

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS  
HELD IN NEW YORK CITY ON AUGUST 10, 1938.

The second meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1939 was held in the office of Shreve, Lamb and Harmon, 11 East 44th Street, New York City, on Wednesday, August 10. The following members were present:

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

Secretary and Administrative Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a. m., daylight saving time.

1. FENCE FOR WOODROW WILSON HIGH SCHOOL: The secretary presented the following memorandum on the subject of a fence for the Woodrow Wilson High School stadium:

August 9, 1938.

Memorandum for: Mr. Clarke.

Subject: Question of Fence for Stadium, Woodrow Wilson High School.

This afternoon Mr. Lewis R. Barrett, Coordinator of the Recreational Bureau of the Department of the Interior, informed me that Mr. Wyeth has sent a set of plans for the stadium at Woodrow Wilson High School to the Board of Education for approval. But as no provision has been made for a fence, which it is claimed is needed to give proper protection when athletic events are held, the Chairman of the Board of Education has refused to approve the plans pending receipt of a statement from the Commission of Fine Arts as to whether or not the Commission would approve the erection of a fence around the stadium.

I informed Mr. Barrett that the plans for the Woodrow Wilson High School were approved May 26, 1933 (copy of Minutes attached) and that at that meeting a recommendation was made for a "five-foot terrace wall" along Nebraska Avenue. Nothing was said about an iron fence to surround the stadium.

The stadium is in the shape of an oval, having a radius of approximately 200 feet. It is to provide for a quarter mile track and seat



about 3,600. I am informed that Congress has appropriated \$70,000 to complete the stadium.

The five-foot wall along Nebraska Avenue as shown in the accompanying picture is about 400 feet in length. To give proper protection to the stadium Mr. Barrett feels that a six-foot fence should be built on the wall around the rest of the stadium to the central building, requiring approximately 1,500 feet of fence which he claims can be built at \$5.00 a foot. Mr. Barrett said that unless provision is made for a fence now when the stadium is to be built he is certain that in a year or two a makeshift fence will have to be built, such as was done at Central High School, which fence is a chain-link and an eyesore.

I thought it would be best to have a talk with Mr. Wyeth about the matter this afternoon but he had gone to New York, so I talked with Captain Bishop about the matter. I learned that he is opposed to the fence but would bring the plan of the stadium with him to New York to the meeting of our Commission.

(Signed) H. P. Caemmerer,  
Secretary.

The Commission considered this matter as shown on a photograph of the Woodrow Wilson High School and a sketch submitted by Captain Bishop, Assistant Engineer Commissioner, showing the location of the proposed stadium. Captain Bishop said that Colonel Sultan is opposed to a chain link fence similar to that which was built to inclose the Central High School stadium, for it is most unsightly. The people in charge of recreational activities say they must have a fence so as to control the crowds, but Captain Bishop said there is only \$60,000 with which to build the stadium.

The Commission considered the matter and advised that nothing less than a wrought iron fence would be appropriate for the location. A report was sent to Mr. Barrett accordingly. (Exhibit A)

2. P. W. A. PROJECTS FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Captain P. H. Tansey, and Captain H. S. Bishop, Assistant Engineer Commissioners of the District of Columbia, submitted in behalf of Colonel Sultan, Engineer Commissioner, a list of projects under the heading of immediate and proposed P. W. A. projects,



together with sketches illustrating buildings for several of the projects. Complete drawings are to be submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts later. For the present it was stated Colonel Sultan thought it desirable to have the views of the Commission of Fine Arts concerning the P. W. A. Program. Captain Bishop stated that all P. W. A. projects must be under contract by January 1, 1939, and some of them in eight weeks. There is money available for (1) a Municipal Court Building, (2) a Juvenile Court Building (designs for which two projects have heretofore been approved by the Commission of Fine Arts) and for two buildings for (3) Gallinger Hospital. Captain Bishop drew a sketch showing the location of the two additional buildings. There is to be a duplicate of a seven-story ward building (Georgian in style of architecture) and one five-story building. They will be properly related to the topography on sloping ground and facing 19th Street, S. E. There will be a medical center building back of and adjacent to the administration building. The Commission advised keeping the cornice line and water table uniform as also the color of the brickwork.

(4) Municipal Morgue. Captain Bishop stated that the old morgue on Water Street along Washington Channel will have to be removed in connection with the improvement work there and it is proposed to build a new morgue adjacent to Congressional Cemetery in the southeast section of the city. Mr. Shepley stated that the proper place for a morgue is inside of some building. Captain Tansey said such an arrangement would be impossible and it is proposed to erect a small, inconspicuous building. The Commission concurred in the proposed new location.

(5) New Jail. Captain Bishop submitted a perspective of a design by Mr. Wyeth for a new jail, which is to be one of a group of new prison buildings. He submitted a plot plan illustrating a scheme which showed that it is proposed to inclose the existing old jail by new buildings. This the Commission regretted



since it is an interesting old building, however bad it may be inside. The jail is near Gallinger Hospital.

The new building is to be built of red brick, and will be an ordinary building with two cell blocks going through three stories. It is to front on 19th Street, S. E. Captain Bishop said conditions in the present jail are terrible; it is capable of taking care of only 400 but now as many as 900 are sometimes crowded into it. Prisoners, however, do not ordinarily stay there very long, two years being the maximum.

The Commission objected to the vertical motifs on the building and advised a restudy of the design to simplify it by reducing or removing the pilasters. Captain Bishop said that Pierson and Wilson, architects of Washington, are to design the rest of the group. The Commission suggested that a perspective be submitted showing the whole group before further action is taken on the building now under consideration.

(6) Additional Buildings for Glendale (Maryland) Sanitarium. Captain Tansey said it is proposed to construct a duplicate of the nurses home, four stories high, so as to provide for 200 additional beds. Mr. Sullivan is the architect of the project. There is no particular problem involved in the matter. The main building is Georgian in its style of architecture. There will be a ten-family apartment house and also several small buildings.

(7) Additional School Buildings. Captain Bishop reported that \$1,038,000 is to be spent on eight additional school buildings, seven of which are simply additions. In the case of old school buildings there is to be constructed an auditorium or gymnasium in such a way that in time the old classrooms can be torn down and a new one built alongside the auditorium or gymnasium. Mr. Clarke said this has been found necessary in New York City and is a good scheme.





(8) Fire Alarm Station. Captain Bishop said there is a fire alarm system on the top floor of the existing District Building. This will not be placed in the new Municipal Center building because that building will not be centrally located. Therefore it has been decided to relocate it in McMillan Park. Arthur Heaton is to design the building. The Commission agreed to the location proposed in the park near Fourth Street, N.W.

(9) Additional Library Buildings. Captain Bishop said there are three library buildings in the program. They are to be similar to the one at Petworth and Georgetown approved by the Commission.

(10) D. C. Armory. Captain Bishop said Waddy Wood has been appointed to design the new D. C. Armory at the site on East Capitol Street. The sum of \$2,750,000 has been requested for allotment out of P. W. A. funds for erecting the building. It will be built across the street from the site shown in a model for the development of this part of East Capitol Street near the Anacostia. There will be space for artillery, infantry and engineer companies. The colored people are to have their own armory somewhere else.

Captain Tansey said that the designs for all these buildings will be submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts in due time.

3. MUNICIPAL CENTER: The Commission carefully considered a design submitted in behalf of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia by Captain Tansey and Captain Bishop, Assistant Engineer Commissioners, designed by Mr. Wyeth, Municipal Architect, showing the proposed administration building of the Municipal Center so located as to leave an open space 250 feet wide on John Marshall Place thereby giving an unobstructed vista of the central portion of the old Court House designed by George Hadfield,



The Commission had before them a letter from Mr. Hazen, dated August 5, and one from Colonel Sultan, dated August 3 (Exhibits B), which were considered in connection with the project.

Both Captain Tansey and Captain Bishop presented their views very well. They were embodied in a written statement (Exhibit B-1)

Captain Tansey said: "I would like to present the whole problem so you can comprehend the practical and economic considerations the Commissioners are up against. The Municipal Architect now has money appropriated by Congress for this Municipal Building and the Commissioners believe it is the intent both of the Budget Bureau and of Congress that one building be built. When we go after money we have to justify operating and maintenance expenses and there is a little legal difficulty if we change to two buildings, which will run up the cost. This same building was presented to the Public Works Administration and confidentially we have quite a good chance to get enough money to complete the new building.

"The Commissioners know the discussions that have taken place concerning the building and have a few notes, more or less comparisons, showing the difficulties we might get into. (Exhibit B-1)

"Right now they are in a pretty bad position--in a dilemma. They have to act fast or they will be apt to lose the two and one-half to three million dollars expected from P. W. A. If they change the plans and go to two buildings they might have Congressmen and Senators on their necks because after all Congress runs the District of Columbia. If you change the rate of operating expenses you change the scheme. The Commissioners feel that Congress has stipulated certain requirements for the building. Now Mr. Wyeth can explain the new scheme. I want to add that so far as closing the vista on John



Marshall Place is concerned and blocking the view of the old Court House, the Commissioners call attention to the fact that the old Court House can be seen at an angle coming down Pennsylvania Avenue."

Mr. Wyeth said that in making the design for one building the needs of the District Government were considered from the standpoint of administration. This is a vital problem. While this is a utilitarian feature, the Commissioners would like to have it taken into consideration. Mr. Wyeth asked if the members of the Commission of Fine Arts were familiar with the reasons as to why the building was placed north of C Street. Mr. Clarke said that the Commission understand this was because the District Commissioners propose to sell the two squares south of C Street and use only the two squares north of C Street. Mr. Clarke also said: "I think the Commission of Fine Arts appreciates everything that has been said but if you follow that argument of efficiency and convenience you would not have Washington the beautiful city that it is today. The Mall is probably one of the most wasteful use of areas but you would not give up the Mall. Setting a building across John Marshall Place is a very commonplace proposition and I am wondering if the District Commissioners have considered the value of the land in the street which it is proposed to take up for building purposes. It is making use of the street for the building in order to have parking lots at the ends of the squares. This is certainly bad planning and something unheard of. The Commission of Fine Arts must look at the project from an artistic and aesthetic point of view. In my 25 years of experience in landscape work I have never heard that a committee has been condemned for doing a good thing, even though objections were made thereto, whereas I have seen committees severely condemned in later years for having allowed a bad thing to be carried out. In Washington this is all the more



important because we are building a city for the years to come. I have seen people "raise Cain" because someone wouldn't spend enough money to build a stone bridge instead of a brick bridge. I appreciate your point of view, which is from the utilitarian standpoint of operation. The only agency that takes the other point of view is the Commission of Fine Arts and if they had not taken that point of view Washington would be a different city. Now the fact that you are building in the District of Columbia is unfortunate. If you were building in New Rochelle or some other place it would be a different proposition but you are building in the capital city of the United States, a city for which a plan was adopted in 1792 by L'Enfant, who planned Judiciary Square to tie in with the Mall and now to block this connection is deplorable.

"Now while we are talking, let me review the past history of the project. You, Mr. Wyeth, came to us in April 1937. Now I am not criticizing Mr. Wyeth but I don't want the Commissioners to feel that we are responsible for this situation. We are the responsible authority in the Government in matters of aesthetics. We have no veto power--only advisory--and we advised Mr. Wyeth personally that we did not like to see John Marshall Place closed. Now the District Commissioners and the National Capital Park and Planning Commission were cognizant of this. The Park and Planning Commission knew of our letter to Mr. Wyeth because their records show it. Mr. Caemmerer is careful to keep the Park and Planning Commission informed on matters of vital concern to both Commissions. Now what has happened. The Park and Planning Commission, in spite of our protest, approved closing John Marshall Place and the District Commissioners went to Congress with a scheme that involved closing John Marshall Place, knowing full well of the protest of the Commission of Fine Arts. We could





could have had this discussion of today as well a year ago. I think we have a perfectly defensible position. We appreciate your position as agents of the District Commissioners but we have an entirely different point of view--you from the standpoint of economics and efficiency--we from the standpoint of aesthetics.

"You state that it will cost approximately \$400,000 additional to operate in two buildings instead of one. I question that figure. So far as locating offices is concerned you well know that no administrator today can say what his bureau will need ten years hence. There is a constant change in agencies and I am certain that it will not inconvenience the District Government to locate their offices in accordance with the new scheme presented by Mr. Wyeth which would allow the open vista on John Marshall Place. In fact, by means of an underground tunnel and rooms you can consider it one building."

Thereupon the plan presented by Mr. Wyeth was considered more in detail and heartily approved. Mr. Lamb said he felt certain no inconvenience would result to any District of Columbia bureau because the telephone is used when one office is found to be a few hundred feet distant from the other and if it is necessary to send papers the services of a messenger are used. Also Mr. Shepley and Mr. Borie made comments concerning the scheme and said it would be a much finer composition in this form than to build one big and long building on John Marshall Place.

The representatives of the District Government then withdrew. After further brief discussion the revised plan presented by Mr. Wyeth providing for a 250-foot open vista across John Marshall Place, whereby the central portion of the old Hadfield Court House would be left unobstructed from view from Pennsylvania Avenue, was approved. A letter of approval of the scheme setting forth the



reasons of the Commission of Fine Arts for that approval was sent to Mr. Hazen.  
(Exhibit B-2)

4. MARCONI MEMORIAL: Under date of July 22, 1938, a letter was received from the Marconi Memorial Foundation advising that they wished to submit a model to the Commission of Fine Arts at the next meeting. (Exhibit C) Mr. Clarke stated that Mr. Generoso Pope was informed of this meeting on August 10 and in reply the following letter was received:

August 5th, 1938.

The Honorable National Commission of Fine Arts,  
Washington, District of Columbia.

Honorable Sirs:

Received your letter of July 22nd notifying us of your next meeting date.

We are sorry to inform you that we will be unable to submit to you on August 10th the proposed memorial referred to in our letter, in honor of Guglielmo Marconi. However, we have instructed our secretary to appear before you on that date and take the matter up with you personally with reference to the submission of the plans and specifications for the said monument.

Thanking you for your kind consideration in this matter, we are

Very truly yours,  
MARCONI MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.,  
By S. Samuel di Falco, Secretary.

Mr. Falco appeared before the Commission to ask certain questions and receive information. He particularly wanted to know what to do in the matter of location and as to the character of the design of the memorial. He said Mr. Piccirilli is being considered as the sculptor.

Mr. Clarke in behalf of the Commission informed Mr. Falco that it is important to know where the memorial is to be placed before a design is made. He therefore advised Mr. Falco to confer with Mr. Caemmerer in Washington respecting this matter and to visit several possible locations, out of which



he should select three and then confer with the Commission of Fine Arts again. Mr. Falco said he would comply with these instructions.

5. SOCIAL SECURITY AND RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION BUILDING: Mr. Louis Simon, Supervising Architect, in company with Mr. Charles Klauder, Consulting Architect for the Treasury Department, submitted studies for the Social Security and Railroad Administration Building. A letter addressed by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission to Mr. Simon on the subject of their building was read (Exhibit D). It was noted that the National Capital Park and Planning Commission had criticism to make concerning setbacks and the exact location of the building south of Independence Avenue at Third Street.

Mr. Klauder presented two studies marked B and C. Scheme C indicated a fishbone type of building in which the projections were quite prominent, although not as prominent as those of the New Interior Department Building. The Commission considered it a good scheme for a fishbone building but felt that a building of that character would be inappropriate in the location proposed on the south side and adjacent to the Mall. In general, the Commission did not look with favor on fishbone buildings on the Mall or in any part of the Central Composition.

Scheme B, which Mr. Klauder presented, indicated a monumental type of building having projections, which would be unobtrusive, since Mr. Klauder had combined them architecturally by giving them a low base, a uniform cornice line, deep reveals, and 46-foot long pilasters to serve as screens. This scheme *e/b* was similar to the one the Commission of Fine Arts had considered at the meeting on July 28, and the Commission thought very well of it. Mr. Klauder said it is the type of building the Social Security Board wants and while it has projections they are screened with pilasters, thus giving the building a uniform and monumental appearance. He thought that the building has a classic simplicity.



Mr. Simon said he must have at least one million square feet of office space in the building and he was therefore disturbed about the criticism of the Park and Planning Commission concerning setbacks. The Commission felt that it was their function to decide on the architectural appearance of a building within a building line. The Commission believed that if necessary the central portion could be built on the building line with two wings on each side back from the line. The Commission objected to nicking the corners of the setbacks.

The Commission approved Scheme B and a report was sent to Mr. Simon accordingly. (Exhibit D-1)

6. WAR DEPARTMENT BUILDING: Mr. Clarke read the following copy of a letter addressed by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission to Mr. Simon concerning the new War Department Building:

August 6, 1938.

Dear Mr. Simon:

Pursuant to your request, the Commission at its meeting on July 29, considered the question of the height for the first unit of the proposed new War Department Building to be erected between C and E Streets, immediately west of 21st Street, N. W., Washington.

The Commission believes that the height of the building should be governed by the height above ground of corresponding points on the new Interior Building. Taking these points on the east-west axis through the intersection of New York and Virginia Avenues, the height of the first unit of the War Department Building from the proposed new street on its west side would be the same to the first set-back as is the height of the new Interior Building to the first set-back on 19th Street.

As to the height above the first set-back, the Commission's plans have always contemplated that the two smaller buildings fronting on the Plaza at the intersection of New York and Virginia Avenues should be of a lower height than are the main buildings east and west thereof. For this reason it believes that there should be only a one-story set-back on each of the two smaller buildings.

Mr. Partridge, Consulting Architect of the Commission, has been instructed to make a model illustrating the effect of the above action,





and when this is completed we will arrange for a meeting with you to discuss the matter.

The location of the building, is, as you know, in accordance with previous action taken by this Commission.

CC: Mr. Hubbard

JN:NL

Sincerely yours,  
(Signed) Frederic A. Delano,  
Chairman.

Preliminary consideration was given to the project. It was thought that the new Interior Department Building and the new War Department Building would be too far apart for any difference in height of setbacks to be noticeable. It was agreed, however, that the small buildings in the foreground should be lower than these larger buildings.

Mr. Simon was informed that if the restrictions placed by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission are too rigid, the Commission would consider an alternate sketch which would be brought to the attention of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

7. BULFINCH GATEHOUSES: The secretary presented blue prints from the office of National Capital Parks showing a location proposed for the Bulfinch Gatehouses on the south side of the Ellipse on each side of 16th Street at Constitution Avenue, flanked by four gateposts in a semicircle. Mr. Clarke said he felt it appropriate to locate the gateposts and gatehouses in relation to a domestic building, such as the White House. The secretary stated that the National Park Service officials had informed him that \$7,000 would probably be insufficient to locate the gatehouses and also take care of the four posts, although bids for the work would be requested.

The Commission on further consideration agreed to the new location of the gatehouses as shown in the plan but to place two gateposts on each side of 16th Street at right angles to each other as indicated in the sketch. A



letter was sent to the office of National Capital Parks accordingly. (Exhibit E)

8. THOMAS JEFFERSON NICKEL: The secretary showed the Commission several letters of protest against the design of the Thomas Jefferson Nickel and called attention to an article in "Time" of August 1st, page 9. These protests were also brought to the attention of Mr. Lawrie, who said that they do not worry him since it has been his experience they come from people incompetent to judge.

Mr. Clarke informed the Commission that Mr. Lawrie's recommendations concerning the revised model had been submitted to the Director of the Mint, who, however, had said that to avoid further delay in production of the coin the Acting Secretary of the Treasury has not asked the sculptor to make further changes in the models. The Commission expressed regret over this. Mr. Clarke said that the letters would be acknowledged and would embody a copy of Mr. Lawrie's recommendations; and that the protests would also be brought to the attention of the Director of the Mint.

9. NEW NAVAL HOSPITAL: Mr. Clarke called attention to a copy of a letter which the National Capital Park and Planning Commission has sent to Admiral Rossiter, disapproving the scheme presented for their new hospital building, at the joint meeting on July 28 and objecting particularly to the high central tower. (Exhibit F) The secretary stated that he had sent copies of the letter to the architect members of the Commission. Mr. Borie, Mr. Shepley and Mr. Lamb stated that they had read the letter and fully concurred in it. Mr. Clarke said all that would be necessary would be to inform Admiral Rossiter that the Commission of Fine Arts concur in the letter of the Park and Planning Commission. (Exhibit F-1) (See also F-2)

10. MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE UNDERPASS: The secretary reported that he had been informed by Captain Whitehurst that Mr. Delano has agreed to the draft of letter



to be sent to the President on the subject of the proposed Massachusetts Avenue Underpass and that he expected a copy of the letter in a day or two signed by Mr. Hazen, Mr. Clarke and Mr. F. A. Delano (as was agreed to at the joint meeting on July 28). A copy of the letter has been received and made a part of these minutes. (Exhibit G)

11. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Clarke reported that he proposes to visit Sweden for a month beginning August 18, and that it would be desirable to have an acting chairman during his absence. Upon motion properly moved and seconded Mr. Shepley was elected Vice Chairman of the Commission.

12. KEY BRIDGE ARCH: The Commission inspected a design submitted by the Bureau of Public Roads for an additional arch on the Key Bridge to make provision for the George Washington Memorial Parkway through it on the Virginia side of the river. The Commission considered the design satisfactory and approved it. (Exhibit H)

The Commission adjourned at 1:30 p. m.

The Commission decided to hold the next regular meeting in Washington on Friday, October 7, 1938.



C O P Y

August 12, 1938.

Dear Mr. Barrett:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on August 10, considered the question of a fence to surround the new stadium at the Woodrow Wilson High School.

The Commission disapprove the erection of a chain link fence such as was constructed at the Central High School and advise that nothing less than a wrought iron fence would be appropriate for the location.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Mr. Lewis R. Barrett,  
Coordinator of  
Recreational Activities,  
Department of the Interior,  
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT A





COPY

ENGINEER COMMISSIONER  
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Washington

August 3, 1938.

Major Gilmore D. Clarke,  
Chairman, Commission of Fine Arts,  
Interior Department Building,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Major Clarke:

Referring to your letter of July 20th about the Municipal Building, I enclose a copy of a memorandum to Mr. Wyeth which is self-explanatory.

Regardless of the past history of this matter and much as I regret the present situation I want you to appreciate the practical problems facing the District Commissioners. When architectural and related subjects such as proper grouping of buildings, vistas, etc., etc., have been under discussion at our joint meetings I have had little to say and have let others better qualified than I discuss them. When, however, practical considerations are involved, especially when the District is as vitally concerned as it is in the instant case, I must urge very careful consideration of these practical considerations. Not only am I concerned with costs, both first cost and continuing annual costs, but delay jeopardizes the entire P. W. A. program for the Municipal Building. At its last session, Congress appropriated \$1,500,000 for a wing of this building. We expect to secure a P. W. A. loan of \$3,135,000 and an outright grant of \$2,565,000 to continue construction. The time factor is all important and any delay that will make it impossible to get the job under actual construction by January 1, 1939, will be fatal. I cannot be other than concerned when the District stands to lose a gift of over two and a half million dollars. Furthermore, Congress appropriated \$1,500,000 to build a wing of a single building to house all District activities. I do not know what the attitude of Congress will be if we spend the money on a wing of an entirely different building.

I hope you will keep the predicament of the Commissioners in mind when the Fine Arts Commission has the matter under further consideration.

Very sincerely yours,  
(Signed) Dan I Sultan,  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army,  
Engineer Commissioner.

EXHIBIT B



C O P Y

August 3, 1938.

MEMORANDUM FOR CAPTAIN BISHOP AND MR. WYETH:

The matter of the location, general layout, and appearance of the new Municipal Building is, as you know, in a bad tangle. The controversy centers around whether John Marshall Place shall be closed between C and D Streets with one building erected on Squares 490 and 533 and extending across John Marshall Place or whether a separate building will be erected on each of these squares. I won't attempt to go into further details in this memorandum as both of you were present at the joint meeting of the Park and Planning Commission and the Fine Arts Commission when the matter was under discussion.

It has been decided that Mr. Wyeth will prepare for submission to the Fine Arts Commission on August 10th at New York City a study or studies showing steps in John Marshall Place between C and D Streets and separate buildings on Squares 490 and 533 with ample tunnel connections between the two buildings underneath the ground level. The distance between buildings at D Street to be not less than 90 feet with a greater distance at the C Street side.

In presenting the architectural renderings, I want you to submit to the Fine Arts Commission at the same time a memorandum summarizing the architectural advantages and disadvantages of the two schemes. I also want you to submit a comparison of the practical or utilitarian factors involved, such as cost of construction -- cost of guarding, maintaining and operating -- space requirements available under each of the two schemes with the estimated cost compared -- ground space left available for future expansion -- intercommunication between departments and agencies housed in the structure or structures -- utilities -- parking space -- ability to meet the time requirements of P.W.A. -- expense incurred to-date that will be lost if plans are changed, and any other factors that bear on the subject and will influence the final decision.

DAN I. SULTAN,  
Engineer Commissioner.



C O P Y

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Executive Office

Washington

August 5, 1938.

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

My dear Mr. Clarke:

In connection with the location of the Municipal Building, I would like to call your attention to some of the background and history relative to the proposed location.

When I was first made Commissioner some four years ago, I fully realized that the District Government could not finance the extravagant plan as partially prepared by the then Municipal Architect, Mr. Harris. With this enormous cost being considered at that time I took the liberty of calling in about twenty of the outstanding and representative citizens of Washington to a conference with the Commissioners. I explained to them the proposed plan as contemplated by Mr. Harris, and explained the cost to the District. We then discussed the possibility of reducing that cost, and, as I recall, it was unanimously agreed that the District would use the two northly squares fronting the Court House with a building across 4th Street. The plan of that building in rough was submitted at that time. I believe the views of the citizens who pay the taxes for municipal improvements and expenses should be considered in matters of this kind. At that time it was suggested that the District sell the two south squares fronting on Pennsylvania and Constitution Avenues. A Bill was prepared and submitted to the Budget Bureau for that purpose. The Bill has not been passed on by the Budget Bureau. All plans and appropriations have been centered upon that plan as decided upon at the conference referred to. Colonel Sultan, in a letter to you yesterday, takes the matter up from this point. I am simply submitting this to you for your careful consideration.

With my highest regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,  
(Signed) M. C. Hazen,  
Commissioner, D. C.

MCH/n



RELATIVE TO CHANGE IN PLANS RESULTING FROM  
THE OPENING OF JOHN MARSHALL PLACE FROM 'C'  
STREET TO INDIANA AVENUE

ARCHITECTURAL ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

The architectural advantages of this change have been discussed with the Fine Arts Commission and they feel that a distinct advantage will be accomplished in the opening up of a vista from 'C' Street showing the old Court House. They also feel that a vista looking from Indiana Avenue in front of the Court House to the Mall is equally important. On the other hand, the advantages of closing John Marshall Place at 'C' Street have been illustrated both in a model and in a number of perspective drawings. It has been felt that the scale of the old Court House Building is quite different from that of the group of buildings along Pennsylvania Avenue, known as the Triangle Group. Being of a much smaller and intimate character it was considered possible, owing to the difference in level between 'C' Street and Indiana Avenue, of some 20 feet, to be able to get in the South facade of the elevations a scale in harmony with the scale of the Triangle Group and on the North elevations to be able to obtain a harmony of scale and character in the architecture existing in the old Court House Building.

COMPARISON OF UTILITARIAN FACTORS

In the matter of a comparison of utilitarian factors, such as heat, light and cost of maintenance, elevators, etc., there is attached hereto a memo from the Assistant Superintendent of the District Building. It is observed that the communication between the two units will require more time and more elevator service and be less convenient and efficient.

SPACE REQUIREMENTS

The space requirements are the same.

GROUND SPACE LEFT AVAILABLE FOR FUTURE EXPANSION

Ground space left available for future expansion - none.

GROUND SPACE LEFT AVAILABLE FOR FUTURE EXPANSION IN ORIGINAL PLANS

Ground space left available for future expansion in original plans - 36,000 Sq.Ft.

PARKING SPACE

There would be so little parking space left at either end of the two buildings that it is considered to be inadvisable to use it as such, as this space will be needed for a proper setting and landscaping.

ABILITY TO MEET TIME REQUIREMENTS OF P.W.A.

It is believed that a contract for excavating and possibly foundations could be entered into on or before January 1, 1939.





### EXPENSES INCURRED TO DATE

Expenses incurred to date which would be lost if plans were changed are as follows:- Approximately \$5,000. has been spent to date on sketches, clerical work, and working drawings of the Police Department Wing of the Administration Building.

### UTILITIES

The installation of the mechanical equipment in space between the two buildings would be approximately \$25,000.

### ADDITIONAL COSTS

The additional cost of building in space for mechanical equipment between the two buildings would be approximately \$120,000.

The additional cost of granite base, balustrade and terrace work between the two buildings would be approximately \$100,000. and the additional cost of the two facades, East and West facing the Court, would be approximately \$75,000.

### SUMMARY OF ADDITIONAL COSTS

Extra mechanical equipment, 2 tunnels	\$120,000.
Addl. mechanical equipment, ducts, etc.	25,000.
4 additional elevators	80,000.
Landscape treatment of court	100,000.
Two extra facades	75,000.
Loss of work on plans to date	5,000.
TOTAL	<u>\$405,000.</u>

This is as close as it can be figured at the time without more complete working drawings.

For any other information or explanation of the difference in the development of the two plans, reference is made to a memorandum from this office under date of June 14, 1938.



## GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## ENGINEER DEPARTMENT

Address reply to  
Superintendent  
District Bldg.

August 4, 1938.

To Captain Bishop:

In response to your request for an approximate cost of maintenance and operation of Municipal Center built into two units or one. Following is an approximate estimate:

ONE UNIT		TWO UNITS	
Heat (Steam purchase)	\$ 22,000.		\$ 22,000.
Labor to operate	9,000.		9,000.
Electricity	54,000.		54,000.
Operation of elevators (16)	18,000.	(20)	21,500.
Cleaning (62) & foreman	30,000.	(62) & 2 foremen	31,000.
Guarding Buildings (8) & watchman	9,600.	(12) & 2 watchmen	14,400.
Temporary labor	9,200.		9,200.
	<u>\$151,800.</u>		<u>\$161,100.</u> <u>151,800.</u>
			<u>\$ 9,300.</u>

This gives an approximate cost in favor of one unit of a saving of approximately \$9,300. per annum. In addition, there would be a saving in time which could hardly be measured in dollars and cents.

(Signed) E. P. BROOKE  
Assistant Superintendent  
District Building.



MUNICIPAL CENTER

ONE BUILDING

TWO BUILDINGS

Congressional Authority	:	O.K.	:	Not legally authorized
Planning	:	Good	:	Poor
Administration	:	Good	:	Poor
Park & Planning Commission	:	Approved	:	Disapproved
First Cost	:		:	\$400,000. more
Annual Cost	:		:	25,000. more
Ground space for Expansion	:	36,000 sq. ft.	:	none
Plans	:	Started. \$5,000 spent	:	Not started
P.W.A. requirements	:	Easy to fulfill	:	Difficult. Jeopardizes the P.W.A. program
Money loss if P.W.A. jeopardized	:	No jeopardy	:	\$2,565,000.
Parking space	:	640 cars	:	No cars
Vistas for Court Building	:	Diagonal avenues	:	John Marshall Place
Budget approval	:	Yes	:	No
Commissioner's approval	:	Yes	:	No
Public approval	:	Yes	:	Not known
Engineer solution	:	Good	:	Bad
P.W.A. Application	:	Yes	:	No; because if approved by P.W.A., same will be submitted to Budget, who favor one building.
	:		:	
	:		:	



C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS  
Washington

August 12, 1938.

Dear Mr. Hazen:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting in New York City on August 10th, gave careful consideration to a design submitted in behalf of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia by Captain Tansey and Captain Bishop, Assistant Engineer Commissioners, and by Mr. Wyeth, Municipal Architect, showing the proposed Administration Building of the Municipal Center so located as to leave an open space 250 feet wide on John Marshall Place, thereby giving an unobstructed vista of the central portion of the old Hadfield Court House from Pennsylvania Avenue.

In the consideration of the subject, the Commission had before them your letter of August 5th and one from Colonel Sultan, dated August 3rd. Both Captain Tansey and Captain Bishop presented your views admirably, and the Commission took cognizance of the situation that you would like to proceed with the construction of the building since an appropriation for it has been made available. However, the Commission of Fine Arts feel that no material delay will result to change the plans in accordance with the revised scheme above mentioned. Mr. Wyeth has presented a very good solution and the Commission strongly recommend that it be adopted.

If practical and economic considerations, as stated by the Assistant Engineer Commissioners, had been the governing factors, Washington would not be the beautiful National Capital that it is today. The fact has doubtless been overlooked that Judiciary Square was intended by L'Enfant in his plan of 1792 for the judicial branch of the Government, just as he designated the sites for the Capitol and the White House for the legislative and executive branches of the Government. For more than a hundred years both Judiciary Square and the fine old Hadfield Court House have had a direct relationship to the Central Composition of the National Capital, and the "Triangle" group of buildings was designed to be in keeping with it.

The Commission of Fine Arts must look at the project from an artistic and aesthetic point of view. If in the past twenty-five years the Commission had been governed by utilitarian considerations, Washington would be a different city. The Mall might be considered a great waste of ground, but no one vitally concerned in the proper development of the National Capital would now give it up. And it should be recalled that back in 1901 railroad tracks were removed from the Mall to make it possible to carry out the Mall Plan.

EXHIBIT B-2





The Commission of Fine Arts regret that the positive stand which the Commission took as set forth in the letter addressed to Mr. Wyeth on April 9, 1937, with regard to keeping John Marshall Place open, did not prevail in the development of the Plans for the Municipal Center since then. However, each of the three architect members of the Commission of Fine Arts, men of large experience in their profession covering a period of many years, are convinced that the change indicated in Mr. Wyeth's scheme for a 250-foot open vista on John Marshall Place not only presents a more pleasing composition but preserves the integrity of the L'Enfant Plan as heretofore mentioned. To erect a large building across John Marshall Place is uninteresting and not in keeping with the adjacent courts buildings in Judiciary Square. Furthermore, it is certain that any layout that may be agreed upon for the assignment of office space in the building will be found unsatisfactory in a decade or two, due to growth and changes in administrative affairs of the District of Columbia Government. This is the usual experience of large cities in municipal affairs. If it is deemed important to preserve the unit feature of the building, instead of two separate buildings, it is suggested that this be done through an underground passageway.

The Commission of Fine Arts, therefore, unanimously again urge the adoption of this new scheme presented by Mr. Wyeth, which the Commission heartily approve. It has an important part in the plan of the National Capital and as a composition will contribute remarkably to the aesthetic development of the city. We must not let future generations blame us for deliberately making mistakes, and in the opinion of this Commission it is never too late to change an architectural plan if a lasting good will be accomplished.

The members of the Commission of Fine Arts wish to thank you for the consideration you have given to the project at this critical stage and hope that the new scheme will commend itself to you and will be carried out.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

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

Hon. M. C. Hazen, President,  
Board of Commissioners of the  
District of Columbia,  
Washington, D. C.



The Marconi Memorial Foundation, Inc.  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~  
NEW YORK

RECEIVED  
THE COMMISSIONER OF FINE ARTS  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
JUL 28 1938

NOTED

EROSO POPE, PRESIDENT  
DI CRISCUOLO, VICE-PRESIDENT  
N. J. FRESCHI, VICE-PRESIDENT  
ERINDO PORTFOLIO, TREASURER  
SAMUEL DI FALCO, SECRETARY

July 22nd, 1938.

The Honorable National Commission of Fine Arts,  
Washington, District of Columbia.

Honorable Sirs:

We are referring to Public Resolution No.86 of the 75th Congress, Chapter 147 - 3rd Session, signed by the President on April 13th, 1938, with respect to the erection of a memorial in honor of the late Guglielmo Marconi on public grounds in the District of Columbia.

The Board of Trustees of the Marconi Memorial Foundation, at a meeting held July 19th, 1938, passed a resolution to submit to Your Honorable Commission for consideration and action, a set of photographs showing different views of a model of the proposed monument which model was designed by Arturo Dazzi, a well known sculptor residing in Italy. Up to this writing, we have received no specifications from the sculptor Dazzi. We do not know whether the Commission will make a decision based on these photographs, however, we are informed that there is available for your inspection in New York City the plaster model of the monument. Arrangements can be made, if you so desire, to have your Commission inspect the model at a time that will be convenient to all concerned.

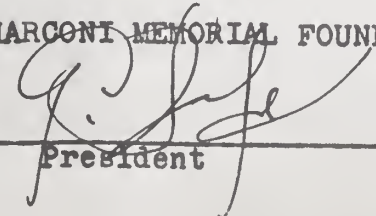
In making this communication, we wish to say that the model referred to is one of two that have been submitted to our Trustees, but we have not submitted photographs of the other model because the estimated cost of the same is far beyond the sum which will be available for the erection of the monument. The Trustees wish to indicate that they have not passed on the merits of this other model.

We hope to be favored with your advice in connection with the matter submitted and we would welcome the opportunity of furnishing you with any further information you may require.

Respectfully yours,

THE MARCONI MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.

By:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President



NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Interior Building,  
Washington, D. C.,  
August 5, 1938.

Mr. Louis A. Simon,  
Supervising Architect,  
Treasury Department,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Simon:

Subject: Height and Building Lines; Social Security  
Board and Railroad Retirement Board Buildings.

At the meeting last week of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission consideration was given to your letter of July 29 requesting the views of this Commission as to the height and building lines for the Social Security Board and Railroad Retirement Board buildings in Southwest Washington.

The Commission had before it your plan dated July 19 entitled "Study for Proposed Southwest Triangle, showing development of buildings Nos. 1 and 8" (based on the Commission's study dated April 12, 1937) which had been considered previously by the Coordinating Committee and discussed with representatives of the Commission.

The Commission approved the north building line for Building No. 8 on Square 534, 90 feet south of the proposed center-line of the new pavement of Independence Avenue which is to be centered on the roadway as now existing between 12th and 14th Streets. It is proposed that the initial development of Independence Avenue will be with a 60-foot roadway, but in front of Building No. 8 an additional 10-foot width on the south side will be provided. On the 3rd and 4th Street frontages, while the Commission regrets that a set-back of 12.5 feet for the Social Security Board building cannot be obtained, it approves the 8-foot set-back for a 6-wing building as shown on your study, in view of the appropriation by Congress of funds predicated on the space to be provided in this building.

As to the set-backs on C Street, it is noted that the buildings provide for a 250-foot open space between buildings as previously proposed. The Commission recommends strongly however that the sidewalks on the south side of the Social Security Board building be reduced to a 14-foot width, measured from the curb, and that the parking space be made 57 feet wide, the additional space thus obtained to provide a planting area adjacent to the building. Furthermore, the Commission recommends that the areaways be moved back if possible to give additional planting space, and in this connection requests



that a study be made as to the possibility of eliminating areaways for basement floors of air-conditioned buildings in order to provide the maximum amount of planting space surrounding these buildings.

The Commission also approved height limits for buildings Nos. 8 and 1, Squares 534 and 535, as shown on your study dated July 19; namely to an elevation of 108 feet above datum for the penthouse in the central spine of the building and to an elevation of 103 feet and 88 feet for the other controlling points shown on the plan.

It is understood that as plans are further developed these will be presented to the Coordinating Committee and the Commission for such further action as may be necessary, particularly under the provisions of the recent act of Congress enacting a new Zoning law for the District.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Frederic A. Delano,  
Chairman.





C O P Y

August 12, 1938.

Dear Mr. Simon:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting in New York City on August 10th gave careful consideration to preliminary studies submitted by you and Mr. Klauder for the Social Security Board and Railroad Retirement Board building. The Commission had before them a copy of the letter addressed to you by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission on August 5th concerning this project.

With regard to scheme C, suggesting what is termed a "fishbone" building, the Commission consider it a good design for that type of structure. However, in view of the importance of the location chosen south of Independence Avenue at Third Street, adjacent to the Mall, the Commission disapprove the erection of a "fishbone" building facing the Mall and advise that a structure more monumental in character be built on that site.

Scheme B suggests a building monumental in character, which at the same time is unique in that Mr. Klauder makes use of projecting wings without giving them the appearance of the undesirable fishbone type. As shown in the study, he has accomplished this by massing a number of the projecting wings and by giving the facade a uniform cornice line, with a low base and long pilasters that serve as a screen for the facade. The deep window reveals are important factors in the design and should be retained.

The Commission of Fine Arts therefore approve Scheme B.

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

Hon. Louis Simon,  
Supervising Architect,  
Treasury Department.

EXHIBIT D-1



C O P Y

August 12, 1938.

Dear Mr. Gartside:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on August 10, 1938, considered the revised location plan for the Bulfinch gatehouses and gateposts. The Commission approved the new location of the gatehouses on the axis of Sixteenth Street between the south side of the Ellipse and Constitution Avenue as shown on the plan.

The Commission recommend that two gateposts be erected at right angles to each other on each side of Sixteenth Street as indicated in the plan. Also the fence should be constructed as shown.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Mr. F. T. Gartside,  
Acting Superintendent,  
National Capital Parks,  
Department of the Interior,  
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT E



NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Interior Building,  
Washington, D. C.  
August 4, 1938.

MEMORANDUM TO MR. H. P. CAEMMERER:

As per your request, this morning, I am attaching copy of the Commission's report to Admiral Rossiter regarding the Naval Hospital.

Please consider this report confidential. I understand you desire to have it in connection with the report which Major Clarke is preparing for the Fine Arts Commission.

(Signed) John Nolen, Jr.

Director of Planning.

EXHIBIT F



C O P Y

August 12, 1938.

Dear Admiral Rossiter:

The Commission of Fine Arts have given careful consideration to the design for the new Naval Hospital which you submitted at the meeting on July 28. A copy of the letter sent by the Chairman of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission to you under date of July 28, has also been received and the Commission fully concur in it.

Your design was given particular attention by the architect members of the Commission of Fine Arts, who feel that a considerable improvement could be made in the arrangement of this new medical center. The 230-foot tower is particularly objectionable and inappropriate in the environs of the National Capital. In the discussion attention was called to the comparatively low buildings which are being built across the way from the tract for the Cancer Research Institute.

The block type of building suggested in the design is such as one sees in large commercial cities. The public buildings for the National Capital are all comparatively low and it is the aim of the Commission of Fine Arts to have nothing overshadow the dome of the United States Capitol. Thus a uniform skyline is maintained. The Commission feel that the same rule should apply to public buildings in the Greater Washington area.

The Commission were pleased to hear that Dr. Paul Cret has been appointed Consulting/Architect for this project and it is recommended that the designs be submitted to him for restudy.

The Commission of Fine Arts will cooperate with you in the development of the project.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

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

Rear Admiral Perceval S. Rossiter,  
Surgeon General,  
United States Navy,  
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT F-1





A:CRM

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
Bureau of Medicine & Surgery  
Washington, D. C.

NH6/A1-1(113-29)

August 15, 1938.

Dear Mr. Clarke:

This is to acknowledge your communication of August 12, 1938, referable to the new Naval Medical Center, which you directed to the Surgeon General.

Admiral Rossiter is out of the city at this time, but will return in approximately one month. Your letter will be brought to his attention immediately upon his return to Washington. In the meantime the reaction of your Commission is noted and it will be given every consideration by those making a study of the problem in all of its phases.

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) Dallas G. Sutton,  
Captain, MC., U. S. N.,  
Acting Chief of Bureau

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

EXHIBIT F-2



NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Admiral P. S. Rossiter,  
Navy Department,  
Washington, D. C.

July 29, 1938.

My dear Admiral Rossiter:

After very careful consideration, the National Capital Park and Planning Commission has unanimously come to the conclusion that we cannot approve the design for the Naval Hospital with a 20-story tower. Our reasons for this decision are briefly as follows:

1. It seriously violates the height limits for buildings prescribed for the District of Columbia and its immediate environs, the main purpose of which was to avoid the general construction of very high buildings which would soon put the nation's Capitol in the background. It also violates the height limits set up and maintained in Maryland.

2. We have been able to secure splendid cooperation from the State of Maryland and are now, after years of struggle, beginning to get cooperation from the State of Virginia in submitting proposed developments to reasonable restrictions for the public good. If we were to approve so great an exception to these restrictions as is suggested in this case, it would open the door to the construction of other high buildings, notably hotels and apartment houses in the nearby country-side, perhaps on prominent sites and probably not on large open spaces of land. We believe, therefore, that this hospital with its proposed height, which would not be permitted within the District of Columbia, would create a precedent breaking down the standards and principles of orderly planning for which our Commission has striven during its entire existence of thirteen years.

3. From the standpoint of efficient land use, we can see no justification for tall buildings in the environs of the National Capital.

4. The Commission believes a structure of great height in this area or any area near Washington is unfair to other properties.

5. It is recognized that in a hospital, or a hotel which involves somewhat similar problems, there is much to be gained by a compact plan with the shortest distances, both horizontal and vertical, for all services; hence, we believe that a far more economic plan could be secured with a limit of six stories, built either on the cruciform



plan () , which has been frequently tried, or the H plan, or these two combined ().

6. Your plan for the main building is in many characteristics not unlike the Nebraska State Capitol at Lincoln, or the Empire State Building in New York City. It would undoubtedly attract wide attention, but it is unsuitable and lacks the charm for the rural neighborhood zoned as it is for detached homes, and with a 72-foot height limit for public and semi-public buildings.

7. Four members of the Fine Arts Commission happened to be sitting with us on other matters when you presented this project and we believe they all personally approved our position. This letter, however, is the expression of our Commission and we presume you will confer with the Fine Arts Commission as to their advice at the proper time.

8. In conclusion, we would say that we like the site you have chosen. With 200 acres of land you can give buildings of appropriate height a suitable setting with shade trees, which, in this climate, will add very much not only to the attractive appearance of the Hospital but to the comfort of your staff and patients.

Sincerely yours,

Frederic A. Delano,  
Chairman.

JCN:HVH:JN:HK



August 11, 1936.

The President,  
The White House,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

The National Capital Park and Planning Commission, the Commission of Fine Arts and the Commissioners of the District of Columbia met in joint session on Thursday, July 28th, pursuant to your request of July 7th, to consider the merit of the plans proposed for the construction of a grade separation at Thomas Circle.

At this joint meeting the three bodies reconsidered the whole problem presented at Thomas Circle and reviewed their previous actions on the matter. After full discussion of the subject and a careful consideration they reaffirmed their previous decisions and passed the following motion:

"NOTICE unanimously voted that the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, the Commission of Fine Arts and the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia, in joint meeting assembled, endorses the project for the grade separation structure at Thomas Circle, approves the general plans, and authorizes the Chairmen of the three commissions to convey to the President their action and the reasons therefor."

We are cognizant of the fact that it will be necessary to remove the existing trees on Massachusetts Avenue in the vicinity of the underpass, however, their replacement will be undertaken with trees of as large a size as practical upon the completion of the project. The surface rearrangement of roadways in the vicinity of the circle proper will not in our judgment mar the beauty of this feature of the present layout. We are further of the opinion that upon completion of the structure the beauty of this area can be properly restored and that the changes will be of a material aid in relieving traffic congestion and promoting safety.

There is enclosed a statement briefly outlining the history and study of the Thomas Circle project, together with pertinent facts in regard to traffic, that governed the conclusions reached.

In accordance with the action of the three bodies expressed in the Motion above quoted, we are of the opinion that the project

EXHIBIT G





should proceed pursuant to the Act of Congress authorizing the construction.

Faithfully yours,

(Signed) Frederic A. Delano

---

Frederic A. Delano,

Chairman, National Capital Park  
and Planning Commission.

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke

---

Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman, The Commission of Fine Arts.

(Signed) Melvin C. Hazen

---

Melvin C. Hazen,

President, Board of Commissioners  
of the District of Columbia.



C O P Y

August 12, 1938.

Dear Mr. MacDonald:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on August 10, 1938, approved the design submitted by your office for the additional span for the Francis Scott Key Bridge on the Virginia side of the river.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Mr. Thomas H. MacDonald, Chief,  
Bureau of Public Roads,  
Department of Agriculture,  
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT H

Faint, illegible text at the top of the page, possibly a header or introductory paragraph.

Second block of faint, illegible text in the middle of the page.

Third block of faint, illegible text towards the bottom of the page.

A single line of faint, illegible text at the very bottom of the page.