

BEATRIX FARRAND  
LANDSCAPE GARDENER  
REEF POINT  
BAR HARBOR, MAINE

June 16, 1941  
19

Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss  
Casa Dorinda  
Hot Spring Road  
Santa Barbara, California

Dearest Twin:

This will be a bulletin with regard to the historic tablets.

✓ There is no question that the place chosen between the two gates on R Street is the right one for the big tablet. It was quite curious to see how within fifteen minutes after the dummy had been put up there were at least three or four different parties of motorists who stopped to look over the dummy and to read such of it as was decipherable.

60 — You are quite right in thinking it too large, and I am therefore enclosing you (in case you may not have it) a copy of the wording for the tablet so that you may see whether or not it can be reduced in any way that would please you.

omit maps  
80  
90  
The two maps quite definitely will be better to omit if you will agree to this as it will make the whole unit much too clumsy to work in well with the general surroundings. What would you think with regard to making the tablet as plain as possible, and perhaps finishing its top with either a broken pediment, or a pediment with a couple of rolls? As we seem to have a good many oak leaves, sheaves of wheat, and various other emblems, therefore I should suggest making the tablet just as simple as possible, and making its good looks dependent entirely on the lettering and spacing. Do you think it might be well to consult the Havey-let with regard to this lettering? as I am not too sure Coles is quite able for it. I don't of course want to make any move until you say the word.

Si  
My notion of the whole tablet would be something fairly plain and more or less in the Williamsburg type (and I have not consulted Mr. Waterman with regard to this!) obviously the object of the tablet is to tell its story and if it can do this in a dignified way without drawing attention to its trimmings it would seem to me better than by allowing it to be over-ornamented.

Mrs. Bliss 6/16/41 -2

51 The tablet could of course be stuck into the wall with consoles on either side but it was clear to all of us when we looked at the dummy that the projection of the top of the tablet above the present open-work brick railing is essential.

More will go to you tomorrow with regard to the various other irons we have in the fire. Our devoted love to you both, although my Chief must give you an absentee hug as he is away happily on the salmon river.

Yours ever and always.

Beauregard

Copy.

Chronological Tables for the R Street Gate Posts ---an inscription on two tablets:

Tablet #1

*suppressed* Map of the Rock of Dumbarton and a later addition with the inscription:

1702 Colonel Ninian Beall "The Rock of Dumbarton"

A Grant from Queen Anne

1717 Colonel George Beall, his son, added the land north of the present R Street, now known as Dumbarton Oaks.

1780 Thomas Beall, son of George, sold the property to William Dorsey

S S S S S S S

Tablet #2

1801 William Hammond Dorsey built this House ~~he~~<sup>g</sup> sold it to

1805 Robert Beverley, who named it

Acrolophos (House in the Grove) ~~he~~ bequeathed it to

1822 James Bradshaw Beverley, who sold it to

1823 James Edward Calhoun, ~~who~~ sold it to

1829 Brook Mackall, ~~who~~ sold it to

1846 Edward Magruder Linthicum, who enlarged the House and Gardens and changed the name to Monterey. ~~he~~ bequeathed it to

1869 Edward Linthicum Dent.

1891 Henry Fitch Bloont bought and enlarged it and named it The Oaks. His widow sold it to

1920 Robert Woods and Mildred Bliss, ~~who~~ remodeled the House added to the grounds, created the Gardens and rechristened the whole Dumbarton Oaks.

That its service to the community might remain unbroken

1940 They conveyed it to Harvard University.

*suppressed* (small map of the present Dumbarton Oaks at the bottom)