

Annapolis, 26th June, 1882.

To the Hon^{ble} The Board of Public Works -

Gentlemen,

The problem to be solved in the proposed improvement of the grounds surrounding the State - House is to so arrange them that (1st) they may contribute to the architectural effect of the building by increasing its beauty and impression of grandeur, and (2nd) afford natural and easy access to the building and through the grounds to the public.

To effect these objects I beg leave to offer these suggestions and to submit ^{with} the accompanying plans, specifications and proposals on the part of Mr Milton E. Faul ~~and myself~~ -

I propose 1st - To remove entirely the narrow pavement adjoining the grounds and to extend the opposite pavement where practicable to the width of twelve feet, (12 feet) - The walks within the grounds as shown in plan render useless the present pavement adjoining the grounds -

2nd - The removal of the present Iron-railing, (which ^{Mr Faul} we offer to purchase), and the removal and rebuilding of a portion of present wall bounding the grounds so as to include between it & pavement, at widest part, a roadway or street twenty four (24) feet wide -

This will add some Seventy (70 ft) to extent
of grounds in front of Land office —
For paving street and altering grade near Governor's
gate we offer proposals —

It is proposed to leave gates and steps as they
are at Francis St & on South side of State House —
3rd The plan & elevation submitted for improvement within
the grounds are based on the ultimate Completion
of the State-House as proposed by us but are equally
applicable to its present state —

As the erection of a new portico is an important
element in this plan one is suggested in conformity
with the original style (English Palladian) of the
Building —

It is proposed to retain the Fountain on South
Side as it is (or eventually improved by a more
elegant fountain & possibly smaller basin) and
to make the Taney statue the central point
(in fact & in attraction) of a terrace of fifty feet
(50 ft) radius in front of State House, to
be reached from Francis Street by a gradual
ascent to two flights of steps (6 or 8) at either
side — To be marked by piers in brick with stone
Caps to be eventually ornamented with large vases.

The front of terrace to be bounded by an open work
wrought-iron railing between stone piers or columns.
The effect of this terrace and the ornamented landing
of the steps is, in conjunction with portico, to give
a base to the State House and increase the grandeur
of effect by an apparent increase in the width

and height of the edifice - This plan is in conformity with the highest precedents in this style of architecture and is a development in strict conformity to good taste and the peculiarities of style & situation -

This terrace will give grandeur and spaciousness and add to the dignity of the State Capitol - It will afford an impressive view of the building and dome, the statue can be seen to the best advantage, and will command a view of the Governor's House and distance in other directions -

In conjunction with the upper story of the Portico it might afford a fine space for public meetings and speaking -

4th It is proposed to open avenues or walks towards the Governor's House, St. John's College, the Naval Academy and East St. and to lay out these walks in conformity to the needs of the people and the paths demanded by public convenience -

5th It is proposed to mass the foliage in such groups as may further assist the Architectural effect of the building -

By reference to the drawings the above ideas will be better understood -

Frank B. May Jr -

Annapolis June 26th 1882

The accompanying specifications and proposals are respectfully submitted - They leave to

to state that Mr Paul who is Assistant
Engineer of the Parks of Baltimore and
whose father has been the designer and
director of all the improvements in the
Parks since their inauguration - Mr Paul's
experience & reputation entitle his proposals
to the fullest consideration -

Should my plan be adopted, no matter by
whom executed, I am prepared to furnish
the detail drawing and to superise the
execution of the work -

Very respectfully,

Frank B. Mayer.

Annapolis 29 June 1882 -

1882 -
Frank B. Mayer
Superintendent
State Parks
and Forests -