

7304

18th September, 1924

*H. Perkins
Smith*

Dr. F. C. Batton, President,
Morehead State Normal School,
Morehead, Ky.

Dear Sir:

We apologize to you for having been so long in getting out our revised preliminary study for the general layout of your school grounds; but we have simply been so crowded with urgent work since Mr. Whiting's last conference with you at Morehead that we have not been able to give the matter as thorough study as we wanted to. We are now sending you, however, under separate cover, two blueprints of our sketch plan No. 11. Will you please consider this layout carefully, take it up with your Board of Regents, and write us fully and frankly whether the scheme is satisfactory and if not in what respects you believe it should be changed. We prefer to make the scheme as far as possible accord with your wishes before we draw up the final plan in ink.

Fundamentally the arrangement of buildings is the same as the arrangement which Mr. Whiting discussed with you on his last visit. The Women's Dormitory Group has been made chiefly in front of the present Burgess Hall, one additional dormitory being provided to the west of this building. Our idea is that the best of your present wooden dormitories could be moved to this latter location and veneered with brick, provided, of course that the other new buildings are to be of brick. This relocation of the building will give space to the south of it for some local playgrounds, probably

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Dr. Button - 2

tennis courts for the girls.

On the axis of this group and just below the main driveway we are recommending what we have called a recreation building. Our idea is that this building would include a gymnasium or some opportunity for indoor exercise, possibly an auditorium, and provision for social gatherings and other forms of recreation in which the men and women would participate together. It is a good central location for such a building and we sincerely believe that you would find it a very useful addition to your plant.

To get a reasonably good line on the driveway, especially on the westerly approach, it seems to us necessary to crowd the road back practically through the center of your lot. We tried many alignments for this road, introducing reverse curves and various modifications in our effort to avoid your house, but none of them seemed to be really satisfactory; and as this is to be the main approach to the school we believe every effort should be made to secure the best alignment possible. We therefore are suggesting that the President's House be placed nearer the dormitories, as shown.

The main school building is located practically as Mr. Whiting decided with you on the ground. We have not yet received the actual plans for this building, so the block outline shown on our drawing is merely suggestive. We hope to receive the final plans before making our final drawing. This building we believe should be entered on the basement or first floor level from the south side. The second floor would then be approximately on the level of the ground at the north side.

The men's dormitories we have had to fit in as space permitted to the northeast of the main school building. If you owned more of the property around the nose of the hill to the northeast, it would probably be better to string the buildings out rather than jog them down the hill as the present property requires.

With the exception of the recreation building, the entire area below the driveway has been reserved as open campus or grounds. It should ultimately be enclosed along the street frontage with a wall or fence of good design, supplemented by border plantings of ornamental trees and shrubs. In addition to this border planting there should be additional groups of trees and ornamental shrubs of appropriate kinds planted not only around the buildings but scattered here and there about the Campus to provide a reasonable amount of shade. Of course these should be so arranged as not to cut off your best views, especially to the east.

The athletic field has been planned to provide for football, baseball, field hockey, six tennis courts, a fifth-mile running track, a grandstand seating 400 or 500, a field house for lockers, showers, and toilets, and the various smaller activities such as the jumps, shot put, etc. Of course this could be rearranged, or some of the things could be omitted if you prefer. It might be advisable to leave out the track altogether. This would depend somewhat on your general program for athletic development. As the field is now planned, however, it seems to provide with reasonable completeness for the usual athletic activities.

The driveway entering from the Midland Trail along the west side of the athletic field follows on a graceful line near the brook, then up to the west through the 40-foot right-of-way you have purchased, and enters your present Campus grounds at the extreme easterly corner. You will note where it leaves the athletic field just after crossing the brook the drive curves across the corner of property which you do not now own. This is not absolutely necessary, but as you can see from the plan, the smooth curve of the driveway which can thus be secured is very agreeable. We hope you can accomplish this adjustment in the property line.

Dr. Button - 4

In addition to the two prints of our plan No. 11, we are sending you a print of this plan combined with the topography. This print is not very clear, but if you study it carefully you can see how the proposed development fits the conditions as they exist and as they have been shown on the topographical map.

As soon as we learn of your approval or criticisms regarding this plan we shall be glad to make what adjustments may be necessary, and will then complete the final plan as promptly as possible. We shall also appreciate it if you will ask your architects to send us drawings for the main school building just as soon as they have been settled.

Very truly yours,

Under separate cover
2 blueprints No. 7304-11 ✓
1 blueprint No. 7304-11 over topo