

ORIGINAL COVER LACKING 4/03

September 2, 1930.

To the Mayor and the Board of Estimate and Apportionment of the City of New York:

I have the honor of informing you that, since April 3, 1922, the following steps have been taken regarding the approach to the Roosevelt Memorial from the west drive of Central Park:

April 3, 1922:

Chairman Osborn* appeared before the Committee of the Whole of the Board of Estimate, recited previous steps in the Roosevelt Memorial measure, presented the diagram showing the location of the Roosevelt Memorial and its easterly approaches across Central Park (reproduced herewith). He suggested a joint committee, representing the City and the two Museums. President Miller advised the appointment of a City Committee for conference with the representatives of the two Museums.

April 7, 1922:

The Board of Estimate adopted the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the Board of Estimate and Apportionment hereby appoints the Comptroller, the President of the Borough of Manhattan, the President of the Board of Aldermen, the Commissioner of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity and the Commissioner of Parks, Borough of Manhattan, as a Special Committee to confer with representatives of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and of the American Museum of Natural History as to the use to be made of the southern reservoir area in Central Park when said area is released for other than water supply purposes.

Which was adopted by the following vote:

Affirmative—The Mayor, the Comptroller, the President of the Board of Aldermen, the Presidents of the Boroughs of Manhattan, Brooklyn and The Bronx, the Acting President of the Borough of Queens and the President of the Borough of Richmond—16.

The personnel of this Special Committee was as follows:

The Comptroller of the City of New York (Charles L. Craig).

The President of the Borough of Manhattan (Julius Miller).

The President of the Board of Aldermen (Murray Hulbert).

The Commissioner of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity (Nicholas J. Hayes).

The Commissioner of Parks, Borough of Manhattan (Francis D. Gallatin).

*At this meeting Chairman Osborn appeared in a dual capacity, namely, as head of the State Roosevelt Memorial Commission and as President of the American Museum of Natural History.

For conference with the President of the Metropolitan Museum of Art (Robert W. deForest), and the President of the American Museum of Natural History and Chairman of the New York State Roosevelt Commission (Henry Fairfield Osborn).

June 27, 1923:

Pursuant to this resolution and following a series of conferences between the New York State Roosevelt Memorial Commission (Messrs. Thompson, Ramsperger, Cuvillier, Kenyon, Kiernan and Chairman Osborn) and Park Commissioner Gallatin, the proposed New York site of the Roosevelt Memorial was agreed upon.

March 13, 1924:

The following letters, relative to a hearing before the Ways and Means Committee of the State Legislature, were sent to His Honor John F. Hylan, Mayor of the City of New York, and to the Honorable Julius Miller, President of the Borough of Manhattan:

MY DEAR MAYOR HYLAN:

I take pleasure in enclosing to you the official plans presented by the State Roosevelt Memorial Commission,* of which I am Chairman, to the Legislature in connection with the Bill which has been prepared under the direction of Senator James Walker of the Twelfth District.

The City of Albany is making a very strong effort to have the Memorial shifted from New York to Albany, and has requested a hearing before the Ways and Means Committee on Tuesday next. The citizens of New York seem to be unanimous in desiring to have the Memorial here. It would be very helpful if the President of the Borough of Manhattan, Mr. Julius Miller, could represent the Board of Estimate and Apportionment on this occasion and voice the unanimous sentiment of the City.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN,
President [Chairman].

DEAR PRESIDENT MILLER:

I trust that you will be able to represent the City of New York and the Board of Estimate and Apportionment at the hearing before the Ways and Means Committee in Albany on Tuesday next.

The Bill for the erection of the State Roosevelt Memorial on Manhattan Square (to be renamed Roosevelt Square† on Tuesday next) is making good progress. It was prepared under the direction of Senator James Walker, after consultation with all the Democratic leaders in the City, especially with Judge Morgan J. O'Brien.

*The Commission appointed by Governor Smith in 1920 was followed by the Trustees appointed by Governor Smith in 1924.

†This measure was not adopted by the Board of Aldermen.

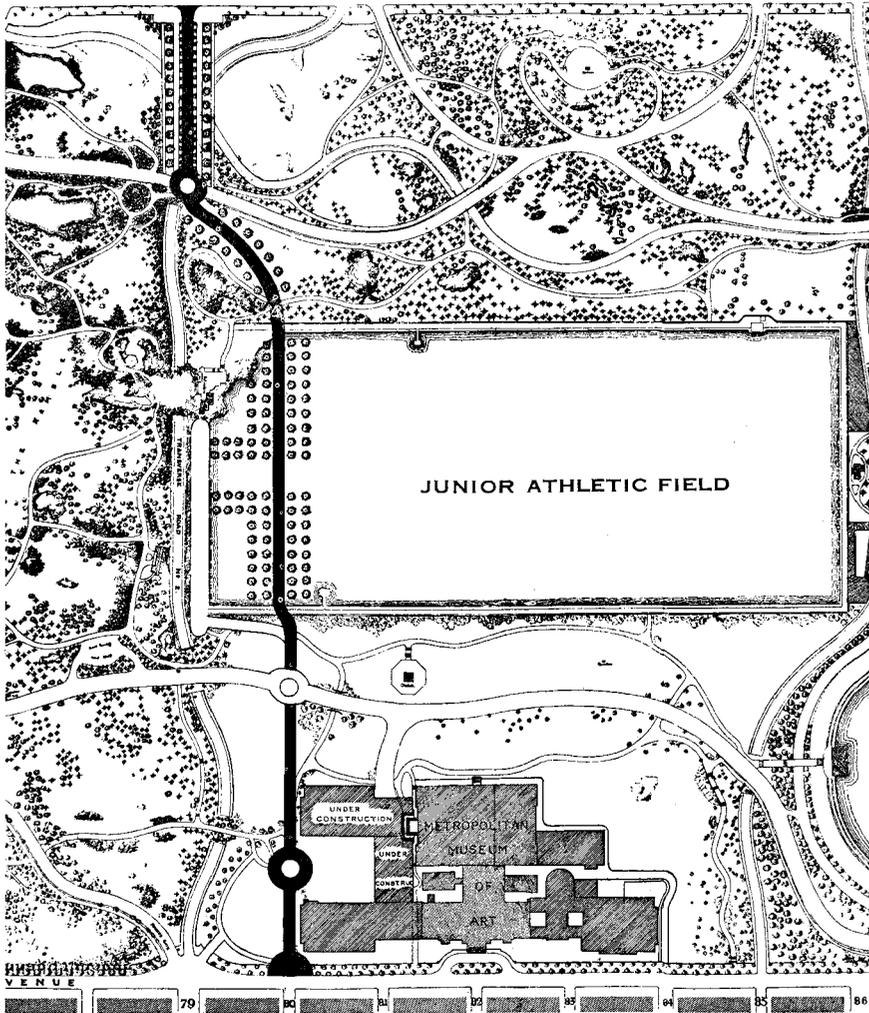
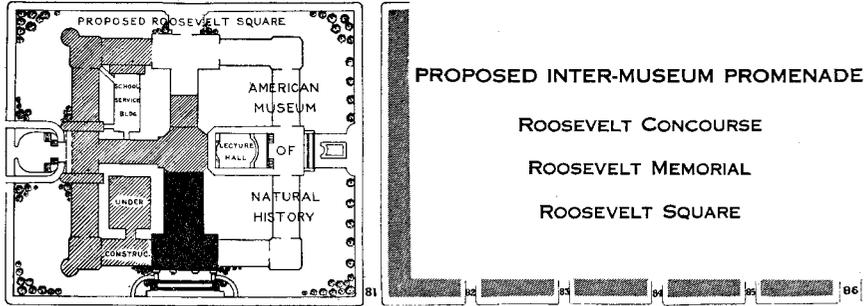


Diagram Showing the Location of the Roosevelt Memorial and its Easterly Approach Across Central Park
 Presented to the Committee of the Whole of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, April 3, 1922, by Chairman Osborn of the New York State Roosevelt Memorial Commission

Unfortunately, Judge O'Brien is abroad; otherwise I know he would appear at Albany in this matter in which I know he is warmly interested. In his absence, I know of no one better qualified to represent the City than the President of the Borough of Manhattan, and I sincerely trust you will rearrange and postpone other engagements so as to be present. The American Museum is also inviting a representative of the Public Schools and of the Parks.

Believe me, always with best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN,
President [Chairman].

In response to these letters, Commissioner Joseph Johnson was appointed to represent the City at the hearing before the Ways and Means Committee in Albany.

RESOLUTION BY BOARD OF ALDERMEN

March 18, 1924:

The Board of Aldermen unanimously adopted a resolution that the Roosevelt Memorial building should be erected in New York City rather than in Albany:

BY ALDERMAN FALCONER:

WHEREAS, the Legislature of this State is considering the choice between two plans for a building in memory of the late ex-President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, one of them a museum at Albany, and the other the Roosevelt Memorial Hall, as a great and imposing addition to the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, and

WHEREAS, Theodore Roosevelt was a New Yorker of the New Yorkers, as were his forefathers before him for many generations, was born in New York City and lived a great part of his life here, represented a New York City District twice in the Assembly the first time he ever held public office, ran for the office of Mayor of this City in his early manhood and later was a member of the Police Board of three in this City, and during the remainder of his life resided, when he was not holding office or away from the country, in the neighborhood of this City, and

WHEREAS, Theodore Roosevelt was an ardent lover of nature and of natural history and gave up a considerable part of his life to the study and the writing of natural history and in hunting and exploration trips to carry out these purposes, and

WHEREAS, Theodore Roosevelt was himself a trustee of the American Museum of Natural History and was all his life deeply interested in it, and his father was one of the founders of the Museum and for many years one of its trustees, and

WHEREAS, New York City, as the greatest city in the country, is the most fitted in every way, as well as for the special reasons stated in this resolution, to be the place where the Roosevelt Memorial should be erected, and, if the Memorial is not erected here, would lose not only the right to record forever its sentiment of tribute to the great dead but as well a beautiful piece of architecture and a great addition to the scientific, educational and recreational resources of the City, accessible without charge to all its people including especially the children of this city, and

WHEREAS, the only associations that Theodore Roosevelt ever had with the city of Albany were during a part of only four years of his life, when he was Assemblyman and Governor, and the Roosevelt Memorial, if placed in Albany, would be seen and visited by a far smaller number of the people of this and other countries than if it were erected in this city, which hundred of thousands of Americans and foreigners visit each year, without ever going to Albany, therefore

RESOLVED, that it is the sense of the Board of Aldermen, believing as it does that it correctly interprets the sentiment and wishes of the millions of citizens of this city who honor and revere the memory of Theodore Roosevelt, admire his greatness of heart and mind and remember his deep and sincere devotion to the welfare of the people and especially of the great majority, "the plain people," whose unorganized interests he so often championed, that the Roosevelt Memorial Building should be placed in New York City, his city, the city he knew and loved so well, rather than in Albany, and further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be sent at once to the majority and minority leaders of the State Senate and Assembly, the Speaker of the Assembly, the members of the committees having in charge the bills affecting the choice of a site for the Roosevelt Memorial, the Governor of the State, the members of the New York State Roosevelt Memorial Commission, and to such others as the President of this Board may direct.

Unanimously adopted,

B. M. FALCONER.

RESOLUTION BY BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND APPORTIONMENT

March 24, 1924:

The Board of Estimate and Apportionment of the City of New York adopted the following resolution:

(Cal. No. 1)

WHEREAS, There is a bill before the Legislature providing for the erection of a structure to be known as the State Roosevelt Memorial, in the City of New York, in connection with the American Museum of Natural History, and

WHEREAS, We deem it most fitting that such Memorial be located in this City, particularly because it is the birthplace of Theodore Roosevelt, the center of his political and civic activities, and further that by the erection, in this City, of such Memorial it will be accessible to millions of visitors, millions of children and the ever changing host of foreigners who pass through our portals seeking new homes in these United States, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Estimate and Apportionment of the City of New York, as soon as legislative authority is given, will grant and dedicate to the State of New York a sufficient plot of ground fronting on Central Park West in Manhattan Square, as a site for the proposed State Roosevelt Memorial; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Board be directed to communicate such action to the majority and minority leaders of the State Senate and Assembly, the Speaker of the Assembly, the members of the committee having in charge the bills affecting the choice of a site for the Roosevelt Memorial, the Governor of the State and the members of the New York State Roosevelt Memorial Commission.

A true copy of resolution adopted by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, March 24, 1924.

JAMES MATTHEWS,
Assistant Secretary.

May 21, 1924:

Attention was now concentrated on the approach to the Roosevelt Memorial from the west driveway of Central Park, known as the Roosevelt Concourse.

The following conference was held between representatives of the State and the City of New York in the Board Room of the Museum,

May 21, 1924.

Present: The Chairman,* Mr. Roswell Miller, Acting Director Sherwood, Commissioner Gallatin, Chief Engineer Steinacher and Landscape Architect Burgevin of the Park Department.

The Chairman* reviewed the various steps that had been taken in securing the State Roosevelt Memorial Building from the State and said that it was incumbent upon the City to provide an adequate approach from the west drive. The various engineering problems pertaining to the section of the Intermuseum Promenade [Roosevelt Concourse] from Central Park West to the west drive were considered in detail.

Mr. Roswell Miller explained plans upon which he had been working to meet these problems.

Mr. Burgevin suggested the changing of the course of the transverse road to the south, having its exit from the Park on 77th Street. The President* [Chairman] considered this undesirable because there was

*Mr. Osborn as Chairman of the New York State Roosevelt Memorial Commission.

already great congestion at 77th Street and Central Park West and because it would make 77th Street a trucking street. *An alternative plan, proposed by Mr. Burgevin, was to deflect the transverse road to the north, just east of the west drive, and carry it through the low area to the north where the stables and gardens now are and bring it out at 81st Street about at its present point.** This plan seemed the most feasible one that had been suggested and at the conclusion of the meeting Messrs. Miller, Steinacher, Burgevin and Sherwood visited the Park to consider the plan further.

It was recommended that gingko-trees be planted along the walks of the Promenade [Concourse], placed twelve to fourteen feet apart.

The Park Commissioner said that if a plan could be presented that would satisfactorily cover the engineering problems, he would submit it to the City and request an appropriation for this work.

May 28-31, 1924:

The Chairman of the Roosevelt Memorial wrote to Commissioner Gallatin as follows:

I trust that you will have your Chief Engineer and your Landscape Architect proceed with the preparation of this plan, which, it seems to me, will solve the engineering problems that have been before us.

To which Commissioner Gallatin replied as follows:

Dear Professor Osborn:

Please accept my thanks for your letter of May 28th, enclosing memoranda of our interview on May 21st relative to the Inter-museum Promenade.

I shall see that the plans are made as soon as possible.

With kindest regards, I am,

Very truly yours,

(Signed) FRANCIS D. GALLATIN,

Commissioner of Parks.

January 14, 1925:

The following conference between Chairman Osborn of the Roosevelt Memorial Building and Plans Committee of the American Museum, Mr. Pyne, the Commissioner of Parks, the Engineer and Landscape Architects of the Park Department, and the Engineer representing the Board of Estimate and Apportionment was held at the Museum on Wednesday afternoon, January 14, 1925, at four o'clock.

Present: The President, † [Chairman] Messrs. Pyne, Miller, Hay and Commissioner Gallatin, also the Executive Secretary and Messrs. Trowbridge and Livingston and, by special invitation,

*This proposal by Mr. Burgevin was subsequently embodied in the plan submitted by Roswell Miller, Civil Engineer. See page 13 of the present report.

†President Osborn as Chairman of the New York State Roosevelt Memorial.

Chief Engineer Steinacher and Landscape Architect Burgevin of the Park Department, and Assistant Engineer Leicester Durham of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment.

Excused: Messrs. Warburg and Hamlin.

[Central] *Park Approach to Roosevelt Memorial—*

The Committee first took up consideration of the Central Park approach to the Roosevelt Memorial Building. The President* [Chairman] reported that the Roosevelt Trustees had been appointed, had organized, had held two meetings, had appointed a Building and Plans Committee, had appointed Mr. Arnold W. Brunner as Advisory Architect, had inspected the site of the Roosevelt Memorial and the area of the approach from Central Park. He stated that the Trustees were unanimous in the opinion that there ought to be a broad, dignified approach to the building from the west drive of Central Park and that the placing of an equestrian statue of Colonel Roosevelt at the junction of the west drive was desirable.

In conclusion, the President* [Chairman] said that this problem should be handled in a large way commensurate with the dignity of the superb Memorial which the State would erect.

Commissioner Gallatin stated that he had invited Mr. Steinacher and Mr. Burgevin and Mr. Durham, representing Chief Engineer Tuttle, since the problems concerning the approach were difficult engineering matters. The Commissioner stated that the construction of the approach should not be incorporated in the competition plans for the Memorial Building, since it would be constructed from City funds and not from State funds. Mr. Durham stated that, as the representative of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, he would be glad to render any assistance that he could in preparing plans for the approach.

A very full discussion followed, centering around *an approach which would not have any grade crossing and which would be from sixty to seventy feet wide*. Mr. Burgevin suggested a causeway approach, extending from the second floor of the Memorial Building in a direct line to the Belvedere, which should be given a suitable landscape treatment; that this would do away with grade crossings, both in the Park and across Central Park West.

The Chairman* said that Mr. Hay had made the suggestion that the approach be a broad pedestrian promenade in the center, with a one-way motor road on each side. The Chairman* considered this a very valuable suggestion. Later the Committee decided that while it would give a fine setting to the Memorial, the traffic dangers incident to the necessary grade crossing were serious obstacles.

The question of the relocation of the transverse road to meet the situation was fully discussed.

*President Osborn as Chairman of the New York State Roosevelt Memorial.

On motion, the following action was taken:

1. That *there should be no grade crossing on the approach;*
2. That *the pedestrian paths should be carried underneath the west drive, at least on the southern path;*
3. That it was not desirable to divert the transverse road so that the exit would be on 77th Street;
4. It was voted to request the Park Commissioner to give at an April meeting of the Committee a report on how the transverse road could be diverted to the 81st Street exit, without grade crossings.

On motion, the Committee adopted a vote of thanks to Chief Engineer Tuttle, to Assistant Engineer Durham, to Chief Engineer Steinacher and to Landscape Architect Burgevin for their kind cooperation and assistance in working out these problems.

In conclusion, Mr. Burgevin *recommended that the approach to the Roosevelt Memorial be treated as a large plaza from the Memorial to the west drive, with suitable landscape effects.*

Roosevelt Plot [Roosevelt Memorial Site] —

At the request of the Chairman,* Mr. Sherwood pointed out the modifications in the proposed plot of ground which the Trustees of the Memorial were willing to approve, in order to provide elevator space in the Roosevelt Memorial. This involved the using of a portion of the ground set aside for the proposed African Hall.

On motion, the Executive Secretary was instructed to submit the revised plot to the Park Department for the Commissioner's approval and for a re-survey.

Central Park West Subway Plans—

The President* said that he had requested Mr. Delaney, Chairman of the Transportation Board, to provide three entrances or exits in connection with the subway station opposite the Roosevelt Memorial. The Executive Secretary was requested to send the data to Park Commissioner Gallatin, who would also take the subject up with the Transportation Board.

May 4, 1925:

The Trustees of the American Museum took the following action:

The President spoke of the plan which he had submitted to the Board of Estimate on April 3, 1922, and which he had given to the competing architects for the Roosevelt Memorial and recommended that the Trustees request the Board of Estimate to provide for the construction of the approach from the West Drive. On motion, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

*President Osborn as Chairman of the New York State Roosevelt Memorial.

RESOLVED, That the Trustees recommend to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment that an appropriation be made for the construction of the approach from the West Drive of Central Park to the front of the Roosevelt Memorial, in accordance with the plans submitted to the Board of Estimate by the President on April 3, 1922, and as submitted to the six competing Architects for the Roosevelt Memorial Building, to be erected by the State, so that this approach may be completed in time for the opening of the Roosevelt Memorial.

June 10, 1925:

The above resolution was transmitted June 10, 1925, to Park Commissioner Gallatin by Chairman Osborn, as follows:

DEAR COMMISSIONER GALLATIN:

You will be gratified to learn that the Trustees of the New York State Roosevelt Memorial unanimously chose John Russell Pope as architect of the Memorial, at the same time expressing regret at the untimely loss of Mr. Breck Trowbridge. All eight architects who submitted competitive designs were supplied with a plan of the Park, which I am enclosing, and were informed that a broad approach from the west drive was contemplated by the City, following the deed of gift of the land to the State. I enclose copies of the resolutions unanimously passed by the Trustees* and formally transmitted to the Secretary of the Board of Estimate yesterday.

I am gratified to learn that an appropriation† of \$200,000 is under consideration to pay for the approach and I have requested the office of John Russell Pope to get in touch with the engineering, as well as the landscape, problems involved.

All favored the idea of a central equestrian statue of Colonel Roosevelt, a broad central approach for vehicles and the two lateral approaches for pedestrians. I trust you yourself will examine the competitive plans, now on exhibition in the Members' Room of the Museum, and observe the prominence of this idea.

Meanwhile, Mr. Roswell Miller has suggested a new engineering plan, namely, *to cut a new tunnel, north of the present tunnel, with a covered way long enough to preserve and protect the Park south and west of the Shakespeare Garden.* This plan was approved at the last meeting of the Trustees and I was requested to transmit

*Trustees of The American Museum of Natural History.

†This appropriation was not acted upon.

it to you. I believe it affords the best solution and I trust that you will give it your consideration and will recommend it to Borough President Miller, as I presume this will be handled by him as one of the City's transportation problems. Executive Secretary Sherwood will put yourself and your office in touch with all the difficult problems which this plan seems to solve.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN,

President.

This letter and resolution were acknowledged by Commissioner Gallatin on June 12, 1925, as follows:

DEAR PROFESSOR OSBORN:

I have received your letter of June 10th concerning the Roosevelt Memorial and its approach.

I have handed your letter with the plans and resolution, to Mr. Steinacher, our Chief Engineer, and to Mr. Burgevin, our Landscape Architect, with directions to make an intensive study of the matter.

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) FRANCIS D. GALLATIN,

Commissioner of Parks, Manhattan.

June 8, 1925: Letter from the Board of Estimate.

In the meantime, the Assistant Secretary of the Board of Estimate sent the following letter to the Trustees of the Museum, to which was attached the report to the Board of Estimate of Chief Engineer Tuttle on the Roosevelt Concourse, placed before the Board of Estimate and Apportionment by Chairman Osborn on May 10, 1924:

Mr. PERCY R. PYNE, Secretary,

Board of Trustees, American Museum of Natural History.

Sir:

Referring to your communication dated May 10, 1924, containing copy of resolution adopted by your Board on May 5, 1924, requesting the development of a plan for an Intermuseum Promenade, which will provide a safe approach through Central Park from the Metropolitan Museum of Art on the east to the American Museum of Natural History and the proposed Roosevelt Memorial Hall on the west, at the meeting of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment on June 5, 1925, *this matter was referred to the Commissioner of Parks, Borough of Manhattan, with the request*

that he take steps to develop a plan for a suitable approach to the Roosevelt Memorial Hall and to submit same for the approval of the Board at such time as he deems it advisable to proceed with the work.*

Respectfully,

(Signed) JAMES MATTHEW,
Assistant Secretary.

From Chief Engineer Tuttle's letter of May 26, 1925, to the Committee of the Whole, Board of Estimate and Apportionment:

* * * * *

The original request was, however, made the subject of a report addressed to your Committee by the Office of the Secretary, under date of April 4, 1922, which contained a discussion of the project for the erection by the State of New York of a \$2,000,000 building to be located either in Albany as a New York State Museum, or in New York City as a memorial to the late President Roosevelt, and it was stated that the principal factors in deciding between the proposed sites appeared to be the question of accessibility and suitable approaches. Although this matter has subsequently been decided in favor of the site in New York City, we are of the opinion that some provision should eventually be made for constructing a suitable approach to this monumental structure.

At a conference held in the American Museum of Natural History on January 14, 1925, it developed that the architect for the Roosevelt Memorial Wing of the Natural History Museum had not yet been chosen, and that the plans for this structure were very indefinite. We have recently been advised that this condition has not been materially altered, in view of which fact it would appear that any decision with regard to the portion of the proposed Intermuseum Promenade† between the west drive in Central Park and Central Park West should be deferred. We are also of the opinion that any action with respect to the remainder of the project should be postponed until such time as a decision has been reached concerning the treatment to be accorded the lower reservoir basin.

We would accordingly recommend that the matter be referred to the Commissioner of Parks, Borough of Manhattan, with a request that he take steps to develop a plan for a suitable approach to the Roosevelt Memorial Hall and to submit the same for the approval of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment at such time as he deems it advisable to proceed with the work.

Respectfully,

PETER J. MCGOWAN, Secretary,
ARTHUR S. TUTTLE, Chief Engineer.

*Namely, the approach from the west driveway of Central Park, known as the Roosevelt Concourse.

†This section of Chief Engineer Tuttle's report refers mainly to the Roosevelt Concourse and not to the southern reservoir plans.

January 18, 1926:

The next step taken by the Chairman with the Commissioner of Parks, Mr. Gallatin, was to secure from Mr. Roswell Miller, a graduate of the Engineering School of Princeton University, an engineer's plan for the approach from the west drive of Central Park through the Roosevelt Concourse which was transmitted to Commissioner Gallatin, as follows:

MY DEAR COMMISSIONER GALLATIN:

According to my invariable previous practice in the Roosevelt Memorial procedure, I had a conference with Governor Smith on Saturday and he agreed to see Mayor Walker and inform him that the approach from the west side driveway of Central Park to the front of the Roosevelt Memorial was an essential part of the general plan as presented to the State, namely, New York's contribution of site and approaches. This must be lived up to by the City of New York.

I trust we may agree immediately upon the essential engineering features of this approach, which has now been under consideration for two years, not only in itself but in relation to the removal of the southern reservoir. If these two bits of engineering are done together, it will be a cut and fill proposition and the cost will be greatly reduced.

Believe me, always with best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN,

President.

January 19, 1926: P. S.—At the first winter meeting of the Committee on Buildings and Plans, held on Monday, January 18, 1926, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED, That the Committee on Buildings and Plans approves the Miller Plan,* dated May 19, 1925, for the approach to the Roosevelt Memorial from the west drive of Central Park, providing for the deflecting of the transverse roadway to the north, the passing of the bridlepath beneath the Roosevelt Concourse itself, the entire work, including construction of the walls of the transverse road of reinforced concrete, estimated at \$450,000, and transmits the plan to the Park Commissioner with the request that this plan receive very careful examination by the engineer and landscape architect of the Park Department with reference to

*This is the Roswell Miller engineering plan of the transverse roadway suggested by Mr. Burgevin, May 21, 1924 (see page 9 of this report). This plan was made with the approval of Commissioner Gallatin.

the design of the Central Park features which will be modified by this plan.

I hope you will kindly give the engineering and landscape features of this plan, submitted by Trustee Miller, Chairman of this special Committee and graduate of the Engineering School of Princeton University, your kind and immediate consideration. You will observe that the builder's estimate of the new cut is higher than that of your own office. Probably this improvement will cost the City 149% more than it would have ten years ago, but it will be used by hundreds of thousands, if not by millions of people annually when the Intermuseum Promenade is completed.

I have myself studied this transverse roadway plan every day for eighteen months past and am convinced that, while costly, it is eminently practicable and convenient. The roadway under the long tunnel should, in my judgment, be broad enough to admit four lines of vehicles abreast with very low guard lines between the east and west bound traffic, which will soon be enormous. It is already crowded and dangerous, a very serious accident occurring very recently to one of the municipal buses, which blocked traffic for over an hour.

HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN,
President. [Chairman]

January 26, 1926:

DEAR PROFESSOR OSBORN:

I have received your plans* for the proposed entrance to Central Park in connection with the Roosevelt Memorial. Mr. Steinacher and Mr. Burgevin are studying it.

With kindest regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) FRANCIS D. GALLATIN,
Commissioner of Parks,

January 29, 1926:

Manhattan.

This plan was reported upon to Commissioner Gallatin by Landscape Architect Burgevin, as follows:

HON. FRANCIS D. GALLATIN,
Commissioner of Parks,
Manhattan.

Dear Sir:

The Chief Engineer of this Department has transmitted to me Mr. Henry Fairfield Osborn's letter relating to the proposed Roosevelt Concourse.

I have studied both his letter and the so-called Miller plan.

Chapter 615 of the laws of 1924, a copy of which is hereto

*Referring to the Roswell Miller Plan, originally suggested May 21, 1924, by Mr. Burgevin (see page 9).

attached, the only law passed, to my knowledge, in relation to the Roosevelt Memorial, authorizes the City of New York to dedicate to the State the site for the proposed memorial, but I do not see any reference to any "approaches" mentioned in Mr. Osborn's letter.

The Miller plan, while physically possible would disrupt a large part of Central Park at an erroneous [enormous] cost without any compensating advantage to Central Park. Admitting that the proposed concourse would enhance the setting of the Museum Building, its advantage to visitors travelling through the park would be *nil* as there are at present drives leading from the West Drive to Central Park West at West 77th and West 81st Streets.*

The Roosevelt Monument shown on the Miller plan at the intersection of the proposed concourse and the West Drive would be a serious menace to traffic moving north and south on the West Drive. It might, perhaps, be possible to permit a plaza to be laid out opposite the Memorial Building, where a suitable setting for the Roosevelt Monument could be erected.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) J. W. BURGEVIN,
Landscape Architect.

February 1, 1926:

On receipt of this report by the Landscape Architect, Chairman Osborn wrote to Commissioner Gallatin as follows:

DEAR COMMISSIONER GALLATIN:

In reply to your letter of January 30th, I have read over the report of the landscape architect, but will not make any comment at present. The plan of the Intermuseum Promenade, including the approach to the Roosevelt Memorial, to be known as the Roosevelt Concourse, was officially laid before the Mayor and Comptroller and, on their approval, was laid before the entire Board of Estimate and Apportionment, each member of the Board being furnished with a copy. [April 3, 1922.] No vote was ever taken because each time the matter was brought up it was complicated with Mr. Hastings' War Memorial Plan; in fact Mr. Hastings' unpopular War Memorial Plan has obstructed, year after year, most important modification of the Central Park Plan ever brought before the City of New York, namely, the re-establishment of east and west communication across Central Park, forming approaches from east and west side respectively to two of the greatest Museums in the world. The Intermuseum Promenade and Roosevelt Concourse plans were used in Albany to show what the City of New York was

*In this report Mr. Burgevin considers and revokes his own suggestion of May 21, 1924, which led to the Roswell Miller Plan.

willing to do at a very critical time when the up-State Republican majority was trying to locate the Roosevelt Memorial in the City of Albany.

At the great public hearing in Albany I felt justified in pledging the City of New York to the carrying out of this great plan of approach. The diagrams and the very expensive reproductions of our plans all contained the Roosevelt Concourse as an absolutely essential feature, and it was this offering of a superb site and of a superb approach, *with unanimous support* of all the leaders of the Democratic Party and the City of New York that carried the day for the Roosevelt Plan.

The State of New York is now contemplating far more beautiful and also more expensive plans for a building than those which the City of New York presented. The cost will not be less than \$3,000,000.* Sooner or later New York will be compelled by public opinion to build an adequate approach and to fulfill its informal agreement with the State of New York. Why keep on postponing the preparation of the plans and of the estimates?

The Museum is in the Department of Parks, and you will recall that for years I have been endeavoring to have this plan prepared through the Department of Parks. I would be glad to have your advice as a Trustee of the Museum.

Regarding questions of corporate stock, the Museum is always represented by the Executive Secretary, Mr. George H. Sherwood, who will appear before the Board of Aldermen when requested to do so.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN,
President. [Chairman]

March 1, 1926:

Chairman Osborn, accompanied by Secretary Sherwood, presented the matter personally to Mayor James J. Walker, including the plan submitted to the Board of Estimate on April 3, 1922, also the Charles Delmont plan of 1915, with estimated cost of Roosevelt Concourse Section from west driveway to Roosevelt Memorial at \$450,000, requesting the appointment of a Special Committee, the Mayor stating that he would give this matter his best attention.

March 2, 1926:

Chairman Osborn wrote to Mayor Walker expressing appreciation for time and thought given to the Intermuseum Promenade and Roosevelt Concourse at conference of March 1. Present movement likely to fail without the personal efforts of the Mayor. Commencing of the plan in 1911 and of Roosevelt Memorial in 1916. No substantial improvement in Central Park in the last 55 years.

* The cost was subsequently raised to \$3,500,000.

March 22, 1927:

On March 22, 1927, Commissioner Gallatin was succeeded by Commissioner Walter R. Herrick. Chairman Osborn has discussed this subject with Commissioner Herrick in a series of letters and conferences as follows:

In the Year 1927:

March 3, June 3, 4, 6 (recommending Messrs. Merkel and Downer), 7, 9, July 1, 5, 26, November 21, 23, December 5, 6, 9, 10; also conference of December 13, in which the full previous history of the Roosevelt Concourse and the Intermuseum plan was presented; also December 13, 17, 19.

In the Year 1928:

January 13, 18, March 8, 12, 21, 23, 29, April 9, May 1, 14, 17, 24, June 14, 15, 18.

In the Year 1929:

January 20, 23, July 19, August 2, September 30, October 8.

In the Year 1930:

January 13, 15, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 27, 29, 30, February 13 (referring to Mr. Burgevin's plan of 1925), February 14, 17, 19, 20, 21, 25, March 7, 31, April 3, 4, 8, 11, 14, 23, 26, 28, 30.

Accompanying this report, covering the chief actions between the State and the City since April 2, 1922, I have the honor of submitting on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the New York State Roosevelt Memorial, plans presented by the architect, John Russell Pope, for the new east facade of the American Museum of Natural History with the Memorial in the center, also the ground plan for the easterly approach as far as the Central Park west driveway. This ground plan accords in general with the diagram submitted by Chairman Osborn of the Roosevelt Memorial Commission to the Board of Estimate, April 3, 1922; its engineering and landscape details also accord closely with the details agreed upon between the Roosevelt Memorial Commission and Trustees [and the Officers of the Department of Parks, as shown above in the conferences and letters of May 21, 1924; May 28, 1924; January 14, 1925; May 4, 1925; June 8, 1925; June 10, 1925; January 18, 1926 (pp 6-15 of above report); the chief recommendations of the Park Department being printed in italics.

Contrary to his previous recommendations and suggestions, Mr. Burgevin submitted to Commissioner Gallatin on January 29, 1926, an adverse report on the whole project, to which Chairman Osborn replied on February 1, 1926. Since that time no action has been taken by the Park Department on the matter first referred to six years ago, namely, May 21, 1924.

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT OF SEPTEMBER 2, 1930
THE EASTERLY APPROACHES
TO THE
THEODORE ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL

March 18, 1924.

Hearing before the New York State Legislature:

Extracts from the minutes of the meeting of March 18, 1924, held in the Capitol before a joint Committee of Finance and Ways and Means of the Legislature on the Straus-Adler bills and the Byrne-Boyle bills, being "An act providing for the construction of a State Museum as a Memorial to Theodore Roosevelt, and making an appropriation therefor," held in the Capitol, Albany, New York, March 18, 1924, at 3:00 P.M.

The Albany delegation, represented by Senator William T. Byrne, was as follows:

Mayor William S. Hackett of Albany.

Regent Herbert L. Bridgman.

Hon. Frank P. Graves, President of the University of the State of New York.

Ex-Governor Martin H. Glynn.

Mr. Peter D. Kiernan.

The Albany delegation, headed by ex-Governor Glynn, made a very strong and concerted plea for the location of the Memorial in the capital city of Albany.

Senator Byrne then presented letters and resolutions from various Chambers of Commerce; from College Officials and Educators; from Syracuse and vicinity; from Rochester and vicinity; from northern New York communities; from Albany and vicinity; from Hudson River communities; from central New York communities, Schoharie Valley communities, and others.

The New York delegation, represented by Assemblyman Steinberg, was as follows:

Senator Nathan Straus, Jr.

Mr. Henry Fairfield Osborn, Chairman of the Roosevelt Memorial Commission.

Mr. Joseph Johnson, Board of Estimate and Apportionment, New York City.

Mr. George H. Chatfield, Board of Education, New York City.

Mr. George H. Sherwood, Curator of Public Education, American Museum of Natural History.

Mr. Chauncey J. Hamlin, President of Museums Association, of Buffalo.

Chairman Osborn* spoke as follows:

"Now, much has been said of its nature, undoubtedly through misunderstanding regarding the character of the plan and of the site. Just let me clear that up.

In the first place, the site in the City of New York is a noble one. It is being re-named at this moment by the Board of Aldermen. It is being re-named Roosevelt Square. *The approach to it is a broad avenue from 80th Street east, to 79th Street west.*

Chairman DOWNING: Please explain that. That means to 80th Street one block?

Chairman OSBORN: 80th Street is not directly opposite the center of the Museum which is on Central Park West. You have to cross Central Park and turn slightly south.

Chairman DOWNING: *That means from the east side of Central Park, across Central Park?*

Chairman OSBORN: *Yes, across Central Park.* The building, the plan, has been spoken of as one of a series of sections. Now, we have taken many years to develop that plan, knowing that that objection would be raised, and I desire to say that this majestic plan is on such heroic, such Rooseveltian proportions that the rest of the Museum which adjoins it will at once become adjacent to this great central plan. It will dominate the entire west side of the city. It will tower over all the rest of the building. It is of such monumental proportions that it will be the most splendid monument that has ever been erected in the history of civilization by any state to a single citizen.

Nor is it to be a Museum hall. That I would like to call to your attention. It is to be a Memorial to Theodore Roosevelt in which there may or may not be exhibits. When you enter that great memorial hall, and its finished study has been put in the hands of every member of the Legislature, you are going at once to be impressed with Roosevelt's great, simple, American personality. That great conception has been carried out in two or three years' work.

*Henry Fairfield Osborn was selected as Chairman by Governor Alfred E. Smith in the year 1920.

Out of this you will enter the Roosevelt African Hall, a separate building, through a passageway. While you are in it nothing will disturb your mind. You will be right with the personality of Theodore Roosevelt and the whole hall is not to be a museum, but a memorial. It will be like entering the great tomb of Napoleon, or the great tomb of General Grant. The individuality and personality of Theodore Roosevelt will stand out in the rock, in the sculpture, and in legends which will be taken from his sayings. In the selection of those legends we shall select those very simple, homely phrases of his bearing on honor, on integrity, on purity of home life, on citizenship, on loyalty to family, to church, to state, which may be found through his writings. So there will be no accident about it. The State has before it a finished project. The State knows exactly what it is putting up, what the people are or are not contributing their money to. It is there for everyone to see. Whereas in the other case, it would be a year in preparing a draft, because the plan which was first prepared under the auspices of the Regents of the State of New York was unanimously rejected by the State Memorial Commission, and it is necessary to begin all over again to consider the plan.

So we have the plan; we have the site; we have the building, Rooseveltian in proportions, already to submit to the voters of the State.

Now, I am not going to speak at any greater length because we have other speakers who will speak from different aspects of this great subject. I consider it a very great honor to speak for the people of the City of New York, and the only jarring note that I heard in the meetings of our Commission has been a suggestion or intimation that the people of the City of New York are not citizens of the State of New York, not an important part of the State.

I would say in closing that another reason why I think it would be fitting to place this Memorial on this splendid site is that we want to emphasize in the minds of our youth that they are citizens not only of the great city, but also of a great state."

**PLANNING THE ROOSEVELT CONCOURSE
TO WEST DRIVEWAY
ACTIONS OF THE STATE ARCHITECT
AND
BOARD OF TRUSTEES***

January 7, 1925, to May 2, 1930

January 7, 1925:

At the meeting of the Committee on Plans of the Board of Roosevelt Memorial Trustees held on this date, at which there were present Chairman Osborn, Commissioners Hamlin and Jones, Mr. Arnold W. Brunner, and Secretary Pindar, the following minute is recorded:

"Mr. Brunner suggested that in the general submission of sketches *there should be a common scheme, or plan, included showing the approach to the Museum from the point in the Inter-Museum promenade where it is proposed that a suitable piece of sculpture might be placed.*"

Chairman Osborn remarked that "the architects should also be advised that the Memorial in itself should be educational in motive, keeping in mind at all times the outdoor, explorative and scientific side of Roosevelt's character which it had been decided the Memorial should also present."

The purpose of this meeting of the Committee on Plans was to formulate a program of competition of architects, one of whom should be selected to design the Memorial. This plan, as formulated by Mr. Brunner, was approved by the Board of Trustees on February 26, 1925, and also bore the approval of the American Institute of Architects through its New York Chapter Sub-Committee of Competition, signed by B. W. Morse as Chairman, on February 13, 1925. This program of competition, for the reason that it has included the provision for payment of the architect, was filed with the State Comptroller on September 23, 1925. Acknowledgment of its receipt is indicated in a copy of the Comptroller's letter, dated October 29, 1925, regarding the first payment due to the architect.

The completed program, however, did not include any provision for an approach beyond the easterly boundary line, i.e., the Central Park West Driveway.

*The Board of Trustees of the New York State Roosevelt Memorial succeeded the original Roosevelt Memorial Commission. Governor Smith appointed Henry Fairfield Osborn Chairman of the new Board.

June 9, 1925:

At the meeting of the Roosevelt Memorial Board of Trustees, held June 1, 1925, at which were present Chairman Osborn, Trustees Robinson, Good, Hamlin and Flint, the following resolution was adopted and a certified copy transmitted to Secretary of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, June 9, 1925, and its receipt acknowledged June 22, 1925.

WHEREAS the Trustees of the *New York State Roosevelt Memorial* are now prepared to proceed with the preparation of plans and specifications and the erection of the *State Roosevelt Memorial*, as provided for in Chapter 615 of the Laws of 1924, and

WHEREAS the Roosevelt Memorial was located in Manhattan Square with the understanding that the City of New York would provide an appropriate approach from Central Park.

RESOLVED, That the Trustees of the *New York State Roosevelt Memorial* request the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to make provision for an adequate approach to the Memorial Building from the West Drive of Central Park, and

RESOLVED, That the Trustees recommend to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment that the plans for the approach include provision for an equestrian statue of Theodore Roosevelt, to be placed in the center of the West Drive on the axis of the approach to the Memorial Building.

May 2, 1930:

At a meeting of the Roosevelt Memorial Committee on Plans held May 2, 1930, at which were present Chairman Osborn, Trustee Jones, representatives of the architect's office and Secretary Pindar, the following resolution was duly adopted:

“RESOLVED that the City of New York, through its proper officials, be respectfully requested to carry out the plans for an approach to the Roosevelt Memorial from Central Park as projected and presented to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment of such City in June, 1921, and to that end appoint a Committee to cooperate with said Committee on Plans of the New York State Roosevelt Memorial in the preparation and adoption of a plan for a suitable approach.

(Signed) HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN.

(Signed) SULLIVAN W. JONES.”

This resolution was prepared for transmittal to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, but on special advice was not forwarded.

HEARING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND APPORTIONMENT

October 21, 1930:

In the absence of the Chairman the Trustees of the Roosevelt Memorial were represented by Mrs. William H. Good of Brooklyn, Mr. Peter Kiernan of Albany, and Secretary Pindar.

The address of Trustee Peter D. Kiernan, as presented before the Board of Estimate and Apportionment of the City of New York, on October 21, 1930, was read in full and here reproduced in part as follows:

Address before the Board of Estimate and Apportionment of the City of New York by Peter D. Kiernan, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

"I have been delegated by Professor Henry Fairfield Osborn as Chairman of the Roosevelt Memorial Commission to urge upon you the appropriation of the sum of \$500,000, or as much thereof as may be necessary, to provide an approach to the Roosevelt Memorial on the 79th Street entrance of Central Park.

May I say in passing that I regret very much coming here for this purpose. I was a member of the Commission to determine the location of a memorial to Theodore Roosevelt and I urged with all the force I could command that a memorial erected by the State of New York properly should be erected in only one City, the capital City of the State. The City of Albany was prepared to give a site for this memorial. A group of citizens of Albany were prepared to purchase the grounds necessary to provide a beautiful approach to the proposed memorial but Professor Osborn was equally strenuous in his claim for New York and New York controlled the votes in the Committee and in the Legislature and New York won the prize. I clearly remember we raised the issue that a building of the type proposed for a memorial to Theodore Roosevelt needed and properly should have a park setting in order to make a dignified and fitting memorial and we urged that the proposed location adjoining the American Museum did not represent such a setting and that the Memorial would be so merged in the Museum that the memorial qualities would be lost.

Then Professor Osborn produced his masterpiece of a magnificent promenade connecting the Metropolitan Museum and the Roosevelt Memorial and the American Museum of Natural History. All the New York legislators endorsed this and it answered all our objections. The bill was passed by the Legislature and signed by

Governor Smith. Personally I assumed that it was a closed incident and it was only a few weeks ago I learned that some opposition existed against the proposed plan.

* * * * *

Now I notice that Mr. Straus* opposes this project and I am very much interested in the basis of his opposition. He says that it is contrary to the philosophy of the Park Association to conceive of the Park itself being used as an approach to public buildings. Well, I have to disagree with Mr. Straus' philosophy. Mr. Straus wants the minor activities to dominate the major activities. He wants his view of the Park Association philosophy to dominate what should be determined by the philosophy of the City.

He cannot conceive of parks being used as approaches to public buildings and yet the State of New York paid \$1,000,000 for a site of a park between the Capitol and the new State Office building and they are just now completing the beautifying of this park at an expenditure of \$500,000 in order to make an appropriate approach to the state buildings, and this policy of providing parks as approaches to public buildings has been followed in the National Capital and in every other country in the world, so that Mr. Straus' philosophy is at variance with the rest of the world. Now let us give the matter some further consideration.

New York City has many wonderful buildings but it has two institutions which are probably better known and appreciated by the rest of the world than they are by the City of New York. Here you are accustomed to them and do not realize their great value. One is the Metropolitan Museum with its treasures of art which are known throughout the world; the other is the American Museum of Natural History. Here the spoils of the world insofar as they relate to natural history have been brought together within its walls. You have many institutions of a local character but these two institutions are of world-wide knowledge and importance. Now I submit it is the part of a wise city philosophy to do everything possible to show to the world that we have a proper appreciation of the far-flung relationships of these two great world institutions. So much for philosophy.

Now, just one more thought. I am not going to attempt to discuss the technical details because I cannot do them justice, but I did go up and look at this part of the park and, Mr. Mayor, in my opinion it is the ugliest part of the park. It should be beautified

*Mr. Nathan Straus, President of the Central Park Association.

and in this process of beautifying it should be made to serve and adorn these magnificent public buildings. This project was the important factor in giving this great Memorial to the City of New York. I do not know whether anyone had the authority to pledge it, but I do know that the New York members of the Legislature did not question it at the time and I do know that it was the effective answer to the opposition of Albany at that time. Now, as an Albanian I ask that my native City of New York make good."

The above public hearing before the Committee of the Whole of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment of October 21, 1930, was upon Calendar

No. 13

60 September 26, 1930

Memorandum submitted by the Mayor, relative to the matter of The City of New York providing for an appropriate approach from Central Park to the Roosevelt Memorial on Central Park West, being erected by the State of New York, on a site donated by The City of New York.

On the same date, October 21, 1930 (Cal. No. 13—transferred to corporate stock and tax note calendar).

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