds.

EXHIBIT J.

