MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN NEW YORK CITY, JUNE 9, 1938.

The ninth meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1938 was held in the office of Mr. Clarke, 101 Park Avenue, New York City, on June 9, 1938. The following members were present:

Mr. Clarke, Chairman,
Mr. Savage,
Mr. Borie,
Mr. Shepley,
Mr. Lamb,
Mr. Lawrie (acting)
also L. P. Caemmerer,

Executive Secretary and Administrative Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a. m., daylight saving time.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of the meeting held May 7, 1938, were approved.

2. MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE UNDERPASS AT THOMAS CIRCLE: Captain F. C. Whitehurst, Director of Highways of the District of Columbia, in company with Mr. Van Duzer, Director of Traffic, submitted plans for an underpass on Massachusetts Avenue, for which legislation was enacted in the District of Columbia Appropriation Bill for the fiscal year 1939 (approved April 4, 1938) as follows:

> For the construction of an underpass at Thomas Circle in the line of Massachusetts Avenue in accordance with plan and profile to be approved by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, including necessary changes, construction, and reconstruction of roadways, sidewalks, and curbing, construction of and changes in sewer and water mains, street and traffic lights, fire-alarm and police-patrol boxes in the vicinity of the circle, construction of and such changes in walkways, landscaping, and so forth, of the Thomas Circle Park Reservation as may be approved by said Commissioners, travel expenses in connection with the inspection of material at the point of manufacture, employment of engineering and other professional services by contract or otherwise and without reference to section 3709 of the Revised Statutes (U. S. C., title 41, sec. 5) or the Classification Act of 1923, as amended, and engineering and incidental expenses, $530,000.

Captain Whitehurst said that for several years the plan has been to have the underpass on Fourteenth Street but it was found that the street is not wide enough hence Massachusetts Avenue, which is 160 feet wide, adequately provides space for the underpass. The underpass will have a length of about 1,000 feet, of which approximately 500 feet will be a tunnel under Thomas Circle with 250 feet on either side towards Thirteenth and Fifteenth Streets. It will be 44 feet wide with a central wall through the middle separating the traffic on Massachusetts Avenue.

Captain Whitehurst stated that a few years ago Congress authorized a survey of traffic on Massachusetts Avenue under what is known as the Carpenter Committee and that committee recommended underpasses at Thomas Circle, Scott Circle, and Dupont Circle. It was intended to construct the Dupont Circle underpass first, but citizens of the locality objected and Congress therefore authorized the construction of the Thomas Circle underpass. Captain Whitehurst said that a traffic count at the peak hours, between 8 and 9 in the morning, and 4 and 5 in the evening, showed 1,500 cars pass the circle each way, that is, on Massachusetts Avenue and on Fourteenth Street. During the rest of the day the number of automobiles averages from 600-800 per hour or one about every five seconds. There is the further problem of street cars on Fourteenth Street, of which there are 20 every 15 minutes between 8 and 9 and 4 and 5 o'clock. All told, 46,000 automobiles pass Thomas Circle during a 24-hour period. The underpass will afford a complete separation of traffic between Massachusetts Avenue and Fourteenth Street.

The Commission thereupon inspected the plan for the underpass, which was presented by Captain Whitehurst. Mr. Lawrence White, representing the firm of

McKim, Mead and White, architects of the project, was present as were also Mr. MacDonald and Mr. Thorensen of the firm of Parsons, Klapp, Brinckerhoff and Douglas, engineers of the project. Captain Whitehurst said the National Capital Park and Planning Commission approved the design at the May meeting. Mr. Clarke said he had a report of this for the information of the members of the Commission of Fine Arts as follows:

Thomas Circle Underpass:

Mr. Nolen reported that an item has been included in the District Appropriation Act for 1936 for the construction of an underpass under Thomas Circle.

Captain Whitehurst submitted to the Commission the plan for this project, and reviewed its history. The plan submitted now is substantially the same plan as before the Commission on a previous occasion. The underpass is on the line of Massachusetts Avenue, and the 14th Street traffic travels through on the surface. The central feature of the Circle is retained, and redevelopment proposed as per Commission's plan of 1933.

Motion carried by all present except Mr. Cammerer, who was recorded as not voting, approving in principle the plan for the Thomas Circle Underpass, as shown on plan bearing File No. 21-152.

Captain Whitehurst recommended that the National Park Service grant permission to the District Government to carry out this plan, and then later on after it is completed, the necessary transfers of land be effected. He also stated that when the first study was made, it was found that the 14th Street right of way was insufficient to permit the car tracks and 14th Street roadway to pass under the Circle.

Resolution of
National Capital Park and Planning Commission
at its May 27, 1936, Meeting

Motion unanimously carried that the Commission reaffirm its former position in approving plans for the Thomas Circle underpass (now submitted by Capt. Whitehurst.)

Also Mr. Clarke said that it is not the function of the Commission of Fine Arts to rule on the necessity of an underpass from a traffic standpoint

but he advised concerning the design and the proper construction. Mr. W. A. Delano of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission was present to give the views of his Commission concerning the project. Mr. Delano stated that the criticism of the design seemed to be principally about changing an oval to an ellipse. It was thought that, when the pavement is put in, the circle will have the appearance of an ellipse. Captain Whitehurst said that the new plan for Thomas Circle is the reverse of Dupont Circle at Massachusetts and Nebraska Avenues.

Mr. Clark suggested slight changes at various points in the plan to help the appearance of the ellipse. There will be islands on either side of the ellipse, the outer line of the islands being the circumference of the proper circle. It was recommended that a wire line of granite be used for the curbs. Various other matters of details were considered, a summary of the suggestions being as follows:

1. The parapet wall should be replaced by a metal railing of stainless steel or bronze.

2. The cheek walls should be covered with granite, and battered.

3. The treatment of the ends of the dividing wall was approved.

4. That the portals be broken in plan into an obtuse angle, and faced with granite.

5. The white grey tiles for the walls of the tunnel were approved.

6. That the ceiling be soundproofed, choosing a material that can be most readily cleaned.

7. That the grass plots inside the portals be rounded instead of triangular in plan.

8. That the paving of the passages inside the line of the original circle be of Durex blocks, with a broad band of granite defining

the original line of the circle. This band to be flush wherever crossed by traffic, and raised to a curb elsewhere.

9. That the lamp-posts originally designed for the Arlington Bridge be used at the portals and on top of the cheek walls, breaking the metal railing on either side of the lamp-posts.

10. There are to be no shrubs in the grass plots where the ventilation holes occur. Any sharp pitch in the surface of the grass plot that would tend to define the ellipse should be avoided.

The statue of General Thomas will not be moved and will be given proper support by the partition wall along the center of the tunnel.

The Commission regretted the destruction of a considerable number of trees in the carrying out of the project and recommended that trees of good size be planted to replace them.

The members of the Commission expressed themselves as being generally satisfied with the scheme and approved it subject to the suggestions made. A report was sent to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia. (Exhibit A)

3. K STREET GRADE SEPARATION PLAN: Captain Whitehurst submitted a plan for a separation of traffic at K Street, N. W., which had been provided for in the District of Columbia Appropriation Act for 1939, approved April 4, 1938, as follows:

> For the construction of a grade-separation structure at K Street Northwest and Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, in accordance with plans and profile to be approved by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, including the replacement of the bridge in the line of K Street over Rock Creek, the necessary construction, reconstruction, and changes of roadways, walkways, sidewalks, and curbing in the vicinity of the structures, relocation and reconstruction of any necessary parkway roads, walkways, and so forth, construction of and changes in water and sewer mains, fire-alarm and police-patrol boxes, street and traffic lights, travel expenses in connection with the inspection of material at the point of manufacture, employment of engineering or other professional services, by contract or otherwise, and without reference to section 3709 of the Revised Statutes (U. S. C., title 41, sec. 5) or the Classification Act of 1923, as amended, and engineering and incidental expenses, $320,000.

Captain Whitehurst said on some two schemes but the plan he was presenting had the approval of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and he considered it the better of the two since it avoids inclined roadway connections with the Rock Creek Parkway. The scheme presented provides for the extension of the Rock Creek Parkway under K Street. To avoid obstruction of K Street traffic the proposed structure would be so built that at some future time an elevated roadway could be built on it. Mr. R. V. Tatlow and Mr. T. J. Cambron of the firm of Harrington and Cortelyou, consulting engineers, of Washington, were present during the discussion. Captain Whitehurst said that Mr. Louis Justement also is one of the consultants. The Commission inspected the plan, of which Mr. Whitehurst also had perspectives. A model of the scheme was also inspected. A split faced granite is to be used for the structure. The Commission considered the design satisfactory and approved it. (Exhibit F)

4. MUNICIPAL CENTER: Mr. Nathan C. Wyeth, Municipal Architect, submitted a design for the administration building of the Municipal Center. He said Congress has appropriated $500,000 in the 1939 appropriation act for the construction of this building, as follows:

> For beginning the construction in square 533, bounded by John Marshall Place, Indiana Avenue, and Third, C, and D Streets, of the first unit of an extensible building for the government of the District of Columbia, $500,000, of which amount the sum of $200,000 shall be immediately available for the preparation of plans and specifications, including the employment of professional and other services without reference to the Classification Act of 1923, as amended, civil service requirements, or section 3709 of the Revised Statutes, and the Commissioners are authorized to enter into contract or contracts for the completion of such unit, including fixed equipment, at a total cost not to exceed $1,500,000.

Mr. Wyeth said the Commissioners of the District of Columbia will be put the building across John Marshall Place along Indiana Avenue. The Commission

inspected the design and felt that so far as the architectural appearance of the exterior is concerned it seemed satisfactory. However, the Commission objected strongly to locating the building across John Marshall Place since it would obstruct the view of the old City Hall, now the District of Columbia Court Building, designed by George Hadfield in 1820.

Mr. Wyeth said the District Commissioners want the building put across John Marshall Place and Indiana Avenue so as to give them parking space at the east and west ends of the building and also to make it possible to dispose of the two additional squares which the District Government owns along Pennsylvania Avenue between Third and Sixth Streets; the District Commissioners are of the opinion that the two upper squares are sufficient for a Municipal Center. However, it was pointed out that they are using a third square now, namely, the one along Pennsylvania Avenue between John Marshall Place and Sixth Street, for the proposed public library building that was authorized in the 1939 District Appropriation Act, as follows:

> For the preparation of plans and specifications for a library building to be constructed on square 491 in the District of Columbia, $60,000.

The Commission recalled that last year when Mr. Wyeth submitted a similar scheme the Commission had protested strongly against a building across John Marshall Place (Exhibit C) and it was thought since Mr. Wyeth had not presented a new scheme there would be no reason for changing their opinion but rather for reaffirming the view heretofore expressed that it would be very unfortunate to obstruct the view of the fine old Hadfield building from Pennsylvania Avenue by constructing a building across John Marshall Place. The Commission agreed that John Marshall Place might well be closed to traffic

but should not be obstructed by a building. Mr. Shepley suggested that the District Commissioners use the two squares on the east side of John Marshall Place for the administration building of the Municipal Center, and if C Street is to be kept open the two units could be connected by a bridge; he also suggested that they place the library building on the east side of John Marshall Place along Indiana Avenue. Mr. Forie and Mr. Lamb suggested that floor plans for the entire building be submitted. It was shown that there is a drop of 3 feet between Indiana Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue so that there will be more floors on the south side of the building than on the north side.

The Commission felt it was unfortunate to destroy a beautiful vista in order to provide parking space. Mr. Ryan reported that the National Capital Park and Planning Commission has interposed no objection to the construction of the building across John Marshall Place but wanted C Street kept open. The members of the Commission felt that this was an architectural problem which vitally concerned the proposed Municipal Center group and one that should come before the Commission of Fine Arts for decision.

The Commission suggested that conferences be held between representatives of the District of Columbia Government and the Commission of Fine Arts to discuss the matter in greater detail. A report was sent to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia. (Exhibit C-1)

3. FOUNTAIN FOR TAFT: Mr. Clarke read a letter received from Mr. Moore (Exhibit D) concerning the proposed Columbian Fountain. He also read a statement by Congressman Treadway of Massachusetts (Congressional Record of June 6, page 10813), as follows:

> My recollection as a young man goes back to a visit to the Chicago World's Fair where this fountain was on exhibition or in use. It was a very ornate piece of work and proper for that place and time. As I understand it, the desire is to duplicate this fountain from the

original sketches and place it permanently in the city of Washington, D. C. Such an ornamental piece of work as that, to my mind, does not correspond with the dignity of our Capital City and, in addition to that is the fact that a location must be given upon which to erect this fountain when constructed. I see no reason why the fountain should be erected in this city, nor do I know where such a design would be appropriate in the city. It seems to me, originally, it might be well to see if the citizens of Chicago themselves do not want to keep that wonderful fountain in their home city. I would not object at all if the gentlemen brought in a request that we recommend to the city of Chicago that it erect its own fountain in its own city.

Mr. Clarke said this statement voices the view of the Commission of Fine Arts in this matter and since objection has been made by Congress to the enactment of the legislation there is nothing the Commission need do in the matter.

6. NAVY AND MARINE MEMORIAL: Mr. Clarke read a statement by Representative Taber (New York) concerning the Navy and Marine Memorial as set forth in the Congressional Record of June 6, page 10908, as follows:

> The original bill asked for only $18,000 and that amount was cut $5,000. Now we are being asked for $150,000 to complete the memorial. I have been over to see this memorial, and in my opinion it is one of the worst-looking things I have ever seen. I will be perfectly frank. It has no artistic beauty or any virtue of that kind. I do not believe we ought to advertise it any more than it is already advertised. Frankly, I believe we ought not to go on with its construction.

The secretary reported that the Virginia Greenstone Company has requested that if pending legislation is enacted for completing the pedestal for the Navy and Marine Memorial they be allowed to submit an estimate in competition with others for their stone, stating it would not cost more than $50,000.

The Commission noted the objection in the House of Representatives to the enactment of legislation to complete the pedestal and decided to take no further action in the matter until such legislation is adopted.

7. THOMAS JEFFERSON MEMORIAL: Mr. Clarke called attention to a memorandum furnished him by the secretary stating that the Second Deficiency Bill which passed the House of Representatives on June 2, 1938, contained an item of $500,000 for beginning construction of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Mr. Clarke also read the statement made by the Appropriations Committee, which in spite of a great amount of evidence that had been furnished the committee setting forth reasons why the appropriation should not be made, had nevertheless submitted the item for decision by the House of Representatives. The statement reads as follows:

> The committee recommends, for the consideration of the House, the Budget estimate of $500,000 for commencement of construction of the Memorial to Thomas Jefferson as authorized by the act of June 3, 1936, under a total estimated cost of not to exceed $3,000,000. That act placed the duty upon the Commission of selecting a site and adopting a design, and authorized the Commission to enter into a contract for the erection at a total amount within the specified limit of cost. The members of the Commission have unanimously agreed upon a design and have selected a site in the Tidal Basin area of Potomac Park. The committee felt, inasmuch as the act gave plenary powers to the Commission to proceed with the project but that before proceeding to make a contract they had presented the matter to Congress for ratification in the form of a Budget estimate, that it should present the item for the consideration and decision of the House. Members of the committee in making this action are reserving to themselves, individually, the right to express their views and vote their convictions with respect to the proposal.

The House of Representatives approved the item 121 to 67 and it appeared to be a strictly party vote.

Mr. Clarke said the question is now whether the Commission should take up the matter with the Senate. Mr. Clarke read a telegram received from Mrs. Frank E. Noyes, urging that the Commission send a telegram of protest to Senator Adams in charge of the subcommittee of the Senate on the Second Deficiency Bill, protesting against the Thomas Jefferson Memorial item. Mr. Clarke said he furnished Senator Glass, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee of the Senate, with copy of the correspondence the same as he had

supplied the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives.

The Commission considered the matter carefully and decided that if a telegram were sent to Senator Adams the Commission might be accused of lobbying. It was thought best since the Appropriations Committee of the Senate knows the facts in the case and has a copy of the Hearings on the Second Deficiency Bill, it would be better not to do anything further but leave the matter to Congress for decision.

The Secretary called attention to a statement in the Washington Herald of June 9, saying that Senator King would protest against the Jefferson Memorial item. Mr. Clarke also read an editorial from the Washington Post of June 8, protesting against the Jefferson Memorial. (The Senate approved the item as passed by the House on June 15, 1930)

8. ITALIAN WAR MEMORIAL: The secretary showed the Commission two sketch models by Mr. Frank Zuccheti, 1143 New Hampshire Avenue, N. W., which the Italian War Veterans propose to give for the United States Unknown Soldier. The sketches were brought to the attention of Mr. Lawrie, who felt that either one was acceptable, subject to some modification. The Commission selected the one showing a lamp but stated that it should be redesigned. Mr. Savage drew a sketch showing just how the lamp should be modeled. The Commission raised questions concerning the inscription and this will be given further consideration.

9. NAVAL RESERVE MEDAL: Under date of May 21, 1930, the following letter was received from Mr. Cecil Jones concerning the Naval Reserve Medal:

My dear Mr. Clarke:

> Reference is made to yours of May 11 pertaining to certain revisions suggested by Mr. Manship in the Naval Reserve Medal designed by Erwin Springweiler for the Navy Department.

Mr. Springweiler designed and cast this medal on his own time due to the fact that the funds from which he was paid were exhausted right after this Department undertook to have this medal executed for the Navy. Consequently, this office was not in a position to demand or formally request Mr. Springweiler to redesign and recast as suggested in your communication referred to above. However, he was definitely given the opportunity to volunteer to make the revisions suggested by Mr. Mandlik, but it developed that the volume of business that he had in his own studio was such that he was not able to undertake this additional work without suffering a monetary loss.

The casts are now in the possession of this Department. If you feel that existing circumstances justify the Navy using them as they now are, or should the Navy provide the necessary funds for making the revisions, we shall be glad to commission Mr. Springweiler to do it or transmit the casts in their present condition to the Navy Department.

We shall await further advice from your office or the Navy Department before any action is taken on this matter. I regret that such circumstances exist, but I assure you that they are beyond our control.

I am

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Cecil H. Jones,
Chief, Treasury Relief Art Project.

Mr. Lawrie explained that he had talked with Mr. Springweiler concerning this medal and that Mr. Springweiler is willing to make the changes provided he is given an additional payment of $50. The Commission decided that the Naval Reserve Medal is of such importance as to justify the expenditure of an additional $50 to carry out the suggestions made by Mr. Mandlik and that the Navy Department should therefore pay Mr. Springweiler an additional $50. A report was sent to Mr. Jones accordingly. (Exhibit E)

10. SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT SUBMISSIONS:

a. Mr. Clarke read a protest received from Mary E. Crosby against the erection of a series of residences in the 3400 block of 17th Street. The Commission noted that the applicant had complied with the Zoning Regulations and therefore the Commission had no power to compel him to build

detached houses. The design submitted by Mr. Corbin having been favorably considered at the meeting of the Commission on May 7 and suspended on May 21, 193 , there was nothing further the Commission could do in the matter other than request the Zoning Commission to revise the regulations so as to permit the erection of only detached houses along Rock Creek Park and the Rock Creek Parkway. A letter was sent to the Zoning Commission accordingly. (Exhibit 8; also E-1,

b. Plaza Hotel Restaurant. A design was received from Edward F. Dreyfuss and was considered. The suggestion to place lamp posts along the parapet of the roof garden was disapproved. The Commission recommended that the lamp posts be placed about 6 feet from the edge of the parapet. (Exhibit 9)

c. Chestnut Farms Dairy. The Commission disapproved an application for an advertising sign, which far exceeded the 50 square foot limitation for signs in the Shipstead-Luce Act area.

d. Continental Hotel Sign. The Commission requested that the applicant submit a scale drawing for a sign on the fenestration in the hotel building.

11. WEARST ART COLLECTION: Under date of May 27, 1939, the following letter was received from Representative Alfred N. Phillips:

My dear Mr. Clark:

> I have your letter of May 25 re Hearst Art Collection. If you will indicate to me just how the Hearst Collection sale matter stands now and how much of this you think the United States Government should purchase, and at what price, I will give consideration to legislation regarding such purchase.

Very sincerely,
(Signed) Alfred N. Phillips, Jr.

A question was raised whether or not this is a matter that comes under the jurisdiction of the Commission. But attention was called to the organic act creating the Commission, which states:

> * * * The Commission shall also advise generally upon questions of art when required so to do by the President or by any committee of either House of Congress.

Mr. Savage was asked as to what will be done with the art collection. He replied that it will be sold at auction during the next three or four years but that it could not be determined how much or this should be purchased without an extensive appraisal. Mr. Borie said that in connection with the matter of the value of the articles proposed for purchase it should also be determined why they should be bought and where they will be placed. Mr. Savage said there are Americana in the collection of educational interest. A report was sent to Congressman Phillips accordingly. (Exhibit H)

12. SULLY PORTRAIT OF ANDREW JACKSON: Under date of May 10, 1938, President Roosevelt requested Mr. Clarke to draft a reply to a letter received from the great grandson of Thomas Sully regarding a sketch and an oil painting, which reads as follows:

> Memorandum for
> The Chairman of the Commission of Fine Arts.
>
> For preparation of reply for my signature.
>
> F. D. R.

> Mr. President:
>
> As a great grandson of the artist, Thomas Sully, I am privileged to offer for your consideration a sketch and an oil painting of Andrew Jackson by Thomas Sully.
>
> The sketch was made from life immediately after the Battle of New Orleans, and the painting was done after the sketch. Neither of these pictures has ever been out of the hands of the Sully family.
>
> If you are interested, I shall be glad to arrange to have you see the originals and to quote you a price on the pictures.
>
> Very respectfully yours,
> (Signed) C. Langdon Sully.

Mr. Clarke said he brought the matter to the attention of Mr. Savage who submitted a report as follows:

> Any of the works by Thomas Sully, an outstandingly important American painter of his generation, engages general interest. His portrait drawing and subsequent painting of Andrew Jackson is therefore of first consequence, and would be an important contribution to a National collection. The acquisition of these works by the Government would unfortunately require an act of Congress as there is no agency now empowered to make such purchase.

The Commission adopted Mr. Savage's report and this was incorporated in a draft of a letter sent to the President. (Exhibit I)

13. FREER GALLERY OF ART [illegible]: The secretary reported that Mr. Lodge, Curator of the Freer Gallery, was anxious as soon as possible to have the Commission inspect certain articles proposed for purchase. Mr. Sherley said he would be in Washington June 10 and would be willing to arrange to inspect them. The Commission thereupon delegated Mr. Sherley to inspect the articles, with power to act for the Commission. (Mr. Sherley examined and approved them on June 10th (Exhibit J)).

14. WHITE HOUSE PIANO: Mr. Savage reported that a few days ago he called at Steinway's to see Mr. Beck and the work that he is doing on the new piano for the White House. He said the studio has been decorated to look like the East Room. There are two models--one is in gold and the other is in natural mahogany. Mr. Savage said the gold one seemed to be foreign to the room and he advised trying out the gold eagle legs on the mahogany piano and this combination fitted perfectly. There are flat tone inlay pictures in the box. Mr. Savage said the screen should be metallic, parts of it might be painted. He concluded with the statement that he was well satisfied with the work.

Mr. Clarke suggested that Mr. Savage write a letter to Eric Gugler giving him this information. (Exhibit K)

The Commission adjourned at 1:30 p. m.

June 10, 1938.

Dear Sirs:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting in New York City on June 9, 1938, considered the design submitted by Captain Whitehurst for the Massachusetts Avenue underpass at Thomas Circle and approved it, subject to a few changes in matters of detail. Representatives of the firm of McKim, Mead and White, architects, and of the firm of Parsons, Klapp, Brinckerhoff and Douglas, engineers, were present during the discussion. The following suggestions were made:

The parapet should be open metal (stainless steel or bronze if possible) in the form of a balustrade or railing;
The cheek walls should be covered with granite, and battered.
The treatment of the ends of the dividing wall was approved.
The portals should be broken in plan into an obtuse angle, and faced with granite.
The warm gray tiles for the walls of the tunnel were approved.
The ceiling should be soundproofed, choosing a material that can be most readily cleaned.
The grass plots inside the portals should be rounded instead of triangular in plan.
The paving of the passages inside the line of the original circle should be of Durex blocks, with a broad band of granite defining the original line of the circle. This band should be flush wherever crossed by traffic, and raised to a curb elsewhere.
The lamp-posts originally designed for the Arlington Memorial Bridge may be used at the portals and on top of the cheek walls, treading the metal railing on either side of the lamp-posts.
There are to be no shrubs in the grass plots where the ventilation holes occur. Any sharp pitch in the surface of the grass plot that would tend to define the ellipse should be avoided.

The Commission regret the fact that this project necessitates cutting down a considerable number of trees on Massachusetts Avenue. The Commission hope that they will be replaced by trees of reasonable size after the underpass has been built.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

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

EXHIBIT A

COPY

June 10, 1938.

Dear Sirs:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting in New York City on June 9, 1938, considered the design submitted by Captain Whitehurst for the construction of a grade-separation structure at K Street and the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway. The Commission approve the design.

The Commission would be pleased to see the structure faced with granite as proposed. The Commission noted that the structure will be so built as to permit the construction of an elevated roadway at some future time.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

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

EXHIBIT B

COPY

April 9, 1931.

Dear Mr. Myeth:

At the request of the Commission of Fine Arts you were so kind as to furnish informally and quite unofficially a plotting of the buildings to be constructed for the District of Columbia. Members of this Commission were particularly interested in this project on account of the authorized widening of Fourth Street through the Mall, and also the proximity of the National Gallery of Art, which will be a large factor in the architectural composition that will be formed in this area north and south of Pennsylvania Avenue.

This Commission considered alternative sketches, one showing the location of an administrative building for the District of Columbia extending across John Marshall Place; the other placing the building west of John Marshall Place, leaving open that thoroughfare to Indiana Avenue.

This Commission desire thus early to record opposition to placing any building so as to obstruct the view of the old Hadfield Court House, which closes the vista of Fourth Street and John Marshall Place. This building, nearly as old as the District of Columbia, is one of the gems of American architecture, and is prized as such. Fitly it crowns the slope, and forms the tie between the architectural development along Pennsylvania Avenue with the municipal group of buildings developed, and developing, in Judiciary Square a group designed in the style and spirit of the Court House itself.

Moreover, a building as large as the Administrative Building would throw entirely out of architectural balance the Judiciary group, composed of comparatively small and quiet units.

In the opinion of this Commission the blocking of John Marshall Place would be nothing short of an act of vandalism that would bring continued reprobation on its perpetrators.

Again thanking you for your helpful compliance with the Commission's request,

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Mr. Nathan C. Myeth,
Municipal Architect,
District Building,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT C

C O P Y

June 10, 1938.

Dear Sir:

At the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts in New York City on June 9, 1938, Mr. Walter C. Wyeth, Municipal Architect, submitted a design for the new Municipal Center Building showing that it is proposed to locate it along Indiana Avenue directly across John Marshall Place. The Commission consider this to be extremely unfortunate, and disapprove the scheme.

The Commission expressed their views in this matter in a letter addressed to Mr. Wyeth on April 1, 1937, a copy of which is enclosed. The Commission reaffirm their views as set forth in that letter. While John Marshall Place might be closed to traffic, it appears that no restudy has been made showing John Marshall Place unobstructed by a building.

It seemed to the Commission that the two squares west of John Marshall Place might be used for the Municipal Center Building and Square 533 for a library building and other municipal offices. The Commission suggest the appointment of a committee to give this matter particular study.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

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

EXHIBIT C-1

THE · COMMISSION · OF · FINE · ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

Gig Harbor, Washington, June 1, 1938

Dear Mr. Cammerer:

The various letters in regard to placing the MacMonnies Fountain of 1893 on Hains Point have come. Years ago, while Mr. MacMonnies was still living I very much wanted that fountain used as the basis of the treatment of that place, and reluctantly came to the conclusion that the project was ~~impracticable~~ impracticable. Once when the Commission was preparing a list of sculptors, I asked Mr. French why the name of Mac Monnies was omitted. He said that Mac Monnies had had a breakdown, from which he never had recovered; and his subsequent work substantiated Mr. French. He lost control of mind and taste. When I objected to the tablets on his Princeton Washington statue, saying that the Princeton boys would knock them off Mr. Platt quizically asked if I thought that would hurt the statue. While I would not think of intrusting the work to the persons named, nevertheless I have always visualized that sort of gay treatment and have labored to prevent other forms being used. When the Lane flagstaff was proposed, it seemed an opportunity to get the point itself treated with the same elegance and dignity shown in the Water Gate. Mr. Eggers made three sketches for the flagstaff, all of which I objected to as having too much architecture, thereby impairing the view down the river — to my mind one of the great beauties of Washington. In fact the only thing approaching it is the view down the center axis of Belle Isle Park, Detroit, which I had opened (after a hard fight) and had protected in ~~its~~ the treatment (by Cass Gilbert) of the lower end of the island, as extended for a thousand feet.

It will require genius to treat Hains Point as it should be

EXHIBIT D

THE · COMMISSION · OF · FINE · ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

treated. The conception cannot be developed in an office. It must be designed by some artist who feels in his soul the wideness of the water, the significance of the fact that the river is the pathway to Mount Vernon, and a hundred other things. The attempt to place the gas stuff there was thwarted, and other suggestions have been squelched at the beginning. Some day (that has not yet dawned) Hains Point will be treated greatly, as also will be the Monument Gardens. The longer the delay the finer the performance.

Writing of the Monument Gardens suggests that in the Olmsted-Hubbard plans, the Driveways were carried through the Gardens. That was not the King's idea. The Gardens should be kept to themselves, like the White House grounds.

Will you please send to Major Clarke this letter as an answer to his references.

Yours, Charles Moore

Representative Keller has sent me a copy of his correspondence with Borglum (!) and others. I can only acknowledge his courtesy, but without expressing any opinion save through the Commission.

June 11, 1938.

Dear Mr. Jones:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting in New York City on June 9, 1938, gave careful consideration to your letter of May 3, with regard to the design by Erwin Springweiler for the Naval Reserve Medal. The Commission conferred with Mr. Lee Lawrie, the acting sculptor member of the Commission.

Mr. Lawrie said that he had talked with Mr. Springweiler concerning the design of the medal and that Mr. Springweiler is willing to carry out the suggestions made by Mr. Mackin regarding the design if he is paid an additional $50. The Commission of Fine Arts feel that the Naval Reserve Medal is of such importance as to justify the expenditure of this small additional amount in order that the models may be developed in accordance with Mr. Mackin's suggestions. It is therefore respectfully suggested that if possible Mr. Springweiler be paid an additional $50 to revise the models.

The Commission would be pleased to see photographs of the revised models for final approval.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Mr. Cecil H. Jones, Chief,
Treasury Relief Art Project,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT E

COPY

June 10, 1938.

Gentlemen:

Inclosed is a petition signed by Mary E. Crosby, 3474 17th Street, N. W., for the erection of detached houses instead of row houses in the 3400 block of 17th Street.

Recently one of the builders in Washington made application for approval of the design of a series of residences in the 3400 block of 17th Street, opposite the Piney Branch Parkway. The design, which was made by E. Burton Cummings, architect of Washington, was submitted at a meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts on May 7, and approved on May 21, 1938. The Commission were informed at the time that the type of house conforms to the Zoning Regulations, namely, row houses in this "B" restricted area.

The Commission of Fine Arts have no power under the Shipstead-Luce Act to compel an applicant to build detached houses when row houses are permitted. The petition is, therefore, brought to your attention in the hope that the areas adjacent to the Rock Creek Park and Rock Creek Parkway be made the subject of special study with a view to rezoning them for detached houses only.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Respectfully yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

The Zoning Commission,
District Building,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT F

Government of the District of Columbia

ZONING COMMISSION

June 17th, 1938.

Mr. Gilmore D. Clarke, Chairman,
The Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Clarke:

Receipt of your letter of June 10th, enclosing a petition from Mary E. Crosby and other property owners in the vicinity of the 3400 block of 17th Street, Northwest, in reference to proposed row house construction in this block, and suggesting that a study be made of this and other areas adjoining Rock Creek Park and Rock Creek Parkway, with a view to rezoning for detached houses, is acknowledged.

I will bring this matter to the attention of the Commission at its next Executive Session, to be held sometime the later part of this month.

Very truly yours,

HUGH P. ORAM,
Executive Officer.

HPO:jj

EXHIBIT F-1

COPY

June 11, 1938.

Dear Mr. Dreyfuss:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on June 8, 1938, considered the design which you submitted for the proposed lighting layout on the roof garden of the Plaza Restaurant at First and D Streets, N. W.

The Commission disapproved the erection of the lamp posts adjacent to the parapet but would have no objection to your placing them approximately eight feet inward from the parapet wall.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Yours very truly,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Mr. Edmund W. Dreyfuss,
1524 K Street, N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT G

June 16, 1938.

My dear Mr. Phillips:

Your letter of May 27, with regard to the Hearst art collection, was considered by the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on June 9, 1938.

It was noted that you desired to know how the Hearst collection matter stands now and how much of it might be desirable for acquisition by the Government and at what price. The Commission were informed by Mr. Eugene Savage, painter member of the Commission, that the agents in charge of the collection propose to dispose of it at private sale or at public auction or both during the next three or four years.

It could not be determined how much of this collection would be desirable for purchase by the Government without first obtaining an extensive appraisal. There is the further question concerning the reasons for such a purchase and the problem with respect to the appropriate placing of the articles.

The Commission of Fine Arts is without funds to make the necessary appraisal; however, it would seem that this might be arranged by Parish-Watson Company, Inc., 44 East 57th Street, New York City, sole agents for the collection.

The Commission are always glad to assist you in matters of this kind and stand ready to advise further in this particular problem.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Hon. Alfred N. Phillips, Jr.,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT H

C O P Y

June 11, 1930.

My dear Mr. President:

I received your memorandum of May 1, with the inclosure of a letter and prints from Mr. C. Langdon Sully concerning a sketch and oil painting of Andrew Jackson by his great grandfather, Thomas Sully.

I brought this matter to the attention of Mr. Eugene Savage, the painter member of the Commission and incorporated his report in the accompanying reply that I have prepared for your signature.

Very respectfully yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

The President,
The White House.

EXHIBIT I

My dear Mr. Sully:

I received your letter of May 6, with its enclosure of photos of a sketch and oil painting of Andrew Jackson by your great-grandfather, Thomas Sully, and have noted that you are offering to sell these pictures to the Government.

I request your letter be the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts for their views in this matter.

Any of the works by Thomas Sully, an outstanding important American painter of his generation, enjoyed general interest. His portrait drawing and subsequent painting of Andrew Jackson is therefore of first consequence, and would be an important addition to a National collection. The acquisition of these works by the Government would unfortunately require an Act of Congress as there is no agency empowered to make such a purchase. Of course, you will realize that it is too late at this present session of Congress to secure the adoption of a bill of this character; however, it might be arranged at the next session of Congress.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. T. Langdon Sully,
102 Cambridge Place,
Brooklyn, New York.

C O P Y

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
NEW MALLORY APT
WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 13, 1930.

My dear Mr. Caemmerer:

I enclose herewith a copy of the document which Mr. Shepley so kindly signed the other day.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) Rita M. Edwards,

Secretary to the Director.

H. T. Caemmerer, Esq.,
The Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure.

EXHIBIT 1

C O P Y

Dr. C. G. Abbot, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, Mr. Henry R. Shepley, representing the Commission of Fine Arts, and Miss Katherine N. Rhoades, as provided in Paragraph 4 of the Codicil to the Will of the late Charles L. Freer, have examined the following objects:

1 Pottery bowl with two seated figures. Persian, 12th century, Raiy (Kashan).

1 Pottery bowl, multiple figures inside and out. Persian, 12th century, Raiy.

1 Painting of two female figures. Mongol (Timurid), 14th century.

1 Illuminated leaf from a Koran, gold calligraphy. Arabic, 14th century.

1 Bronze sacral vessel of the type tui. Chinese, Chou dynasty.

1 Jade figure of a dancing girl. Chinese, Period of the Warring States.

1 Indian painting; Rāma, Sītā and Hanuman.

which have been recommended for purchase for the Freer Gallery of Art by Dr. John E. Lodge, Director, and hereby approve the purchase.

Secretary, Smithsonian Institution.

June 10, 1938.

For The Commission of Fine Arts

June 4th, 1938.

Katharine N. Rhoades.

C O P Y

June 21, 1934.

My dear Mr. Gugler:

At the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts held in New York City on June 8, I asked Mr. Savage for a report concerning the new piano for the White House. Mr. Savage reported as follows:

> At your suggestion I called at Steinway's on June 7th and consulted with Mr. Beck about the color of the new piano for the White House.
>
> While either the pale mahogany or the all gold finish would be in general harmony with the East Room, the all gold finish was more in the spirit of its except that such a feeling for materials seemed to be out of character with such a musical instrument.
>
> I suggested that the gold eagle supports of the gold piano be put under the mahogany piano, with the result that both of the above difficulties seemed to be answered and the variation in the feeling for materials was very welcome. Perhaps partly because the golden frieze of the figures on the box and the ornamental support above settled into a more orderly relationship.
>
> Mr. Beck was similarly impressed and I therefore recommend that solution.

The Commission of Fine Arts were pleased to hear this report and concurred in Mr. Savage's suggestions. It was decided to send the report to you.

The Commission will be glad to cooperate with you in the continuance of the work.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Mr. Eric Gugler,
101 Park Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

EXHIBIT K