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People 1, Harvard 0; Gardens Saved, by Henry Mitchell

A months long debate over the proposal to build a library beneath the North lawn of historic and beautiful Dumbarton Oaks has been rendered moot by a decision to put the library back in the woods.

Or, as an official of Harvard University put it yesterday afternoon, in an unlandscaped part of the Dumbarton property behind the Fellow's building.

Dumbarton Oaks, apart from it's historical importance (site of conferences leading to the United Nations, former home of John C. Calhoun, etc.) contains one of America's major examples of landscape design, executed decades ago by the late Beatrix Farrand.

It was because gardens of this size and elaboration (in such details as walls, fountains, ornament in general) are almost unknown today, that many people hoped the Dumbarton garden could be preserved intact as a great example.

Chief objections were to alteration of grade level and removal of carved stonework, removal of two good Himalayan cedars and so forth.

Charles U Daly, Harvard Vice President for Community Affairs, said at a small meeting of interested people yesterday at Dumbarton Oaks that the university would choose, instead of the controversial North lawn, a secluded site behind the Fellow's building on S Street.

Dumbarton Oaks, owned by Harvard University, is a major center for scholarly research in Byzantine studies, and one consideration in the original North lawn plan had been security for the collection housed partly within the 18th-cwntury house itself. Now it is hoped to build not merely a library addition but a new center in the "secluded site."

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CASE NO.16555
EXHIBIT NO.47

William Tyler, Director of Dumbarton Oaks, said it was hoped and expected that Hugh Newell Jacobsen would continue as architect. (It is widely known that Jacobsen has designed tentative libraries everywhere except up in the sky trying to make everyone happy).

Tyler said the important thing was to get the library built and surveying would start promptly for a new site outside the actual gardens.

Daly said the university had assurances from such protesting groups as the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Committee of 100 on the Federal City and the Citizens Association of Georgetown, that they would not oppose a secluded site back of the Fellow's building.

David Chase, one of the original protesters, said they had felt the cause was hopeless at first but kept at it and were delighted with the Harvard decision.