

✓ 8054-31-24

Correspondence with St. Johns re site selection

8054-31-24-1
Hull & Records

LABROT & COMPANY
INCORPORATED
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

S. W. LABROT,
PRESIDENT

July 29/32
Labrot - Jordan - Walters
Melvin - Fowler - ACR

July 27, 1932.

All agreed on conference
note ACR

Governor Albert C. Ritchie,
Executive Department,
Annapolis, Maryland.

Dear Governor Ritchie:

As requested in yours of
July 26th I shall be glad to come to your office at three o'clock
Friday afternoon.

Yours very truly,



SWL:MC

July 26th, 1932

Mr. S. W. Labrot,
Annapolis, Maryland.

Dear Mr. Labrot:-

I will appreciate it very much if you can come to my office in the State House Friday afternoon, July 29th, at three o'clock, in order to discuss the location of the Hall of Records. I am asking Douglas Gordon and Ridgely Melvin to come at the same time, and if you wish to bring any other members of the Board with you, please do so. Mr. Fowler will also be here with the plans he has prepared.

Very truly yours,

Governor.

R-L

Hull v Records

July 22nd, 1932.

Mr. S. W. Labrot,
Annapolis, Maryland.

Dear Mr. Labrot:-

I received your favor of July 21st. I assure you there is no desire on the part of the Board of Public Works to locate the Hall of Records on St. John's Campus unless the St. John's Board wants it there. I understood that they did want it there, but if they do not, that will end the matter.

I do not think, however, that the Board of Public Works will erect the Hall of Records on the Mullan property. We considered that site, but preferred a different location. I will be glad, however, to discuss the matter with the Board again. Personally, I think a better location can be secured.

With kind regards, I am,

Very truly yours,

Governor.

R-L

LABROT & COMPANY
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ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

S. W. LABROT,
PRESIDENT

July 21, 1932.

Honorable Albert C. Ritchie,
Governor of Maryland,
Annapolis, Maryland.

Dear Governor Ritchie:

Yours of July 19th. At the time of writing my letter of July 18th I did not know of the contents of the attached copy of letter of July 14th.

Mr. Walton feels this a definite commitment that Garvan will give to St. John's College the entire sales price of the Mullan property that adjoins the post office, the cost of which was \$35,000.00, plus some accrued interest charges. You may recall that at the time this Mullan property was purchased by Garvan, it was for the purpose of putting the Hall of Records there. The negotiations with Garvan have turned out badly, and in order for the College to keep its promise to furnish the land, they offered a site on the campus. This was in the nature of a duress measure.

To minimize any loss to the College by reason of giving up a portion of its campus, a plan similar to the Woodward Library was thought advisable for the new building; this new building to balance the Woodward Library on the campus, and conform to its style of architecture.

President Gordon tells me that the Hall of Records Building is about the size of McDowell Hall and the plan shows this building facing the street, not the campus. Such a building in size and location would of course not balance Woodward Library, and would in a measure put all of the St. John's buildings in the back yard. I believe it would be a great mistake to alter the ancient aspect of the present front campus of St. John's College by locating upon it any type of building that was not in strict conformity, in style and size, to what is now there.

The appropriation for the Hall of Records of \$200,000.00 I understand was based upon old prices. Present day construction prices are materially less, and it occurred to me therefore that out of the \$200,000.00 appropriation, sufficient money could be gotten to buy the Mullan property, build the Hall of Records, and let the purchase price of the Mullan property come to St. John's College, in cash. The College badly needs the money and the site adjoining the post office would in every way be a handsome improvement to the City of Annapolis, and equally as successful and useful to the State.

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PRESIDENT

- 2 -

This states the case and I trust that you may take the same view as offering a better solution of the problem. Will be glad to discuss this matter further if you wish.

Respectfully,



Chairman, Buildings & Grounds Committee
St. John's College.

SWL:MC

July 19th, 1932

Mr. S. W. Labrot,
Annapolis, Maryland.

Dear Mr. Labrot:-

I received your favor of July 18th, and will be glad to discuss with you the advisability of locating the Hall of Records Building on the St. John's Campus. At the time this location was decided upon, it was represented to me that the St. John's Board wanted it there. I will be away the balance of this week, but will see you as promptly as I can.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Governor.

R-L

8054-31-24-6

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INCORPORATED
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

S. W. LABROT,
PRESIDENT

July 18, 1932.

Honorable Albert C. Ritchie,
Governor of Maryland,
Annapolis, Maryland.

Dear Governor Ritchie:

At the last meeting of the Board of St. John's College I was appointed to represent the College in the matter of plans for the new State Records Building, to be located on St. John's Campus.

Having grave doubts as to the advisability of putting this building on the campus itself, particularly in the corner of the property now chosen, would like to discuss the matter with you.

Could you telephone me a time for an appointment, any day convenient to you?

Respectfully,



SWL:MC

FRANCIS P. GARVAN
654 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y.

July 14, 1932.

Mr. James A. Walton,
Annapolis Banking & Trust Co.,
Annapolis, Md.

Dear Mr. Walton:

Our mutual friend, Halsey, has communicated the contents of your recent letter to me. As to the Mullin property, I am perfectly willing to sell it. I would like to get a bid and suggest your using Mr. Halsey as my agent, as I am leaving for the Adirondacks and I hereby give him full authority to speak and act for me.

Mr. Halsey is familiar with all figures of the cost and everything, and although Mr. Conroy is away, I think we can get you any figures you want. We are perfectly ready and open to give you every cent of the actual cash bid.

As you assisted Mr. Davis in the purchase of the property, and you know so much about the Annapolis property, and it is all for sale, I would be very glad to receive any bids on any other part of it that you may hear.

Very truly yours,

/s/ FRANCIS P. GARVAN

8054-31-24-8

July 26th, 1932

Hon. Ridgely P. Melvin,
Annapolis, Maryland.

Dear Ridgely:-

I am writing Douglas Gordon, Mr. Labrot and Laurence Fowler to meet me at the State House Friday afternoon, July 29th. Please bring with you Barney Walton and anyone else you might want.

Sincerely yours,

Governor.

R-L

July 26th, 1932

Mr. Douglas H. Gordon,
St. John's College,
Annapolis, Maryland.

Dear Douglas:-

As you know, some discussion has arisen as to the advisability of locating the Hall of Records on the St. John's Campus, and I will appreciate it very much if you will come to my office in the State House Friday afternoon, July 29th, at three o'clock, in order to talk over the matter. I am asking Mr. Labrot to come at the same time and also Mr. Melvin, and if you wish any other members of the Board to attend, please bring them along. Mr. Fowler will be here at the same time with the plans he has prepared.

Sincerely yours,

Governor.

R-L

8054-31-24-10

Haley Records

January 20, 1932

Location

St John's

Mr. Douglas H. Gordon,
St. John's College,
Annapolis, Maryland.

Dear Douglas:-

I have your favor of January 19th. The delay in meeting your committee about the selection of the site for the Hall of Records Building is due to the fact that the Board of Public Works has not yet decided on the architect, and we thought it better to do that first.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Governor.

R-L

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

January 19, 1932

Governor Albert C. Ritchie,
Executive Mansion,
Annapolis, Maryland.

Dear Governor Ritchie:

The Executive Committee of the Board of Visitors and Governors is very anxious to know as soon as possible just where the proposed Hall of Records is to be placed on the campus of St. John's College in order that a description of the property may be made and in order that steps may be taken to secure the release from the Title Company of its mortgage on the property to be conveyed to the State. I shall appreciate hearing from the Committee which has this matter in charge, and should also like to have an opportunity of speaking to you on the subject of the release.

Very truly yours,

Douglas W. Gordon.

dhg/mo

8054-31-24-12

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

H. C. R.
Site

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

December 7, 1931

Governor Albert C. Ritchie,
Executive Mansion,
Annapolis, Maryland.

Dear Governor Ritchie:

I have received your letter of December 3
and shall look forward to hearing from you or
from Mr. Gordy as to the details of the site for
the Memorial Hall.

With kind regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Douglas H. Gordon.

President.

dhg/mo

8054-31-24-13

Hully Record

December 3, 1931

Mr. Douglas Gordon, President,
St. John's College,
Annapolis, Maryland.

Dear Mr. Gordon:

Referring to your favor of October 10th, I beg to advise you that the Board of Public Works accepts the offer of the Visitors and Governors of St. John's College for a site for the Memorial Hall of Records, to be located on the front campus of the College at such point as may be selected by mutual agreement.

The State Comptroller, Mr. William S. Gordy, Jr., is handling the preliminaries in regard to this building, and either he or I will confer with you about the site in due time.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Governor.

8054-31-24-14

Will y Records

October 15, 1931

Mr. Douglas H. Gordon, President,
St. John's College,
Annapolis, Maryland.

Dear Mr. Gordon:

I have your favor of October 10th, and thank you for advising me of the resolution passed by the St. John's Board, relative to the Hall of Records. I will communicate with you again on the subject after I take the matter up with the Board of Public Works.

Very truly yours,

Governor.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

October 10, 1931

Governor Albert C. Ritchie,
Executive Mansion,
Annapolis, Maryland.

Dear Governor Ritchie:

I am instructed to transmit to you the following resolution of the Board of Visitors and Governors of St. John's College, which, upon motion regularly made and seconded, was unanimously passed at the meeting of the Board held in Annapolis, Maryland, on September 23, 1931:

"RESOLVED: That the Chair appoint a Committee to draft resolutions embodying the views of the Board regarding the possible co-operation of the College in providing a site for said Memorial Record Hall. The Chair appointed the following gentlemen on this Committee: Messrs. Buck, Gordon, Melvin and Pearl; whereupon the Committee submitted the following resolution which was unanimously adopted:

"WHEREAS, The General Assembly of Maryland, at its session of 1931, appropriated the sum of \$200,000, for the erection and equipping of a Memorial Hall of Records wherein, among other things as provided by law, are to be placed, preserved and made available for reference and study, the historical papers, documents and records now owned and to be acquired by the State of Maryland, and

"WHEREAS, The acquiring of a suitable site for such building has been committed by said Act of Assembly to the Board of Public Works:

Governor Albert C. Ritchie - 2

"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Visitors and Governors of St. John's College takes great pleasure in offering to provide, without cost to the State of Maryland; a site for the Memorial Hall of Records, at such location on the front campus of St. John's College as may be selected by mutual agreement between the Board of Public Works and the Board of Visitors and Governors of the College.

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the further details of the offer and of the conveyance be likewise left to mutual agreement of the two Boards above named.

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the President of the College is hereby authorized to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Governor of Maryland and a copy to the Board of Public Works."

It will be a great pleasure to cooperate with the State in any possible way should the college property be used as the site of the Memorial Hall of Records.

Very sincerely yours,

Douglas H. Gordon

President.

dhg/mo

8054-31-24-16

Hall of Records
Baltimore

July 18, 1931

Mr. Douglas H. Gordon,
Baltimore Life Building,
Baltimore, Maryland.

Dear Douglas:-

I have your favor of July 15th, relative to the Hall of Records. The last Legislature placed the construction of this building and the location of a site for it in the hands of the Board of Public Works, but the money is not available until August 1932 and the Board has not yet done anything on the subject. I have been told that the Mullen house will be donated to the State free of cost if it is decided to erect the building there. Personally, I am disposed to feel that somewhere on the State House Circle would be a preferable site, and the State Comptroller feels that way, also. I will be only too glad to discuss the matter with you, however, before anything at all is done.

I did not answer your letter sooner because I only received it yesterday on account of absence from Annapolis, and I was not here on either Thursday or Friday of this week. I will have to be in Baltimore on Tuesday of next week and am uncertain about the following Saturday. Inasmuch as there is plenty of time, suppose you just let me give you a ring on some Tuesday afternoon or some Saturday when we are both in Annapolis.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Governor.

R-L

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

July 15, 1931

Governor Albert C. Ritchie,
Executive Mansion,
Annapolis,
Md.

Dear Governor Ritchie:

I am very anxious to speak to you about the Mullen House, which I understand the State wishes to tear down so as to be able to use its site as the site of a Memorial Hall provided for by Senator Melvin's bill passed at the last session of the Legislature.

As I shall be in Annapolis on Thursday and Friday of this week, I shall appreciate hearing from you when it would be convenient to you to have me come to your office.

I am also usually in Annapolis on Tuesday afternoons and on Saturdays; and expect to be here on those days of the week during the rest of July.

Very sincerely yours,

Douglas H. Gordon.

President.

dhg/mo

8054-31-24-18

NOBLE, MORGAN AND SCAMMELL

115 BROADWAY

NEW YORK

HERBERT NOBLE
WILLIAM OSGOOD MORGAN
SCOTT SCAMMELL
JAMES H. KIRKPATRICK

September 25, 1931

Hon. Albert C. Ritchie,
Governor of Maryland,
Annapolis, Maryland.

My dear Governor:

At the meeting of the Board of Visitors and Governors of St. John's College on the 23rd instant, I brought to the attention of the meeting the talk I had with you and the other members of the Board of Public Works relative to St. John's College offering to the State the lease of a site for the new memorial building. The Board approved thoroughly of the suggestion I had made, and you will shortly receive from Mr. Douglas H. Gordon, President of the College, a resolution which was adopted. I believe this should set the matter before you for such action as you think wise.

It was a very great pleasure to see you the other day, and I was sorry that I had made an engagement in Baltimore for Monday night which prevented me from accepting your very kind invitation to spend the night with you.

I want to thank you for your kindness in sending me some more copies of your Atlantic City address.

With my kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

