

MINUTES OF MEETING OF COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS  
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., APRIL 29, 1926.

The seventh meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1926 was held in its office in the Interior Department Building, on Thursday, April 29, 1926.

The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman,  
Mr. Greenleaf,  
Mr. Mowbray,  
Mr. Medary,  
Mr. Delano,  
Mr. Garfield,

also Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary and

Executive Officer.

The secretary reported that Mr. Taft had sailed for Europe to be gone several months.

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The minutes of the meeting held March 25, 1926, were approved.
2. SESQUICENTENNIAL \$2.50 GOLD PIECE: The Director of the Mint submitted models for the obverse and reverse of the Sesquicentennial \$2.50 gold piece, made according to the designs passed upon at the meeting of the Commission on March 25th. The models were approved. Mr. Garfield suggested a slight change in the lettering so as not to interfere with the figure on the obverse. The Commission advised that the rosettes on the models be removed (Exhibit A).
3. EXHIBITION AT THE SESQUICENTENNIAL: The secretary reported that \$500 had been allotted to the Commission of Fine Arts by the National Sesquicentennial Exposition Commission for the exposition, which is to be held in Philadelphia from June 1 to December 31 of this year. The space comprises approximately 400 square feet, and it is proposed to arrange this in the form



of a booth with partitions 10 feet high. The Commission favored the exhibition of plans and photographs which would emphasize the historical development of Washington and those projects of the L'Enfant Plan and the McMillan Plan which remain to be completed.

The Commission endorsed a suggestion that has been made to place the model of the Roosevelt Memorial in the space assigned. The model is 18 ft. square.

4. BATHING BEACH PLANS: An Act of Congress (which was approved by the President on May 4, 1926) provides for the construction of two artificial bathing pools in the District of Columbia, as follows:

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representative of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to locate and construct, subject to the approval of the National Capital Park Commission, and to conduct and maintain two artificial bathing pools or beaches in the District of Columbia, one pool for the white race and the other for the colored race, with suitable buildings, shower baths, lockers, provisions for the use of filtered water, purification of the water, and all things necessary for the proper conduct of such pools or beaches. The Commission of Fine Arts shall be consulted as to the location and construction of said pools or beaches. The cost of these pools or beaches, with buildings and equipment, shall not exceed \$345,000, and the appropriation of such sum for the purposes named is hereby authorized. No part of the sums appropriated for the purpose of this Act shall be expended in the purchase of land and the pools or beaches herein provided for shall be located upon lands acquired or hereafter acquired for park, parkway, or playground purposes."

Major Grant, Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks, and Mr. Louis Simon, Office of the Supervising Architect, submitted plans prepared by that office for a pool proposed to be located in East Potomac Park for the white race. The Commission approved Major Grant's recommendation to construct this bathing pool at the upper end of East Potomac Park, which, according to the approved plan of the park, dated March 1, 1916, provides for recreational features. The pool and bath house are to take the place of the stadium suggested in that plan, being thought impracticable because of deep piling required for



its construction at that site. The pool and bath house are to be constructed opposite the Tourists' Camp and the permanent buildings proposed are to be similar in their exterior design. A road is to be constructed along the embankment of the Southern Railroad, thus forming a continuous driveway around East Potomac Park. The pool in this location would be conveniently located to street car lines.

The preliminary design submitted by Mr. Simon was inspected and made the subject of discussion. It suggested an oval pool and is to accommodate 2,000 persons. The Commission recommended a square pool, with possibly rounded corners, which could be enlarged more easily. Places for showers, foot wash, lockers for men and for women, filtered water equipment, etc., were considered. The final design is to be along the most modern and scientific lines.

Mr. J. G. Langdon, Landscape Architect of the National Capital Park Commission, who accompanied Major Grant, submitted photographs of the Sea Breeze Point Natatorium at Rochester, New York, which is one of the best in the country and accommodates 2,000 bathers; and called attention to the Redondo Beach, California, equipment, which accommodates 1,000 bathers; also to the Mission Beach, California, equipment, which is considered to be the largest in the United States.

Mr. Medary recommended that this entire section of East Potomac Park be considered as one scheme of development, with space for enlargement, and providing necessary parking space. It was thought that the Tourists' Camp is a temporary feature in East Potomac Park, but would necessarily have to be considered in this plan at present.

As to the bathing pool for the colored race, Major Grant recommended that this be located in Section C of the Anacostia Park development (between the



Anacostia Bridge and Bolling Field). Major Grant advised that he had considered a suggested location in front of the Freedmen's Hospital, near Howard University, but had heard since that a private enterprise contemplates constructing a pool in that locality, and that the University itself has a pool in its new Gymnasium. The location in Anacostia Park, therefore, seemed to him more appropriate, because according to plans made this park is to be developed similar to East Potomac Park, with its baseball diamonds, foot ball fields, tennis courts, etc.

The suggestion was made that this pool could possibly be located in one of the larger spaces along the James Creek Canal area south of the Capitol, and the Commission later in the day made an inspection trip with Major Grant through this area. Major Grant expressed his preference for Section C of the Anacostia Park for the location of the pool for the colored race, and the Commission thereupon concurred in his recommendation.

A report was forwarded to Major Grant (Exhibit B).

5. UNIFORM FLAG DISPLAY, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Mr. Norman B. Landreau, Chairman of the Joint Committee, American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Mr. C. H. Reilly, Department Vice Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars, were present to confer with the Commission on the subject of the proposed Uniform Flag Display in the District of Columbia. Mr. Landreau said his committee had done nothing with the recommendations made by the Commission of Fine Arts to provide a flag and flagpole of suitable design for the District of Columbia, though a permit has been granted by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia for their erection, with the understanding, however, that the design must have the approval of this Commission. He thought that, as the design which his committee had submitted heretofore has been adopted in a number of cities in





this country, after experiments, they favored its adoption in Washington. In St. Louis, he said, experiments were made with wooden poles, but it was found that they swelled in the sockets and broke easily, and in Detroit very light poles were used; the 12 foot metal poles and the 3 x 5 foot flag were then adopted. Mr. Landreau said also the use of a larger pole and flag would meet with protest from the Traffic Director and would interfere with street lights. His committee regards the pole submitted sufficiently strong and they cannot conduct extensive experiments, he said, because of expense involved; and throughout the country their object in providing a Uniform Flag Display in the District of Columbia / is to educate the people in the proper use of the flag. In connection with this work a flag code will be sent throughout the country. They will make a small profit of \$1.00 on each pole, which is to be used for the American organization work.

The Commission reasserted the criticism made of the flagpole which was inspected at their meeting on February 18th that this pole sways too much and ought to be stiffened; also it should be made somewhat larger, and that the size of the flag should be increased in proportion. Mr. Medary stressed the fact that the Commission of Fine Arts has approved the installation of these flagpoles in principle, that it is an admirable use of the flag, but that a better flagpole should be used than the one exhibited on F Street.

The question of how they might go about and get a good flagpole was then considered. The Commission felt that any of the flag manufacturers interested in their project would be willing to make a few sample poles. Mr. Delano suggested that the pole be about two inches in diameter at the base, and the Commission regarded this suggestion favorably; it was regarded important that the flagpole be sound structurely.



The secretary called attention to a 4 x 6 foot flag and a  $13\frac{1}{2}$  foot flag pole which was offered informally for the information of the Commission by a representative of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. This flagpole was more nearly like the one suggested by the recommendations of the Commission. While such a pole might cost the American Legion a little more than the one they were offering, the Commission did not think business men would object to this. However, the Commission regarded this flagpole, while larger in size, too much like the 12 foot pole under consideration. The flagpoles would be set 20 feet apart, requiring possibly two for each business establishment.

Mr. Moore did not think it proper to permit the erection of these flagpoles on Sixteenth Street, as indicated in the permit. Mr. Landreau advised that the District Commissioners regarded Sixteenth Street and several of the Avenues as appropriate locations for them. The Commission understood that these flagpoles were intended primarily for business streets of the city.

Mr. Reilly said he appreciated the fact that conditions in Washington are different from any other city and it seems flag manufacturers have not recognized that fact. He agreed that an acceptable flagpole should be adopted for the National Capital.

Mr. Moore advised that the Commission spent two years on the design for the new street lights, that the approved design was so satisfactory that the District Commissioners are most happy over the result, and it is certain that if this new flagpole will be of good design it will be of national interest and will be adopted by other cities; it is not a question of selling a lot of flags and flagpoles and doing this work hurriedly, but the important thing is to get a design that will be satisfactory,-really a model should be made to bring out points that otherwise might be overlooked. The Commission concurred in Mr. Moore's



statement. Mr. Medary said to consider the flange it is very desirable to have a model of the flagpole.

Mr. Landreau stated that he would take up the matter with his Committee with the view of securing a flag and flagpole which would meet with the approval of the Commission of Fine Arts.

6. LOADING PLATFORMS, AND WIDENING OF CONNECTICUT AVENUE: By Order of April 20, 1926, the District Commissioners directed,---

"That five loading platforms be constructed in the roadway of Connecticut Avenue, Northwest, located as follows:

Northbound: One on L street, near side. One on DeSales street, near side, One on M street, near side.

Southbound: One on L street, near side. One on K street, near side.

That these platforms be constructed from District funds, at an estimated cost of \$550 each.

That flashing beacon on ornamental post be placed at one end of platform and that fixed light in similar ornamental post be placed at the other end. Flashing beacon to be of type approved by the Director of Traffic.

That the design of the loading platforms and the ornamental posts be approved by the Fine Arts Commission before construction."

Major Wm. E. R. Covell, Assistant to the Engineer Commissioner of the District of Columbia, and Mr. W. B. Hadley, District Electrical Engineer, were present to confer with the Commission on the subject. It is proposed to widen Connecticut Avenue approximately 15 feet on each side by reducing the width of the sidewalks, so that the street will be approximately 80 feet wide. Present legislation permits the widening of the Avenue from K to N Streets. The Commission felt it very desirable that Connecticut Avenue be widened now from H Street to Dupont Circle and that a plan should be made for the widening of the Avenue all the way to Florida Avenue, there being at the present time three different widths on Connecticut Avenue; also Seventeenth Street should be widened from Pennsylvania Avenue to H Street.

The loading platforms will be similar to those at Fourteenth and F Streets,



100 feet long (approximately the length of two street cars),  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide and having a height of 10 inches. They will be of concrete. Sketches were considered of a proposed lighting device for these platforms. Mr. Hadley suggested a double arc lamp post, possibly 19 feet high to the light center, and having an amber colored signal light attached.

Mr. Greenleaf called attention to the desirability of having a "bench" as strong as a "railroad bumper" at the end of the platforms to protect the public; such a device might be ugly at first thought but he felt a good one could be designed. After discussion, the Commission decided that this device take the form of a stout post, similar to those at the Arch of Triumph in Paris, at each end of the platform. The Commission felt that the light from the new street lamps would furnish sufficient light for these platforms; the question of an appropriate signal light is one that could be determined by the Traffic Director, but the Commission did not favor a flashing light on these platforms. Mr. Medary thought a blue light (a big bull's eye) would be appropriate, or an amber colored light, which is used at present for caution signals, if that is preferred. The Commission recommended that the Municipal Architect prepare a design in accordance with these suggestions (Exhibit C).

7. NEW LAMPS FOR MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE IN FRONT OF UNION STATION: At the request of Mr. W. B. Hadley, District Electrical Engineer, the Commission inspected with him lamp posts along Massachusetts Avenue in front of the Union Station. It is proposed to replace short lamp posts 10 feet high, placed there when the Union Station was built in 1907, with new lamp posts 15 feet high. Attention was called to the fact that the 10 foot posts were put in before the days of automobiles and that the 15 foot lamp posts are justified at this time.

8. CHINESE PAINTING, FREER GALLERY OF ART: At the request of Mr. John Lodge,





Curator of the Freer Gallery of Art, the Commission inspected a Chinese painting proposed for purchase for the Freer Gallery,--an

Illuminated Buddhist Sutra, Chinese,  
Sung period, 10th and 11th century.

The Commission found the painting very interesting. Attached to it was a scroll, which Mr. Lodge said consisted of comments and criticisms, written in Chinese, of the painting. Upon the recommendation of Mr. Mowbray, the Commission approved the painting for purchase for the Freer Gallery.

9. PLANS FOR "REPAIRING" THE WHITE HOUSE: Major Grant submitted plans prepared in the Office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, having in view extended repairs in the White House, especially as to making it fire-proof and constructing a new roof in such a way as to enlarge the attic and provide quarters for servants. Major Grant felt that the plans called for a great deal of work and expense, which might not be altogether necessary at this time, and he said it was his desire to have such recommendations made at this time which the President would approve. Major Grant thought the work would have to be done during a vacation season, when the White House would not be occupied, as he regarded it dangerous to do this work while the building is occupied.

Attention was called to the restoration of the White House by McKim, Mead and White in 1903, in the time of President Roosevelt, who used a residence on Jackson Place in the course of the work. The Commission did not think such a thorough "overhauling" of the White House as contemplated by the plans was necessary at this time and advised that the architects, McKim, Mead and White, be consulted in the matter. The Commission favored that in the construction of the new roof the attic be raised to provide for servants quarters as proposed.

10. VERMONT SESQUICENTENNIAL HALF DOLLAR: Three models made by Charles Keck,



sculptor, of New York City, were received from the Director of the Mint by letter of April 26th, as follows:

"I am forwarding to you by messenger plaster casts of the proposed Bennington memorial coins, submitted by Mr. Charles Keck of New York. The designs are submitted for your opinion as to their artistic merits for the purpose for which they are intended."

The models represented:

1. Design with flags and trophies, of the Revolutionary period.
2. Design of a walking catamount.
3. Design of a catamount with rock underneath bearing the names of the men prominent in the Battle of Bennington.

The Commission inspected the models, and approved the model showing the walking catamount. As to the model for the obverse, the Commission recommended simplification by taking out the stars and the words "Founder of Vermont", and putting in their place the words "Ira Allen". (Exhibit D).

(In view of an urgent request received for the retention of the words "Founder of Vermont", the Chairman in behalf of the Commission waived the recommendation that these words be eliminated from the coin (Exhibit D-1).

11. MEMORIAL TO LIEUTENANT JOHN FITCH: By letter dated April 19, 1926, the Quartermaster General submitted designs for a proposed memorial to Lieut. John Fitch, as provided for in the War Department Appropriation Act for the fiscal year 1926 (Public No.413, 66th Congress, approved February 12, 1925, page 39) as follows:

"---\$15,000 shall be expended by the Secretary of War toward erecting a fitting marking of the burial place, at Bardstown, Kentucky, of Lieutenant John Fitch, soldier and inventor."

The Commission inspected the designs and regarded the design of a monument, No.26636, Bid No.11, as preferable to the others submitted. The Commission recommended taking out the pediment in the tablet and that the design be resubmitted, the medallion and the bronze lettering are to be done in stone (Exhibit E).

12. NEW CONSERVATORY, BOTANIC GARDEN: Mr. Moore advised that recently



Mr. Wm. E. Parsons, architect, of Chicago, who was associated with Mr. Burnham in the construction of the Union Station at Washington, in preparing the plan for Manila, and who has just completed a plan for San Juan, Porto Rico, which Governor Towner has begun to carry out, came to Washington at the request of Mr. David Lynn, Architect of the Capitol, for a conference as to a location for the proposed new Conservatory. Mr. Moore said that Mr. Parsons talked with Members of Congress about the matter, and with Major Grant, and that it seems Mr. Parsons has brought the problem to a satisfactory solution by recommending Square No. 576, adjacent to the Capitol Grounds, for the site of the new Conservatory; Square No. 578, at the southwest corner of the Capitol Grounds, to be used as the new site for the Bartholdi Fountain, amidst suitable planting; and making use of the area now occupied by Mr. Hess south of Maryland Avenue in connection with the Conservatory. Mr. Moore read Mr. Parsons' report to Mr. Lynn (Exhibit F). The Commission were pleased to hear of the progress made in this matter and concurred in the report (Exhibit F-1).

13. MEMORIAL TO SAMUEL GOMPERS: By letter dated April 16, 1926, Mr. Frank Morrison, Secretary of the American Federation of Labor, requested the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts as to a location for a memorial to Samuel Gompers. The Samuel Gompers' Memorial Committee suggested two sites:

1. The plat of ground bounded by Ninth Street, K Street, and Massachusetts Avenue, and in front of the Methodist Episcopal Church South.
2. The small park bounded by 10th Street, Massachusetts Avenue, L Street and 11th Street.

The Commission considered the matter and decided that a very appropriate location for the proposed memorial would be the triangle between Tenth and Eleventh Streets, along Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. (Exhibit G).



14. **NEW QUARTERS FOR THE DISTRICT MILITIA:** Under date of April 27, 1926, Major General Anton Stephan, Commanding the District of Columbia Militia, requested that the Commission of Fine Arts recommend to Congress that the Pension Office building be made available for the District Militia, as contemplated by pending legislation.

The Commission recalled that they had heretofore recommended to Hon. R. W. Elliott, Chairman of the House Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, that space in the Pension Office building be assigned to the District Militia. The Commission felt that they were not authorized to take further action in this matter unless requested to do so by Senator Fernald, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds. General Stephan was informed accordingly (Exhibit H).

15. **ARLINGTON MEMORIAL BRIDGE DEVELOPMENT:** The Civic Federation of Arlington County submitted a copy of a Resolution adopted by them (Exhibit I), concerning the Arlington Memorial Bridge development.

The Commission gave the Resolution consideration. Mr. Greenleaf laid emphasis on the fact that the Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission should take into consideration in making plans for the Memorial Bridge the plan which has been prepared by the War Department, with the advice of this Commission, and which has been approved by the Secretary of War, for the enlargement of the Arlington National Cemetery, and which contemplates a park development for Columbia Island and the adjacent shores of the Potomac.

16. **TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER:** The Commission considered a new sketch made by Mr. Thomas Hastings, Architect, showing a low sarcophagus and steps leading to it as an approach to the Amphitheater, instead of the present parapet.





The Commission were pleased with the design and decided to keep it at hand for further consideration at such time as it is definitely decided to complete the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The Commission had as their guests at Luncheon, Mr. Frank C. Baldwin, Architect, of Fredericksburg, Virginia, and Major Grant. Mr. Greenleaf stated that he was planning to sail for Europe about the middle of May, to be gone possibly until December.

The Commission adjourned at 6:00 p.m.



COPY

April 30, 1926.

Dear Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on April 29, 1926, approved the models submitted by you of the \$2.50 gold piece for the Sesquicentennial Exhibition. The Commission recommend that the word "Liberty" on the obverse be swung around a little and the letters E and R reset, so as not to touch the figure; also the rosettes on both obverse and reverse should be removed.

The models are herewith returned.

For the Commission:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

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

EXHIBIT A.



COPY

May 1, 1926.

Dear Major Grant:

As the result of the conference with you and Mr. Louis Simon of the Supervising Architect's Office, on April 29th, the Commission of Fine Arts understands that it was agreed to locate one of the artificial bathing pools in East Potomac Park near the railroad embankment and the other pool in Section C of the Anacostia Park improvement. The Commission further understands that you are to carry a road parallel with the railroad embankment completely across East Potomac Park so as to make it a constituent part of the encircling park driveways; also that the exterior of the building to be erected in the Tourists' Camp is to be redesigned to correspond with the bathing house and that both are to be in the general style of the small building near Hains Point. It is understood that the plans of the pools are to come back to the Commission for further consideration with you and Mr. Simon.

For the Commission:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Major U. S. Grant 3d, Director,  
Public Buildings and Public Parks,  
Washington, D.C.

**EXHIBIT B.**



CCFY

May 1, 1926.

Dear Sirs:

The consideration of the loading platforms on Connecticut Avenue and the space necessarily occupied by them in that thoroughfare brought up the question, at the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts on April 29th, of the proposed widening of Connecticut Avenue. It was the opinion of the Commission that plans for the widening of Connecticut Avenue from H Street to Florida Avenue should be prepared and that as the change in the character of the street progresses and buildings come into commercial occupation, arrangements should be made for the widening at that time, instead of having three different widths of Connecticut Avenue at the same time between the points named. Plans should also be made now for the widening of Seventeenth Street, from Pennsylvania Avenue to Connecticut Avenue.

As for the platforms themselves, the discussion developed the fact that a strong end was necessary to the platforms for the protection of the people occupying them. The Commission therefore recommend that the Municipal Architect prepare a design showing a platform with a stout granite post of the general character of the posts around the Arch in Paris, in front of the Public Library in Boston, and at the entrance to the driveways to the grave of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington. Whether the post shall carry a warning light or not is a matter for the Director of Traffic to determine, based on the needs of the situation. The platform so designed will not interfere with the appearance of the street. The Commission suggest that the flashing light creates a disturbance which should not be permitted.

For the Commission:

Very respectfully, yours,  
Charles Moore,  
Chairman.

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

**EXHIBIT C.**





COPY

April 30, 1926.

Dear Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on April 29, 1926, considered the plaster casts made by Charles Keck, sculptor, of New York, and submitted by you with your letter of April 26th.

The obverse, showing the head of Ira Allen, was approved, with the suggestion that some of the detail be eliminated. The Commission advise taking out the stars; also the words "Founder of Vermont" should be taken out and the words "Ira Allen" set in their place.

As for the three models submitted for the reverse, the Commission approved the one showing the walking Catamount (marked X).

The models are herewith returned:

For the Commission:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

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

**EXHIBIT D.**



COPY

VERMONT STATE SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMISSION  
Bennington, Vermont

May 3, 1926.

Hon. Charles Moore,  
Commission of Fine Arts,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Moore: I am in receipt of your good letter of April 30th, enclosing a copy of the report to the Director of the Mint. Needless to say, I am greatly pleased to know that this matter has been finally settled, and altho I have felt it necessary to contend rather stoutly for our local interests I hope that no unkindly feeling remains on either side.

I note that in your report to the Director of the Mint you have recommended the elimination of the words "Founder of Vermont" and also the fourteen stars. Unfortunately, the omission of the words quoted is going to cost this Commission the whole sum of the sculptor's fee and cost of the die. On condition that those words were included as part of the design this entire expense would have been contributed by one of the members of our Historical Association.

With kind regards,

Very sincerely yours,  
John Spargo, President.

May 6, 1926.

Dear Mr. Spargo:

I realize the difficulty of your situation and I am sure the Commission of Fine Arts will not stand in the way of your getting the money for the die from my good and great friend. The only idea the Commission had was that Ira Allen's head, on one side of the coin, was a sufficient indication of his position in the history of Vermont without tagging it, but I can assure you that the Commission will not object to this overload. I too am very glad that this matter has reached settlement. My acquaintance with the President goes back to the days before he came to Washington, and the Commission was keenly desirous of having the Vermont coin reach the highest possible standard.

I have written to the Director of the Mint, and am enclosing a copy of the letter.

Cordially yours,  
Charles Moore,  
Chairman.  
Mr. John Spargo, President,  
Vermont State Sesqui-Centennial Commission,  
Bennington, Vermont.

May 6, 1926.

Dear Mr. Grant:

Mr. Spargo, President of the Vermont State Sesquicentennial Commission writes that the elimination of the words "Founder of Vermont", as suggested by the Commission of Fine Arts, will be an embarrassment to the Vermont Commission. I can assure you that the Commission of Fine Arts is not strenuous on that subject of the elimination of these words and it would be a pity to add any further complications.

Cordially yours,  
Charles Moore,  
Chairman.

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

EXHIBIT D-1



COPY

May 1, 1926.

Dear Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on April 29, 1926, considered the designs which you submitted for a memorial to mark the burial place at Bardstown, Kentucky, of Lieutenant John Fitch, soldier and inventor. The Commission recommend a memorial as suggested by drawing No.26636, marked "Bid No.11".

The Commission of Fine Arts advises that instead of a bronze tablet the medallion and the inscription be cut in the marble or granite, as the case may be . A bronze tablet affixed to stone placed out of doors speedily drips and discolors the surrounding stone, giving an unpleasant and slovenly result. Moreover, a bronze tablet in the course of one or two years becomes simply a black spot on the stone. The inscription is practically illegible and you have only a contrasting black rectangle against a light-colored stone. Thus the whole object of the monument is defeated. The lettering should be Roman and the letters cut V-shaped. If these suggestions are followed there is reason to anticipate a satisfactory monument to Lieutenant Fitch.

The designs are herewith returned.

For the Commission:

Very respectfully, yours,

Major General B. F. Cheatham,  
The Quartermaster General,  
War Department,  
Washington, D.C.

Charles Moore,  
Chairman.

EXHIBIT E



COPY

May 5, 1926.

Dear Mr. Parsons:

I received the copy of your report to Mr. Lynn, dated April 22d, in regard to the Botanic Garden, and brought it to the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts at the meeting on April 29th. We concur in the report. Enclosed are bills that have been introduced, which contemplate carrying out your suggestions.

Cordially yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. Wm. E. Parsons,  
80 East Jackson Boulevard,  
Chicago, Illinois.

**EXHIBIT F.**





BETHNET, PARSONS & PROST.  
Consulting Architects.  
80 E. Jackson Boulevard,  
Chicago.

April 22, 1926.

*Copy for the information of Mr. Moore*

Dear Sir:

In compliance with your request, I have made an examination and a comprehensive study of the re-location of the U. S. Botanic Gardens and beg to submit the following report;

You have stated to me various reasons requiring that the U. S. Botanic Gardens, or at least the portion between Pennsylvania and Maryland Avenues, be re-located. Briefly stated the reasons are:

1st. That the present building is in such bad condition that it is beyond the possibility of repair and therefore that an entirely new building is required.

2nd. That the development of the Botanic Gardens, as such, is not feasible on the present site because of the erection of the Grant and Meade Monuments, and the expectation that increasing needs of traffic at the focus of Pennsylvania and Maryland Avenues and at the entrances to the Capitol will require more space for the convenience of traffic, as provided in Union Square.

The first requirement of a new site is that it shall be near the Capitol. The Botanic Gardens have been since their beginning, 105 years ago, a part of the Capitol group, and in point of interest to citizens visiting their national city, next in interest to the Capitol Building itself. Another requirement is that the Gardens be capable of expansion, especially the portion devoted to propagation



and the out-of-door nursery. It is also desirable that the existing gardens south of Maryland Avenue, which do not interfere with the Grant Memorial and the Capitol entrances, be retained. For the last named reason it is evident that a location near the Southwestern corner of the Capitol grounds would be advantageous.

Several alternative plans have been reviewed and considered from various angles; of these should be mentioned the location in the square block bounded by B and C Streets and 3rd and 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  Streets, S. W. of which block the inner part is the property of the U. S. Government. While this site has the advantage of using property partly owned by the government, it fails to meet the requirement of being close to and visible from the Capitol grounds and readily accessible to the public. An alternative plan which has been favorably considered provides for taking the entire block south of Maryland Avenue and between First and Second Streets, S. W. as the principal building site with the two adjacent blocks west and south for nurseries. Suggestions have also been made as to the possibility of closing 2nd Street and detouring B Street, S. W., so as to make available a larger site.

The plan shown on the accompanying drawing is recommended by the undersigned as the most advantageous. It includes the following property:

The block south of Maryland Avenue between First and Second Streets, S. W., where the main public conservatory, the office and residence of the Director will be built; the triangular block immediately south of the above mentioned block, bounded by B Street, First Street, and Canal Street to be used as a shrub garden and which will be a desirable place for re-erecting the Bartholdi fountain. In this location the fountain with its reflecting



pool will bear a similar relation to the Capitol dome as now exists. A considerable portion of this triangular block appears in the plat as having titles outstanding in the U. S. Government. The public school occupying a part of the block is expected to be removed to another site. The plan includes the retention of the block between 2nd and 3rd Streets, south of Maryland Avenue, now used for the Botanic Garden propagating houses; also the development of the central strip in Canal Street for protected or out-door nurseries, such development to be extended southward as far as may be desired.

The plan above outlined has the following advantages over other sites that have been considered.

(1). It places the public portion of the Garden where it is visible from the Capitol and most accessible to the public, as the main conservatory will be directly at the Maryland Avenue approach to the Capitol. The street car line, both in its present location and in its eventual re-location on 3rd Street will bring passengers near the Botanic Garden Entrance.

(2). It safeguards the surroundings of the Capitol from deterioration as at present into squalid conditions or into inappropriate commercial uses, the acquisition of these blocks being in accordance with the policy of the Government to acquire all the blocks facing the Capitol grounds that have not yet been acquired. It results therefore that the cost of land taken for this project is chargeable in large part to the protection of the Capitol surroundings and not entirely to the Botanic Gardens.

(3). It permits the progressive growth of the Gardens from this point into a section which will be greatly improved thereby.

(4). The plan proposed is in harmony with the Mall development and particularly with Union Square which will form the most necessary junction be-



tween the Mall and the Capitol. The proposed site on Maryland Avenue should be squared up with the Capitol grounds so as to make the front parallel with Union Square as proposed, instead of oblique as at present. This will throw a small part of the site to be acquired into the traffic space required for Union Square. The building itself would be set back far enough to permit a desirable planting space between the building and Union Square, a line of trees forming a screen from the glare of the glass roof of the conservatory. The plan is in harmony with the development of the Mall and its adornment both because the Botanic Gardens fall naturally into the class of buildings devoted to arts and sciences in which the public is interested, and because the conservatory building, extending from 1st and 2nd Street may be brought into architectural harmony with buildings of similar purpose which will in course of time be erected along the south side of the Mall.

The possibility of closing one or more of the streets such as 2nd Street and one side of Canal Street has been suggested. This would be determined only by a study of traffic needs which would be outside the limits of this report, but it is possible here to express an opinion that 2nd Street being at the beginning of the Mall and forming one of the entrances to Union Square should remain open. As to Canal Street, it is desirable that this also should remain open, since it makes a proper separation (240 feet wide) between public and private property and may be developed into a fine parkway connecting the Mall with the War College and Washington Barracks, and forming with the proposed marginal drive along Washington Channel, a loop around the sections of the City south of the Capitol. Furthermore, the separation of parts of the Botanic Gardens by public streets is not, under the circumstances, objectionable, since they make natural divisions into the parts for public greenhouses, propagation greenhouses, and out-of-door nurseries and gardens. Such divisions do not





interfere with practical operation or the esthetic aspect of the Gardens.

For the reasons above stated, the plan described in general terms in this report and shown in the accompanying drawing is recommended for your favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



BURGESS, PARSONS & FROST.  
Consulting Architects.

David Lynn, Esq.,  
Architect of the Capitol,  
Washington, D. C.



COPY

May 1, 1936.

My dear Mr. Morrison:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on April 29, 1936, gave consideration to your letter of April 13th, requesting advice as to a location for the proposed memorial to Samuel Gompers in the District of Columbia.

The Commission recommend that this memorial be placed on the triangle between Tenth and Eleventh Streets, Northwest, along Massachusetts Avenue. It will of course require authority from Congress to erect the memorial at this location, or any other.

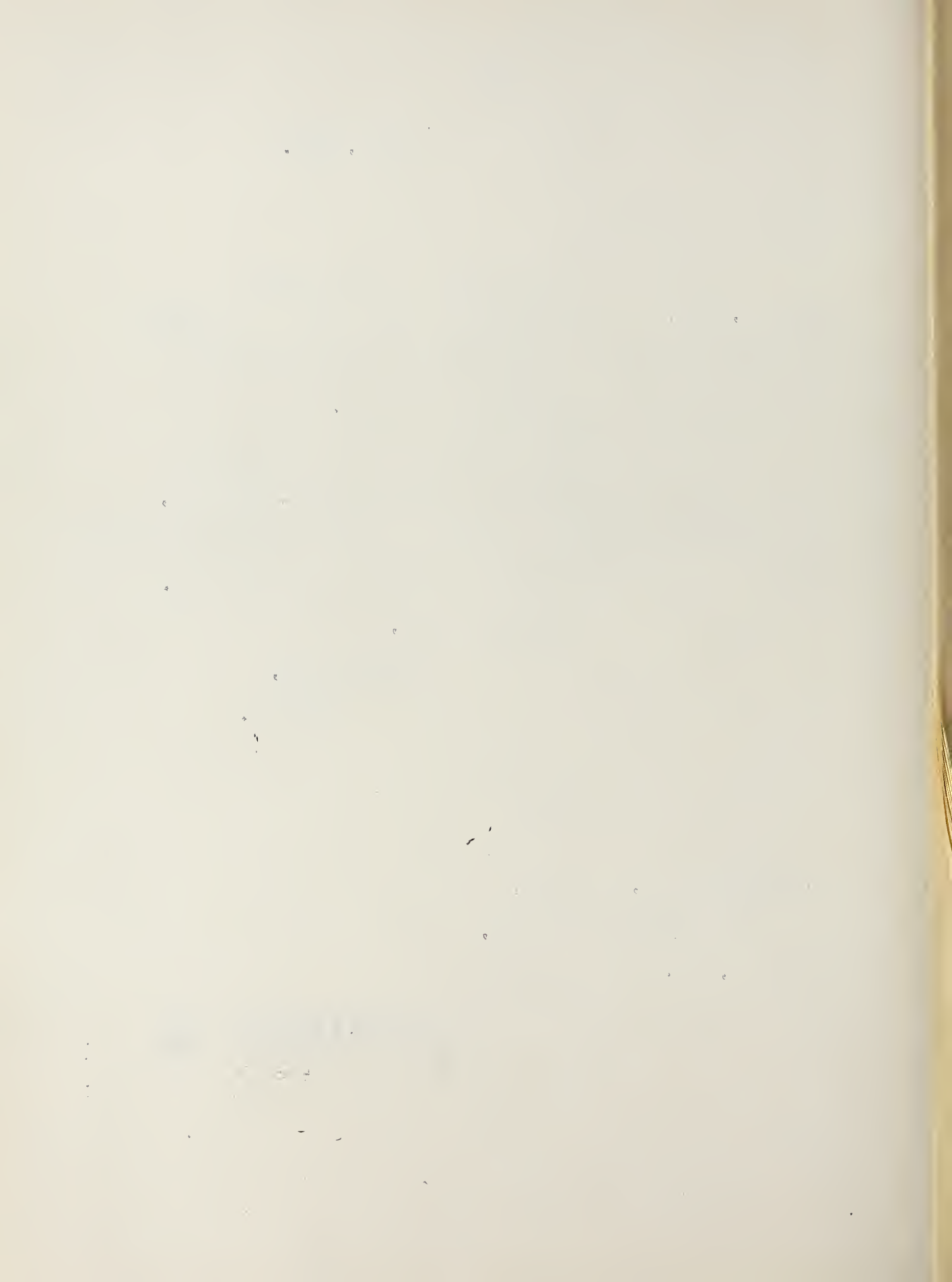
Yours very truly,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. Frank Morrison, Secretary,  
The American Federation of Labor,  
Washington, D.C.

**EXHIBIT G.**



COPI

May 1, 1926.

Dear General Stephan:

Your letter of April 27th, transmitting copy of Senate Joint Resolution 97, which is similar to House Joint Resolution 229, authorizing the National Guard of the District of Columbia to occupy space in the Pension Bureau building, received the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on April 29th.

This Commission recommended that the National Guard be assigned space in the Pension Office Building in a report to Hon. R. F. Elliott, Chairman of the House Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, on Bill H.R.8122, "To provide for the erection of a National Guard Armory---". The Commission did not feel authorized in submitting a report on S.J.Res.97 unless requested to do so by Senator Fernald.

Sincerely yours,

H. P. Caemmerer,

Secretary and Executive Officer.

Major General Anton Stephan,  
Commanding,  
District of Columbia Militia,  
472 L Street, N.W.,  
Washington, D.C.

**EXHIBIT H.**



April, 12th

RECEIVED  
COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
APR 14 1926  
NOTED

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

Dear Sir:-

The following resolution was unanimously approved by the Civic Federation of Arlington County.

" Whereas the Memorial Bridge, connecting Washington with Arlington National Cemetary, is commemorative of the re-union of the north and the south, and

Whereas the tentative plans for the Virginia approaches to said Bridge contemplate two magnificent circles on Columbia Island, one north and the other south of the bridge landing,-

We Therefore respectfully suggest to Congress and to the Fine Arts Commission, as well as to the National Capital Park Commission, and other Federal and State authorities interested in approaches to said Bridge and boulevards leading out therefrom, the advisability of reserving said circles as locations for memorial statures of Grant and Lee,- a graceful and appropriate method of further emphasizing the cordial relationship which has supplanted erstwhile sectional differences.

" Monumental boulevards or driveways should encumpass Arlington National Cemetary, extending from the upper circle around the north end of the Cemetary and from the lower circle around the south end of the Cemetary, converging on the west thereof near Hatfield, and providing at suitable points numerous and beautiful sites for monuments to America's illustrious men and women."

" In addition to these much needen monumental sites, abundant traffic and parking space may thereby be permanently assured to the multiplied thousands who, in yearly increasing numbers, will visit Arlington National Cemetary,- City of our heroic dead."

" Leading out from this Monumental Driveway, at the most advantageous points and connecting in so far as practical with the highway system of Arlington County, should be the Mt. Vernon Boulevard, to Mt. Vernon and the south, the Lee Boulevard, to Shanandoah National Park and the west, and the proposed Piedmont Trail, to Monticello and Kings Mountain."

" The importance of these national projects, in our opinion, justifies the Federal agencies charged with the construction of the Memorial Bridge and its approaches, in designating a competent Landscape Architect or an experienced City Planning expert or engineer, to draft and submit for the consideration of Federal, State and County authorities, maps and plans for said boulevards, driveways and monument sites, to the end that the beautification of the Adjacent Virginia territory may be in keeping with the magnificent approaches planned for the Washington end of the Memorial Bridge, and commensurate with the beauty and importance of Arlington National Cemetary."

The Government lands embraced in and occupied by the Experimental Farm, Ft. Myer, Arlington Cemetary and the Wireless Towers are naturally and logically part of the territory to be beautified and improved, if the approaches to the Memorial Bridge are to be in keeping with the Bridge's magnificent proportions. The plan so briefly outlined above would make possible the elimination of many objectional local conditions which should not disfigure or disgrace approaches to the worlds most beautiful bridge, and have said objectional features supplanted by attractive parks, driveways and monument sites. Respectfully,

J. Cloyd Byars - W. H. Handy, and  
Mrs. W. Rex Hunt - Committee

