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BOSTON, MASS.

October 22, 1908.

Mrs. Charles D. McIver,  
Greensboro, N. C.

Dear Mrs. McIver:-

You asked me to prepare a memorandum to be issued to the schools with reference to the improvement of school grounds when I was there and were to have sent to me publications that are already issued that have a bearing upon this matter. I should also be interested to secure information regarding the school libraries.

I am submitting the following as an outline of memorandum of such a pamphlet for you to consider and return to me with your comments in order that I may have some sketches made for it and re-write it.

Heading,- The Country school Grounds of North Carolina.

- 1. Selecting the school grounds. The ideal small school lot would have the attractive natural features, either trees or shrubs, brook, spring, ledge, the surface irregular, with flat space of
- 1/8 acre 50 x 100 for buildings
- 1/8 acre 50 x 100 for girl's playgrounds
- 1/8 acre or more for boys' playground
- 1/8 acre or more for park

This being a total of 1/2 an acre. It would be better, however, to secure a lot of two acres or more, a portion of which may always be a public park to stand as a memorial to the one who made the gift of the lot to the district. Certainly citizens ought to regard it as a privilege to establish a memorial of this kind.

The plan for the building should be one that would fit the ground. On flat ground any shape will fit the surface. On steep ground a long narrow building running parallel with the slope fits better than a square building that will extend out of the ground more on the downhill side. The part thus carried out of the ground, however, can be used as a basement with economy.

In a small lot it is best to build comparatively near the street in order that <sup>the</sup> space in front of the building kept in turf or shrubbery may not be so large as to require much care, and in order that the playground area at the sides or the rear of the

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building may be of good size. Such playgrounds in schools of small numbers may be of turf; with many pupils they should be of firm gravel with strip around edge next fence for shrubs, vines, and flowers.

If there is a bit of wild woods, a stream, a spring, a mass of shrubbery or a ledge, this ought to be held separate from the playground by a rail or a plantation of thick and prickly shrubs that will prevent the children from crowding over into the reservation and doing it injury in their play. If such a reservation is attractive naturally, it should be let alone. If it is covered with a litter of rubbish, such rubbish should be removed. Sooner or later trees will grow up and shut out weedy things and bring in an attractive ground cover of native plants. The pupils can, however, greatly aid in this work by bringing attractive plants from the woods where conditions are similar and planting them in the little park on their school grounds which will be an attractive nature study lesson and give them the personal interest that they must have in their school grounds if they are to be protected from injury.

Yours very truly,

Wana Manning

WHM-SBL

Dictated  
and read  
by Mr. Manning.