

December 14, 1942.

Robert Woods Bliss, Esq.,
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My very dear Robert:

You will be delighted to hear that in spite of work heavier than ten men ought to undertake, your Mildred is looking extremely well, and, as you may imagine, extremely pretty. Obviously, the strain of the transfer of Casa Dorinda is over and now only the weeding of the devilish files remains to be done. It is a fortunate thing for her that she has decided to go East by car as it must mean that she is away from telephone and telegraph for at least ten or twelve days. As she has a heavy schedule for these last days, she is allowing me the chance to write you with regard to what we have talked over for the new 28th street house.

On the early November day in which you and Bryce and I visited the new abode, we spoke of various changes which we all agreed were practically essential. Bryce tells me that you have already authorized the planting of the little Japanese holly hedge alongside the driveway leading to the garage at the east end of the lot. Doubtless you have told Bryce that a supplementary little chicken -wire fence is necessary to place on the east side of the hedge so that the houndlings cannot dash through the hedge and so out into the busy street.

Mildred is entirely of your opinion that the hedge on the west side of the garden should be raised to a very considerable extent, and as Miss Havey made a few sketches for these possible changes I am sending you prints of the two sketches which seemed to Mildred and me most likely to be successful and least expensive.

Bryce tells me he has an offer from a builder for raising the fence in solid brick, but both Mildred and I feel that this would be unnecessarily heavy and therefore she thinks she would prefer sketch #1, which simply raises the existing brick wall in plain brick piers to whatever height is desired, and in between these brick piers to insert wooden panels of plain boards either of cypress or red wood. On these boards mouldings may be applied which will make panels and break the over plain surface of the board fence. A small wooden coping may be added, but by using these wooden panels with the raised brick piers, the fence can be heightened to any dimension you think advisable. Personally, I should think a 5'8" height is the minimum you would require, and more likely a 6 foot height would be the one you would choose. This same manner of raising

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the fence can be continued to the south side where there is also a gap and where passersby can look into the garden.

Miss Havey and I also made a sketch or two for possible gates to replace the openwork iron ones on Q street, and of the sketches submitted to Mildred the ones she prefers are those marked "c" and "d", with the preference toward "c". These gates are also to be made of plain boards and the upper panel of "c" might well carry the house number on its broad expanse. Other sketches were made, but as the opening is so tiny, only the two marked "c" and "d" are submitted.

At the service door of the house, instead of the rather heavy cedar pole fence, Mildred and I thought it might be wise to use the same lattice pattern that is used around the service court at Dumbarton Oaks. A little plan of the position of this lattice, together with its detail, is sent you so that you may see whether or not you approve it. If it seems to you too open, I should suggest temporarily putting inside it some sort of light plywood so that the ivy can have a chance to grow and make the lattice solid. You will see that this little enclosure is also supposed to be about 5'8" high, and this will mean the raising of one of the adjacent walls so that the top of the trellis can be worked in under the brick coping.

One more protection to the houndlets both Mildred and I feel is necessary, and that is a wall or picket fence southwest of the house where the change in grade comes between the front door level and the garden, in the position indicated by the white line on the blue print I am returning to you and Bryce. This little wall would be more attractive if made of brick with a little gate in it, more or less of the same type as those you may use on the Q street frontage. Mildred evidently thought that Gay and Skipper would more normally take their evening runs in the space west of the walk leading to the little guest house, and therefore felt that some sort of deterrent fence alongside the walk, leading from Q street to the guest house, might be necessary. She clearly felt that it would be unpractical to try to use the space east of the guest house and south of the garage for the doglets, as she felt it would be too far from the house either for supervision or easy access.

As there is only the one blue print of the grounds, I am returning this to you so that, if you care to, you may turn it over to Bryce for his use with the building contractor.

Perhaps no one will send you the clipping from the Santa Barbara News Press in which a well-earned praise of your Mildred is very prettily displayed.

Please forgive a hurried, disconnected letter, dictated in order to try and catch the post with the necessary prints and information for Bryce, to whom I am sending the "working" part of my letter to you.

Yours ever, with deepest affection.

Encs.