

July 12, 1960

Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss
1537 Twenty-eighth Street NW
Georgetown, Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Bliss,

This is Mrs. Farrand's plan for replacing the yew hedges of the Herbaceous Border with walls. It was dummied with string, and the heights and slopes worked out in careful detail in 1943---to be filed away against the time when the yew would need to be replaced with something more permanent. A description is probably incorporated in the report Mrs. Farrand wrote about reasons and aims. It was Mrs. Farrand's last large Dumbarton Oaks project and she gave it a great deal of thought.

Essentially---the north border is widened to include the width of the yew hedge and a wall about 6' high added to the existing walls of the cutting and vegetable gardens---and the space between. The south border is also widened and backed with a similar wall. The sections of the wall which form a background for the flowers are of stucco on rough brick. Elsewhere the wall is of stone similar to the southwest wall of the fountain terrace.

There are three cross walls---two at the east end---where the area with the four benches is enlarged (the center line of the existing hedge is shown on the plan). At the west end the low retaining wall is raised to be about $3\frac{1}{2}$ ' above the herbaceous border and 2' above grade at the top of the steps.

So much for the final plan. The preliminary study made at the same time is interesting and I am enclosing a faint print. It suggests a connection between the herbaceous border and the box walk---a gravel walk with low retaining wall and seats outside the south wall of the herbaceous border. It also has a section showing what the wall would look like from the cutting garden. There is also a suggestion of buttresses extending out into the perennials.

Sincerely yours,

