

FIELD ASSOCIATES

Seattle Public Library  
Seattle, Washington

JOB FILE 13212

3212

LIBRARY BOARD

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CHARLES WESLEY SMITH  
LIBRARIAN

PUBLIC LIBRARY  
SEATTLE

October 18, 1906.

Mr. John E. Olmsted,  
c/o Alaska Club,  
Alaska Bldg., City.

*(by telephone)*  
20th Oct 12.40 Pm. Made appointment  
to meet Mr Smith and some of the Trustees  
at the new library bldg. Dec.

Dear Sir:-

The Public Library of Seattle is desirous of securing your services, while you are in the city, to lay out the grounds of the library block at Fourth Ave. & Madison Sts.

Realizing the fact that you are very busy I am writing to you to ask if you will make an appointment when this matter can be discussed.

Yours respectfully,



Secretary.

KOEHLER  
PARKER  
WHITNEY  
DORR  
PHILLIPS  
GISBS  
DAWSON  
WHITING  
JONES  
COLBURN  
STARKINS  
HUMANS  
SAWYER  
RICHARDSON

SEATTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON.

Visit by J. C. Olmsted.

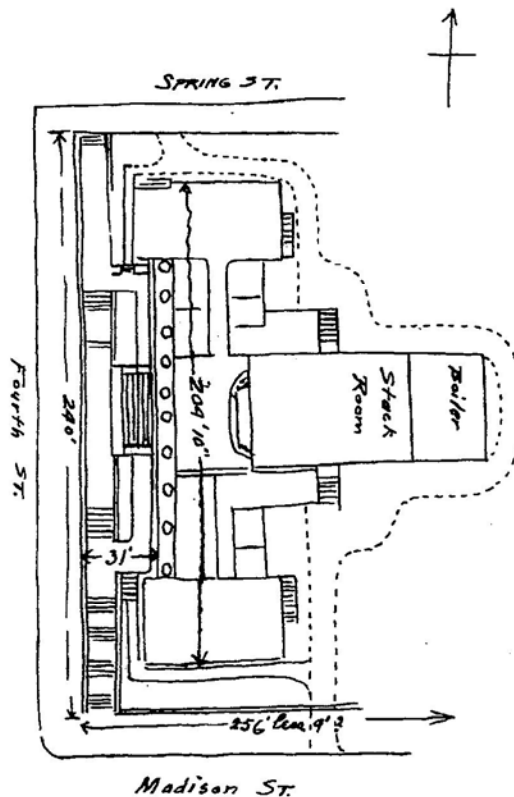
23rd October, 1906

As arranged, I was at the new library at two P.M. Left at 4.15. Mr. Smith, the Librarian turned up after a while and gradually three of the Trustees. The building is nearing completion but it will be some time before the grounds can be completed, partly owing to lack of funds and partly because Fourth St. is to be widened and lowered and this will take some time, although the ordinance has been passed. Mr. Smith said the street would be cut down about 9 feet but he will get the exact figures of elevation. This 15 feet widening and lowering nine feet will prevent the front steps from reaching the street as planned by the architect (Weber of Chicago) and the first question was what arrangement could be devised for front approach. I at first thought there could be a wide walk parallel with the steps going to right and left and carrying out to street with steps, but I found there was no room for a curve. It will have to be right next the boundary retaining wall which will be 15ft. or more high. Then I said the walk could have run out straight to Madison St. and Spring St. respectively with flights of steps down. The basement has the periodical and newspaper and children's rooms and will be most used, hence an easy entrance is desirable. I said it was bad to make people climb 4 ft. above basement and then get down to it by steps (already built) and I suggested a tunnel straight in from Fourth St. under front walk and front steps. Later when Dr. (divinity) Lloyd came he objected saying the mouth of a tunnel in the wall at center would not look good. Then I said have two tunnels, one on each side of front steps centering on voids between columns. Later the Superintendent suggested removing the basement steps and having a walk curve in from front walk having steps in this walk between the two walks. I agreed that this would obviate the need of tunnels. Later I concluded a straight walk would be better to connect with steps leading up to a level walk following around building to bring people from the east to the front basement entrance. I sketched out such an arrangement and made a very rough front elevation. At ends of building the space is only  $17\frac{1}{2}'$ . A service drive is needed to rear and Mr. Smith wants this to go in from Madison St. and out on Spring St. and hug the rear of the building. Dr. Lloyd wanted Lombardies planted close to all rear sides of building which are in gray brick, but later Mr. Smith told me this would not do as every bit of light is needed. The rooms in basement he said are too dark now and he had complained that the windows in it are too small and utility had thus been undesirably sacrificed to architectural style. So I said the lot would have to be bare of trees.

Seattle Public Library - 2.

I hoped a low hedge could be used to conceal the work road. The building is heated by steam, oil being used for fuel. The tank is deep down near Madison St. A one story boiler house, presumably temporary has been added in rear of stack room. The building is to be eventually about 200 ft. square. There is about 34' difference between S.W. corner and E.I. corner of lot and this will be increased 9' by cut down of Fourth St. The building is of Chuckanut sandstone. Will have cost about \$300,000 of which Carnegie put in \$200,000.

J. A. Stratton, Chairman of Board of Trustees.  
Rev. Dr. J. P. D. Lloyd ) Trustees.  
G. A. C. Rochester (Atty) )  
P. J. Weber, Architect. Jan. 12th, 04, date of drawings, Chicago.  
M. J. Carkeek, Contractor.



9212  
Portland, Oregon, December 4, 1908.

Mr. C. W. Smith, Secretary.

Board of Trustees of Public Library.

Seattle, Wash.

Dear Sir:-

Before leaving Seattle, not hearing from you with regard to the proposed elevations of the streets surrounding the library grounds, and desiring to pay my personal respects to Mr. R. W. Thomson, the City Engineer, I called upon him and obtained from him the blue prints which he had prepared at your request, showing the profiles of the four streets in question.

As you will perhaps remember, I shall require, in order to make my report as to the improvement of the library grounds sufficiently definite, blue prints of the architect's plans for the building, including the plan of the basement or foundation, the first floor plan to show the outside steps, and the four elevations. If not already on the plan, the elevation of the intended finished grade at various points around the building should be shown by figures related to the city datum so as to compare with the blue prints of the street profiles furnished me by Mr. Thomson.

If you desire my report as soon as possible, which I do not understand to be the case, the blue prints can be sent me either here before Friday night, or care of Whitman College before ~~next~~ Wednesday of next week, or care of Mr. A. L. White, Spokane, before Friday night of next week. If there is no haste, the blue prints may be sent to Olmsted, Bros., Brookline, Mass.

Yours truly,  
Jes

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LIBRARY BOARD

Copy sent J.C.O., Rainier Club, 1st. April. CHARLES WESLEY SMITH LIBRARIAN

J. A. STRATTON, CHAIRMAN

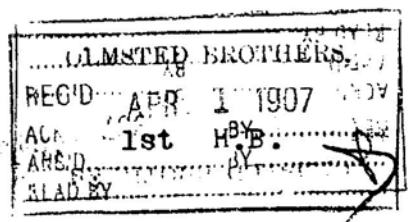
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PUBLIC LIBRARY SEATTLE

- WHEELER
- WATSON
- WELLS
- WILLIAMS
- WILSON
- WHITING
- JONES
- COLEMAN
- PERKINS
- HUMANS
- SAWYER
- RICHARDSON

March 28, 1907

Mr. John C. Olmsted,  
 c/o Olmsted Bros.  
 Landscape Architects  
 Brookline,



Dear Mr. Olmsted:-

In regard to our grounds I would say that the re-grade proposition is progressing slowly and it is not likely that anything will be done about laying out our grounds or even fixing up the front of the building until after you shall have made another trip out here. Possibly, though, you are not coming out again for some time.

We are expecting to have some trouble with the city about the cost of the improvement and are even now engaged in some litigation. It will probably be necessary to postpone all action in the matter unless it may be the placing of a concrete retaining wall after the work of regrading the street begins. This wall, as you advised, had already been specified by the architect. As soon as there is any possibility of our using your plans we will write you furnishing the data you requested before and also very likely the revised grade on Fifth Ave., the regrade also of which is now on the carpet at the city hall.

Very truly yours,

Librarian.

1st April, 1907.

Mr. Charles Wesley Smith,

Seattle Public Library, Seattle, Washington.

Dear Sir:-

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th March.

We have forwarded a copy of your letter to Mr. John C. Olmsted, who is expected to arrive in Seattle today, and he will doubtless communicate with you.

Yours very truly,