



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.

Series I: General Correspondence, 1914-1969, undated.

Sub-series A: Alphabetical, 1914-1965, undated.

Reel
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Box
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Folder
1329

The Temple, new building, 1916-1921.

SOUTHWARK FOUNDRY & MACHINE COMPANY

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

S.M. MARSHALL
CHIEF ENGINEER

May 29, 1916

Our Ref. No. 18

Mr. Jacob Mazer, Acoustical Engineer
Fulton Building,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Sir:

We are in receipt of yours of the 25th concerning the work which was done by you in our office. Since the installation of your sound absorbing panels we find the noise in the office has materially reduced. The relief which all have obtained is very marked and the office is unquestionably more pleasant and livable.

Yours very truly,

SOUTHWARK FOUNDRY & MACHINE CO.

SMM:W

S. M. Marshall
Chief Engineer

LAW OFFICES
FREDERICK A. WILLIAMS

412-414 CONTINENTAL BUILDING,
DENVER, COLO.

November 7th, 1917.

Mazer Acoustile Company,
NO. 525 Third Avenue,
Pittsburg, Pa.

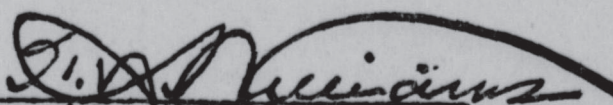
Gentlemen,-

Enclosed please find our check to your order for \$1100.00 in payment of balance due for treatment of the auditorium of the Central Presbyterian Church at Denver.

Permit us to say that the result of your treatment of this auditorium has given general satisfaction to our people, and at the first meeting of the Board of Trustees after completion of the contract the work was accepted by a unanimous vote.

In addition to the improvement of the acoustics, the general decorative scheme is universally admired.

Very Truly Yours,


President of Trustees.

Enc.

L. TREVETTE LOCKWOOD, CHAIRMAN,
WEST PALM BEACH, FLA.
CHARLES W. MCPHERSON,
STUART, FLA.
DR. F. C. AICHER,
JUPITER, FLA.
HARRY BENSON,
BOYNTON, FLA.
L. W. SMITH, JR.,
DELRAY, FLA.
GEO. O. BUTLER, CLERK,
WEST PALM BEACH, FLA.
R. F. GOODMAN, COUNTY ENGINEER
WEST PALM BEACH, FLA.

The Board of County Commissioners
OF
Palm Beach County, Florida



March 22nd

19 18.

Mazer Acoustile Company,
Pittsburg, Penn.

Gentlemen:

We take great pleasure in highly recommending your Company to anyone having charge of buildings that need their acoustical correction.

We find the work in the Palm Beach County Court Room, which you just finished entirely satisfactory. Many of us were very skeptical as to whether you could do any good. The Board of County Commissioners and all of the Judges and Lawyers are very much pleased with the work.

You will find enclosed herewith our voucher for the payment of your work in full.

Yours truly,

L. Trevette Lockwood
Chairman,

HERMAN B. GATES
CHEYENNE, WYO.

March 19, 1919.

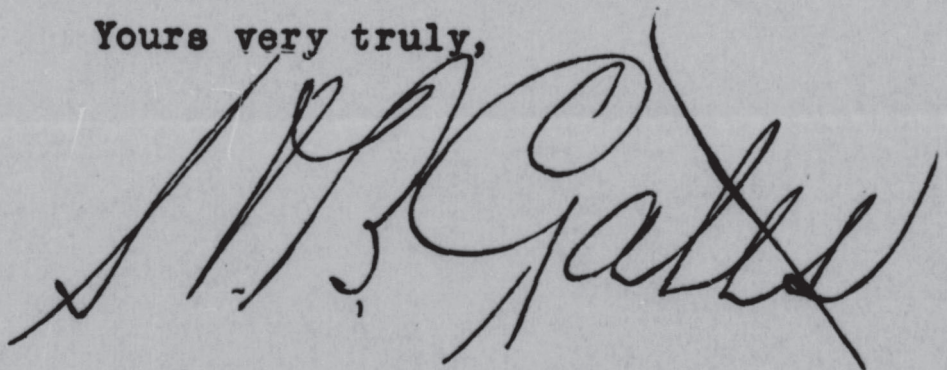
The Mazer Acoustile Company,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Gentlemen:

Answering your inquiry in reference to the present hearing conditions of the Legislative Halls in the Wyoming State Capitol Building, I will state that you have succeeded in transforming the highly faulty acoustical properties of the Senate and House Chambers into a state where speech can be heard very distinctly in any part of those Chambers. It is favorably commented upon by all those familiar with the hearing condition of those halls as they were prior to your treatment and as they are at present.

As a member of the State Capitol Commission and as State Treasurer, I would not have sanctioned payment had not the result been satisfactory, but in this case I must state that the result was very flattering to your company as Acoustical Engineers of a high caliber.

Yours very truly,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'H. B. Gates', is written over the typed name 'Herman B. Gates'.

The Temple

CLEVELAND

Office of the Finance Committee
for the New Temple
Building Fund
711 ELECTRIC BUILDING

THE COMMITTEE:

B. Mahler, *Chairman and Treasurer*

E. M. Baker

N. L. Dauby

Herman Einstein

Charles Eisenman

S. Goldhamer

Sam Hartman

Eugene K. Hays

S. M. Hexter

Emil Joseph

Max Meisel

Max Myers

Herman Moss

E. N. Newbury

Jesse F. Solomon

Abraham Stearn

Isaac Stone

Sam Weil

Sam D. Wise

L. J. Wolf

Louis M. Wolf

September 27, 1919.

Rabbi A. H. Silver,
Central Ave. & E. 55th St.,
Cleveland.

Dear Sir:

There will be a meeting of the finance committee
of the new Temple, Tuesday, September 30, 1919, 11 A. M.
sharp at the office of The Federation of Jewish Charities.
Your presence is urgently requested.

Very truly yours,

B. Mahler
Chairman.

12/15
K. L. L. -
Proprietor 9-11

Cadillac

ESTABLISHED 1909

Mazer Acoustile Company

THE PERFECTOR
OF ACOUSTICS

ACOUSTICAL ENGINEERS AND CONTRACTORS

SOLE MANUFACTURERS UNDER JACOB MAZER PATENTS

1209 ARCH STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA. October 11, 1919

Rev. Dr. A. H. Silver
Tifereth Israel Congregation
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Dr. Silver:

I am glad to note from the return post card which you sent us that you are to have a new temple. A man who is doing the fine work that you are doing should have no less than the best and most efficient edifice it is possible to build. While I have not had the pleasure of seeing you since the meeting about two years ago in Pittsburgh, I have often inquired, have read, and have frequently heard of your activities.

I do not like to inject the element of business in this letter. Aside from any personal interest, I want to put you on your guard in the matter of acoustics. With all due respect to architects generally, they seem to place far too little importance on this very important subject.

For instance, the temples at Pittsburgh, Buffalo, Cincinnati, New Haven, and Montreal were all treated acoustically AFTER construction. This could have been done better during construction, at least better structurally, and certainly more economically.

I would suggest that you send, or have your architect send me the plans of the main auditorium. I will furnish you with a report as to what is necessary to insure good acoustics, for which report, there shall be no charge nor any obligation on your part.

I hope that I may have the pleasure of attending the first service you conduct in the new temple.

With very kind and personal regards, and all good wishes, I remain

JM/k

Sincerely yours

How Mazer

P. S. How far has building progressed?

BUILDING OPERATIONS FINANCED
CONSTRUCTION LOANS
SYNDICATING-DEVELOPING
MORTGAGE LOANS
FIRE INSURANCE
APPRAISALS

BOTH PHONES

SALE, LEASE AND EXCHANGE OF
INCOME PROPERTY
IMPROVED PROPERTY
RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY
MANUFACTURING SITES
ACREAGE AND FARMS

THE JOSEPH LARONGE CO.

Real Estate Leaders of Cleveland

WILLIAMSON BUILDING

CLEVELAND, O.

January 26th, 1920.

Rabbi A. Silver
Wilson Avenue Temple
Cor. Central & 55th St.
C i t y

Dear Mr. Silver,-

Referring to our conversation over the telephone
with reference to the property on 105th Street,-

The North property, consisting of 268 feet front on
East 105th St., with a depth of 286 ft. on the
north side and 140 feet on the south side, has
been listed with us at \$300. a foot.

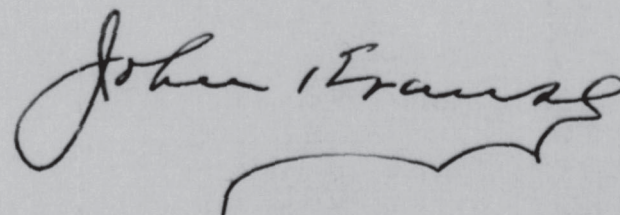
Should you be disposed to make an offer of about
\$75,000. for this property, we would recom-
mend its acceptance. The property south of
this, consisting of 332 feet on 105th St.,
with a depth of 140 ft. on the north end, run-
ning to a point on the south end, can be ob-
tained at \$77,000.

Hoping you will give this proposition your care-
ful consideration, I remain

Yours very truly,

THE JOSEPH LARONGE COMPANY

By



K/W

May 18th, 1920

Mr. Jacob Mazer,
Mazer Acoustile Company,
1209 Arch Street, Philadelphia.

My dear Mr. Mazer,

You are indeed becoming a first-class "Nudnick". It has come to be that I feel lonesome if I do not get a letter from you every Monday.

I think I wrote you some time ago that we have not yet chosen our architect nor have we decided upon any building plans. When the time comes, your suggestions regarding the Mazer Acoustile will be presented to the proper authorities. Until then - patience.

Very truly yours,

The Temple

CLEVELAND

Office of the Finance Committee
for the New Temple
Building Fund
711 ELECTRIC BUILDING

THE COMMITTEE:

B. Mahler, *Chairman and Treasurer*

E. M. Baker
N. L. Dauby
Herman Einstein
Charles Eisenman
S. Goldhamer
Sam Hartman
Eugene K. Hays
S. M. Hexter
Emil Joseph
Max Meisel
Max Myers
Herman Moss
E. N. Newbury
Jesse F. Solomon
Abraham Stearn
Isaac Stone
Sam Weil
Sam D. Wise
L. J. Wolf
Louis M. Wolf

May 21, 1920.

Rabbi A. H. Silver,
E. 55th St. & Central Ave.,
Cleveland.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I take pleasure in asking you to
serve as a member of the New Temple Building Committee
with the following: L. M. Wolf, chairman, Max Myers,
S. D. Wise, N. L. Dauby, Herman Moss and Benj. Lowen-
stein.

The building committee is appointed
pursuant to resolution adopted by the New Temple Finance
Committee at a meeting held on Wednesday, May 19th, and
is instructed to secure competitive sketches for the
new temple and community center building.

Very truly yours,

B. Mahler
Chairman.

Copies of the following letter sent to Mr. Max Myers
and Mr. Benjamin Lowenstein

June 12th, 1920

Mr. L. M. Wolf,
Chairman, New Temple Building Committee,
Swotland Building,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Wolf,

Complying with your request, I am enclosing a statement of the specifications for our new Temple and Temple Center. They are, of course, not complete, and are subject to radical modifications.

1. STYLE

It might, perhaps, be well to leave the discussion of style of architecture for some future time, after we shall have seen some of the more representative Temple structures of the country. There is, as you know, no distinctive Jewish architecture. In most lands Temple architecture reacted to the general prevailing architectural style. We have in this country Temple in the severe Classic style, Renaissance, Italian Renaissance and also in the Moorish. The Moorish, because of its Eastern flavor, approaches nearer, perhaps, to a characteristic Jewish type. However, few congregations have ventured in recent years to build in that style.

Whatever style we ultimately determine upon, we should keep this in mind, that our structure must in some way be distinctive. It should be readily distinguished from other religious structures. It must not look like a bank or a public library. It must subtly, but effectively, create a religious atmosphere, and in its symbolism at least, bespeak a Jewish house of worship.

2. MATERIAL

The material may be more easily selected when the

style of architecture is finally determined upon.

3. CAPACITY

It is my thought that the seating capacity of The Temple, auditorium and balconies included, should not exceed 1800. I feel that any greater number of seats will militate against the unity and beauty of the structure. Moreover, we are seldom in need of a larger number of seats during the year, except on the two High Holy Days. We must not sacrifice the services of the whole year for the sake of these two days. A large auditorium only partially filled deadens a service. Then, too, we shall have an assembly room in our Temple Center, where we shall be able to conduct a branch service for the Holy Days, should the need present itself. Of these 1800 seats, I would put as many as the scheme of the structure permits, on the balcony.

4. THE MEMORIAL CHAPEL

which will be used for our smaller services, and especially during the summer months, should have a capacity, say of 150 to 200. The Chapel should have a distinct type. It is to be and function as a small synagogue.

5. BOARD ROOM

6. CHOIR ROOM

Back or at side of the organ.

7. STUDY

Small study back of the pulpit.

8. LADIES' ROOM

Rest room and wash room.

9. MEN'S WASH ROOM

Quite a few more smaller items will present themselves after we shall go into the specifications more in detail.

THE TEMPLE CENTER

The principal thought to guide us in the construction of The Temple Center building should be utility. Most of our Temple activities will take place in this Center and we must build it large enough to accommodate all of our present-day activities and provide for future expansion. The size, I think, of the building, should therefore be determined by the following needs:

1. CLASS ROOMS

We shall need a minimum of 24 classrooms. A Classroom should comfortably hold thirty-five seats and should be provided with a built-in bookcase, clock hangers etc. Some of these rooms should be separated by movable partitions, so that they may be enlarged to meet certain emergencies.

2. THE ASSEMBLY ROOM

The Assembly Room should comfortably hold 1000 seats. Provision should be made for a stage, dressing rooms, and a small organ should be built into the Assembly Room.

3. THE GYMNASIUM

The Gymnasium should be so constructed that it may also be used for a banquet hall and dance hall. Locker rooms and showers should adjoin the Gymnasium. There should be a comfortably large kitchen also adjoining the Gymnasium; a ladies' parlor etc. etc.

4. LIBRARY

We shall need a fairly good-sized room for our Temple Library.

5. AN ALIENI ROOM

For Committee Meetings of the various organizations of The Temple. When not so used it may be a reading room or a rest room, though this is not absolutely essential.

6. EXECUTIVE OFFICES

Two fair-sized rooms, with a large store-room then.

-4-

7. ADEQUATE WASH-ROOMS
For adults and children.

8. RABBI'S STUDY

There are many more smaller items which will present themselves to your Committee when the actual detail of the work is planned.

Very sincerely yours,

WRHS




WE PURCHASE THE ACTIVE ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE OF MANUFACTURERS, MERCHANTS AND JOBBERS

THE MERCANTILE FINANCE COMPANY

LOANS AND DISCOUNTS

505 THE SWETLAND BUILDING

REFERENCE
THE
CLEVELAND TRUST
COMPANY

LOUIS M. WOLF.
PRES'T & TREAS.

CLEVELAND June 15, 1920.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,

Care The Temple, C I T Y .

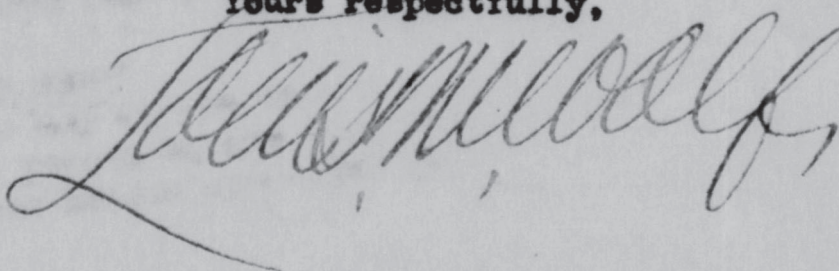
My dear Rabbi:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of yours of the 12th, and note the various data and memoranda which you have compiled, as regards the building of the Temple.

I shall be glad to take the matters up in the course of a very few days with the other members of the Building Committee, and arrive at some definite conclusion at that time.

Kindly phone me when it will be most convenient to have the committee meet.

Yours respectfully,



LMW/F

also telephoned

November 18th, 1920

Mr. C. C. Colman,
Room 511 - 1900 Euclid Avenue,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Colman,

Rabbi Silver requests me to
tell you that Mr. Harry D. Koblitz has in
his minutes of the meeting of Sept. 23rd,
1920, a statement concerning the style
of the new Temple, along with the specifi-
cations which Rabbi Silver gave to the
Building Committee.

Very truly yours,

Secretary.

Excerpts from the Minutes of Building Committee

Meeting held September 23rd, 1920

"The Building Committee, which had been on an eastern trip looking at various Temples, composed of

L.M. Wolf Rabbi Silver
B. Lowenstein H.D. Koblitz
Mr. Coleman (in advisory capacity)

rendered its report through Mr. Lowenstein, Rabbi Silver and H. D. Koblitz. The various reports referred particularly to the Temples in Philadelphia, Newark, 88th Street Temple in New York, the Temple in Boston, and the Jewish Center in New York. After reading of these various reports, discussion took place on the type of building we should select for a Temple.

Mr. L.J. Wolf moved that it be the sense of the Meeting that when the Building Committee meets with the architects, they be told that we desire a structure in accordance with the report submitted by Rabbi Silver at a previous meeting. The motion was duly seconded and carried."

There is no other reference to the type of construction in the Minutes of the Meeting.

*Has in his
minutes the
statement
concerning
style of the
Temple - along
with the speaker
that I gave*

October 11th, 1920

Mr. M. Lowenstein
1323 West 9th Street,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Lowenstein,

During the past few weeks certain things have come under my observation which, to my mind, would contribute greatly to the efficiency of our Institution. I find that in many of our activities there is a decided lack of discipline. For example, on Sunday morning our office force is overburdened with problems and questions put to them by Chairmen of various Committees and by Board members, to which, because of the ~~unpleasant~~ ^{unpleasant} ~~things~~ ^{things} they are called upon to do on Sunday morning, they cannot give their full attention.

Miss Jones, on Sunday morning, must devote her entire time to the details of the Religious School and should not be called upon to attend to any other matters which should be taken up during the week. There has been, unfortunately, almost hopeless confusion, every Sunday morning, due to the fact that people insist upon taking up a variety of problems with the Secretary.

Last year, I made the suggestion to a few of our Committees, more especially to the Finance Committee, that it set aside a definite evening a month for its meetings. I regret to learn that my suggestion has not yet been acted upon.

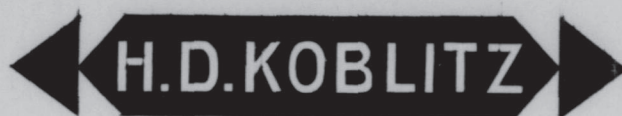
It seems to me that every important Committee of The Temple ought to have a definite date of meeting, at least once a month. All questions should

come up, not for hasty but for deliberate consideration and adjustment. Our institution is growing and it demands closer application on the part of all its active committees. I wish that you would impress this fact upon ~~all~~ the members of the Board at the coming meeting.

With kindest regards, I beg to remain

Very sincerely yours,





INSURANCE - REAL ESTATE

211-212 THE ARCADE
CLEVELAND

MAIN 5965

CENTRAL 2354

Oct. 29th, 1920.

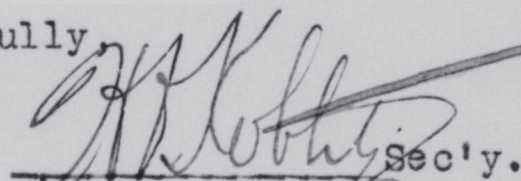
Rabbi A. H. Silver,
The Temple
CITY

Dear Rabbi:-

There will be a Meeting of
the Building Committee of the "Temple"
at 8:00 P. M. Wednesday Evening, November
3rd, at the Temple Extension Building,
Corner of E. 105th and Ansel Road.

It is very urgent that you
attend.

Respectfully,


Sec'y.

November 24th, 1920

Dr. Julian Morgenstern
Hebrew Union College
Cincinnati, Ohio.

My dear Dr. Morgenstern,

I am in receipt of your letter of the fifteenth and agree with you that the work of the Teachers' Institute should be continued in Cleveland. I feel, likewise, that it would be advisable to have some member of your staff ~~visit our city~~ some time in April or May to organize the work.

I shall be pleased to co-operate with you.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

visit our city.

SECOND REPORT
OF
THE COMMITTEE
ON
THE UNASSIGNED
PEW SYSTEM



RODEF SHALOM CONGREGATION
PITTSBURGH, PA.

SECOND REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE UNASSIGNED PEW SYSTEM.

The Committee on the Unassigned Pew System has closely followed the results of the inauguration of this method of conducting services and financing the congregation and deems it advisable to transmit its observations to the membership at this time.

It will be recalled that as a first step towards the introduction of this system the committee obtained releases for a period of two years from upwards of eighty per cent. (80%) of the members owning seats. The second step was to invite the members to assess themselves as liberally as possible. After that, former seat holders were invited to become members, and finally new members were enrolled. The results in numbers and the amounts subscribed are of considerable interest, especially so since the results were very satisfactory.

At the close of our last fiscal year, March 31st, 1920, we had 549 members and 240 seat holders, who collectively contributed \$40,688.70. Twenty-one members resigned, or died, leaving 528 members. We now have 1,038 members enrolled, and the total amount pledged is \$66,756.00.

Some additional detailed figures, too, are interesting. Three hundred and twenty-two

former members have increased their subscriptions from \$22,093.00 to \$36,122.00. One hundred and sixty-eight pay as much as they previously paid. Thirty-four former members have reduced their subscriptions from \$2,640.00 to \$1,760.000. Of the seat-holders, 193 have almost doubled their subscriptions, from \$3,453.00 to \$6,285.00—when they became members. One, only, reduced his subscription from \$20.00 to \$15.00. While it is important that the revenues be adequate, the committee does not wish to stress the financial success of the plan. This phase has required considerable attention and in the future will demand continued vigilance.

The greater concern is the operation of the services, particularly on such occasions when large congregations gather. Sabbath services have been more largely attended and have been conducted with greater satisfaction to the congregants and to the Rabbi. The attendance at Sunday services has been uniformly good, averaging 60% more than last year, by actual count.

The plan suggested in the committee's former report, to hold two services, one at six o'clock and the other at 8:30, on the eve of the two high Holy Days, was tried and in the main the experiment was successful. Members were admitted by ticket, the opportunity having been given them to express a choice for the early or late service for each evening.

For the New Year's Eve services, 738 persons attended the first, and 1,208 the second service. Quite a number of non-

members came to these services, but in as much as our members attended the first service in such large numbers, everybody was comfortably cared for.

The arrangement of the double services on Atonement Eve was not so satisfactory. New Year's Eve fell on a Sunday, whereas, Atonement Eve was on a week day. Fewer members desired to attend the early service on account of fasting or because it was inconvenient to leave business in time to do so. The result was that many who came for the early New Year's service preferred the late Atonement service. As usual, many non-members came, and, not knowing our plans, they came at the hour we formerly held our one service, and crowded the entrances and sidewalks before the first service was over. This resulted in congestion and confusion which could not be anticipated, and the members coming for the second service were unable to enter the Temple in a manner befitting the occasion. For the first service, there were 501 worshipers, and for the second, every seat was occupied and some stood; over 2,000 persons, therefore, were in attendance at these two services.

The morning service on New Year's and the morning and afternoon services on the Day of Atonement were most decorous and satisfactory, with an attendance equal to the seating capacity. In fact, as was anticipated, no holy day services were ever held at which the decorum was so good. Members did not congregate in the foyer, being interested in finding seats early, and the

late members were exceedingly few in number.

Perfection is not claimed for the conduct of these services. Since, however, this was a first trial the result was quite satisfactory. It is true, individuals here and there may not have been as comfortable as though they came to seats reserved for them until fifteen or twenty minutes after the services began, but if their discomfort is compared with the discomfort and disturbance their previous late-coming caused the worshipers who, under all circumstances, came on time, selfishness alone will have them conclude the new method unfair. In fact, the problem we have for solution is this: Shall our Temple continue open for as many as desire to worship and who wish to have their children receive religious instruction, as is possible under the unassigned pew system; or shall we go back to the old plan, after the two years' trial, and limit our membership to those who can be accommodated, on the assumption that all services will be fully attended. Attendance at all services has required only a portion of the Temple's capacity. Our members do not—possibly they cannot—attend all the services. Why, then, should we not serve two or three times as many, if by doing so we need only be put to a little discomfort once or twice a year?

Christian churches are appropriating hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to provide means to bring un-synagogued Jews to their religion. We are simply making it possible for Jews to remain Jews. We must do

this. No one questions the need and desirability of caring for as many children as possible in the religious school. This year we have an enrollment of 870 in all classes. Shall we make of these children, or many of them, religious orphans by denying their parents the right and privilege of worship at our services?

This report is being sent to all members, new as well as old. Its text may seem to apply to the old members principally. New members, those enrolled since last April, should be very much interested in the success of this undertaking. Their appreciation of the sacrifice the older members have made is vital to success.

This is an important venture. It concerns not only this congregation. Many other congregations are watching our progress. Some have already adopted the plan, feeling assured of its success; others are waiting until our trial period has been completed.

The Committee is open to suggestions, invites constructive criticism and will carefully consider any means which may be proposed for improving the system. Much has already been accomplished. We have a larger congregation and a larger religious school. There is a better attendance at all services and members come more promptly, resulting in more effective and more decorous services. The elasticity of the unassigned pew system gives an opportunity to those who are more richly blessed to supply the congregation in accordance with their greater means and it also gives a sense of freedom to those who pay in accordance with their lesser means.

The Committee hopes the membership individually and collectively will weigh well the full significance of the success of this venture. Its value to the individual family, to the congregation, to the community, and to Jews generally may be very great. United effort coupled with unselfish determination will make a practicality of a possibility.

Respectfully submitted,

JUDGE JOSIAH COHEN, *Ex-Officio*,
DR. SAMUEL H. GOLDENSON,
MARCUS AARON,
A. LEO WEIL,
PETER GLICK,
LOUIS J. AFFELDER, *Chairman*.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees, December 5, 1920.



C O P Y

THE TEMPLE
Cleveland

Dec. 8th, 1920

Mr. C. R. Greco,
8 Beacon Street,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:

The Tifreth Israel Congregation, the largest reformed Congregation in Cleveland - proposes to build two buildings; a Temple and a Temple Meeting House, upon acquired property on a main thoroughfare overlooking a City Park.

The Temple will in the main contain a large auditorium and a small chapel. The Temple Meeting House will have a large number of class rooms, an auditorium, a gymnasium, a library, offices, etc. The cost of the two buildings should not exceed \$800,000.00.

For the purpose of selecting an architect for these two buildings, it is intended to institute a competition to which a certain group of architects will be invited. This same letter is being sent to all architects selected to compete, to invite their views as to their intentions. A prompt reply is desired so that the programs, already prepared, can be issued as soon as possible to a final list of competitors.

Unless we receive a reply on or before the 20th of December, we will assume that you are not interested in this competition.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) H. D. Koblitz
Secretary
211-12 The Arcade
Cleveland, Ohio.

M. J. MANDELBAUM

L. J. WOLF

H. C. LANG

MANDELBAUM, WOLF & LANG

GUARDIAN BUILDING

CLEVELAND

DECEMBER 8th
1920

RABBI SILVER,
C/O The Temple,
55th and Central Ave.,
C I T Y.

MY DEAR MR. SILVER:

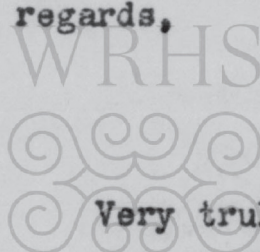
I am leaving the City Friday evening, to be gone
some days, and would be under obligations to you if meanwhile
you telephone me stating what I may write to Mr. Alschuler, of
Chicago, concerning his desire to enter the competition of
architects for presentation of plans for the new temple.

With kind regards,

Very truly yours,

L. J. Wolf

LJW-R



C O P Y

Boston, Mass., Dec. 11, 1920

Mr. H. D . Koblitz, Secretary,
211-213 The Arcade,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Koblitz:

In reply to your letter of December 8th regarding the Competition for Proposed Temple for Tifreth Israel Congregation, I wish to say that I would be pleased to be included as one of the competitors.

Thanking you and your committee for their kind consideration, I am,

Sincerely yours,

(SIGNED) Charles R. Greco

The Temple

CLEVELAND

Office of the Finance Committee
for the New Temple
Building Fund

711 ELECTRIC BUILDING

THE COMMITTEE

B. Mahler, *Chairman and Treasurer*

E. M. Baker
N. L. Dauby
Herman Einstein
Charles Eisenman
S. Goldhamer
Sam Hartman
Eugene K. Hays
S. M. Hexter
Emil Joseph
Maurice Maschke
Max Meisel
Max Myers
Herman Moss
E. N. Newbury
Jesse F. Solomon
Abraham Stearn
Isaac Stone
Sam Weil
Sam D. Wise
L. J. Wolf
Louis M. Wolf

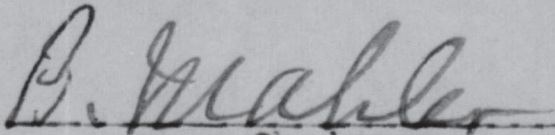
December 14, 1920.

Rabbi A. H. Silver,
E. 55th St. & Central Ave.,
City.

My dear Rabbi Silver:

The Building Committee for the new temple project are now prepared with a program for which they desire the approval of the Finance Committee before proceeding further and you are urgently requested to attend a meeting called for this purpose Friday, Dec. 17th, 12:30 M., hotel Statler, private room 1.

Very truly yours,


Chairman.

C O P Y

Dec. 21st, 1920

Mr. Charles R. Greco,
8 Beacon St,
Boston

Dear Sir:-

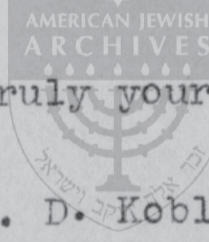
You will find enclosed herewith the
program as indicated in our letter to you of December
8th.

If you desire to compete in this com-
petition, we would appreciate your reply not later than
January 1st, 1921.

Very truly yours,

H. D. Koblitz,

Secretary



C O P Y

Boston, Mass. Dec. 27, 1920

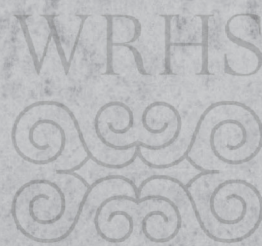
Mr. H. D. Koblitz, Sec.,
711 Electric Building,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Koblitz:

In reply to your letter of December
21st I wish to say that I would be pleased to enter
the competition for the proposed new Temple at Cleveland.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Charles R. Greco.



COPY

Cleveland, December 29th, 1920

The Temple,
Mr. H. D. Koblitz, Secretary,
711 Electric Bldg,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Gentlemen:

The Program of the competition for the selection of an Architect, for the proposed Temple and Temple Meeting House for the Tifereth Israel Association of the City of Cleveland, Ohio; has been referred to the Executive and Competition Committees of the Cleveland Chapter American Institute of Architects.

After careful consideration of the subject we regret to inform you that members of the Institute cannot participate in your competition, because, your program does not harmonize with the form of competition that the Institute considers to be for the best interests of both Owner and Architect.

In accordance with the direction of the Executive Committee, the Secretary is sending a copy of this letter to all of the invited competitors as follows:

Cram and Ferguson
Albert S. Gottlieb
Walker & Weeks

Boston, Mass
New York, N.Y.
Cleveland, O

Charles R. Greco, Boston
Geo.B. Post & Sons, New York
Hubbell & Benes Cleveland

and also to Mr. W. Stanley Parker, Secretary of The American Institute of Architects, Octagon House, Washington, D.C.

Sincerely yours,

THE CLEVELAND CHAPTER, A.I.A.

Secretary.

C O P Y

1921 Jan 3 P M 4 55

Boston, Mass

Geo. B. Mayer

729 Guardian Bldg Cleveland O

Tell Koblitz at once that Grecos letter of acceptance of December twenty seventh holds good no matter what the American Institute of Architects says We will not be dictated to by them in this competition The institute wrote Temple Committee no member could compete but we will compete anyway.

REED

CHARLES C. COLMAN
ARCHITECT
THE 1900 EUCLID BUILDING
CLEVELAND

January 12, 1921.

The Building Committee Of The Temple,
Cleveland.

Gentlemen:-

To confirm the matter of my conferences with Rabbi Silver and Mr. Louis M. Wolf, chairman of your committee, at whose suggestion this letter is being addressed to you, I would state plainly my position and ambitions in regard to the building program of The Temple.

Recognizing the fact, as many as ten years ago, that The Temple must move from its present location to more adequate quarters and a more suitable site, I began the study of the problem at that time. Of late years, this study has progressed, being fostered by more intimate connection with The Temple and Temple activities. With the purchase of the site on East 105th Street, my work has been of a more tangible nature, with a definite problem to solve. For the last seven months, I have devoted practically all my time at the office to this one project. The plans for both the buildings and the grounds have already been developed beyond the sketch state. I have given consideration to all the needs of The Temple, as outlined in the building program, the complex situations brought about by the contours of the property, engineering problems, architectural designing and planning, and the matter of costs. All the building laws and the interpretation of them pertinent to this particular project have been gone over in detail with the Building Department Authorities to safeguard your interests and to meet all requirements.

In detail: the designs for The Temple would lead to the creation of a building which, because of its simplicity of detail and great mass, many have judged a monument. In its plan has been embodied the spirit of religion, for as the circle, so religion is without end. Problems of circulation and distribution of the people, acoustics, heating and ventilating, and the important matter of deadening against external noises, all have been considered in the design. The Temple Meeting House has presented the triple problem of developing a plan that meets the requirements of the program submitted, combining the units in an arrangement that would be the most serviceable, and at the same time producing a building of minimum floor area, devoid of waste spaces. The exterior design and grouping of the two buildings have been planned so as to make a harmonious composition.

C O P Y

CHARLES R. GRECO

January 21, 1921

Mr. H. D. Koblitz, Secy,
209-12 The Arcade,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Sir:

Referring to your letter and programme covering the construction of the Temple and Meeting House, sent us on the Twenty-First of December, 1920, we wish to assure that you have incurred no financial obligation for any work already performed in this connection and the reviewing of any plans or drawings already prepared shall in no way incur a financial responsibility on the part of your Committee.

Should my services in this connection be required, it is understood that a definite written contract shall be entered into, setting out the terms and conditions, and until such time, the Temple or its Committee, is in no way obligated to me for services.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Charles R. Greco.

The Temple

CLEVELAND

Office of the Finance Committee
for the New Temple
Building Fund
711 ELECTRIC BUILDING

THE COMMITTEE

B. Mahler, *Chairman and Treasurer*

E. M. Baker
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Maurice Maschke
Max Meisel
Max Myers
Herman Moss
E. N. Newbury
Jesse F. Solomon
Abraham Stearn
Isaac Stone
Sam Weil
Sam D. Wise
L. J. Wolf
Louis M. Wolf

April 4th, 1921.

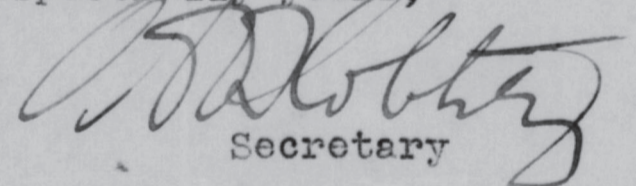
Rabbi A. H. Silver,
CITY

My dear Rabbi:-

There will be a Meeting of
the Building Committee of the New
Temple, at the Temple Center, E. 105th
and Ansel Rd., Wednesday Evening, April
6th, at 8:00 P.M. for the purpose of
selecting an architect for the new temple.

We have three plans submitted for
your consideration, and it is urgent that
every member be present.

Respectfully yours,


Secretary

HDK/MH.

THE UNIVERSITY IMPROVEMENT CO.
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUILDING
CLEVELAND, OHIO

W. G. Mather, Pres. F. F. Prentiss, Vice. Pres. Morris A. Black
J. R. Nutt, Treas. Manson Havens, Sec. Benj. S. Hubbell
Vice. Pres. Architectural Advisor.

April, 14, 1921.

The Temple,
Louis M. Wolf, Chairman,
Building Committee,
Citizens Bldg.
Cleveland.

Gentlemen:-

At a meeting of the City Plan Commission held on Wednesday, August 27, 1919, a general approval of the Plan for the Development of The University of Cleveland as presented through the Chamber of Commerce, was made a matter of record. At this meeting representatives from The First Church of Christ Scientist, Case School of Applied Science, The Board of Education, Western Reserve Historical Society and The University Improvement Co. were present. All these representatives agreed that the execution of the plan would be of great value to the City.

On April 7, 1921 The Epworth-Euclid M. E. Church took title to 240' of land on the east side of E. 107th St. immediately north of the Whitehall Hotels.

The Board of Education now controls the majority of the land bounded by E. 107th Street, Fairchild Ave., E. 109th St. and Deering Avenue, and it is the intention of the Board to erect upon this property a group of high school buildings, unless some means is found to secure the funds for the purchase of a large part of this property for the extension of the Park.

In conversation this week with Mr. J. H. Wade and Mr. Morris A. Black, both expressed the opinion that if The Temple desires to erect its buildings on the parcel of land extending from E. 107th St. to the proposed park extension, midway between Euclid Ave. and the proposed extension of Carnegie Ave., that by co-operation between The Temple, The Board of Education, The City and The University Improvement Co., said site might be secured. Without the proposed abandonment of Deering Avenue and Marlborough Avenue, the suggested site will have a frontage on E. 107th St. of about 247' and a depth from E. 107th St. E. to the proposed extension of the Lower Boulevard of about 205'.

The Temple - 2.
April 14, 1921.

As soon as Deering Avenue and Marlborough Avenue are vacated, this site may be extended in a northerly and southerly direction as much as The Temple might desire, but it should be borne in mind that it will be impossible to make the depth of the property more than 205'.

If said Park extension can be secured, the writer thinks that this location for The Temple is better than the location on the corner of E. 105th St. and Ansel Rd., though he believes that said location is the next most desirable that can be obtained.

Mr. Black is anxious that this idea be placed before the Building Committee with the statement that if The Temple so desires, The University Improvement Co. will assist in every possible way in securing this site for The Temple.

WRHS



Signed: Benj. S. Hubbell,

BSH. SH

COPY OF LETTER RECEIVED THIS A. M. FROM MR. HUBBELL
FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

CHARLES C. COLMAN
ARCHITECT
THE 1900 EUCLID BUILDING
CLEVELAND

I know you feel that because of my intimate relation with The Temple and its problems and my study of this particular project, I may be of some service in the preparation of plans and the execution of the work. Through my years of connection with the project and my long period of detailed study of all its phases I have gained a knowledge of the subject, which it would take another architect years to obtain.

Rightly, you have called attention to my lack of extended experience. I have realized that from the very beginning. In view of that fact, I have held conferences with several architects of good standing, who have favored an association in this work. An association of this kind, I assure you, is quite usual in projects of this size and kind. Matters of engineering, heating and ventilating, lighting, acoustics, and domical construction are specialized subjects, which few offices attempt to handle themselves. As for the plans particularly, they are often better when evolved by a young inventive mind and later modified by more conservative judgment. Construction details and their execution are matters of experience alone.

In the near future, you intend to invite three or four architects to submit plans, in order that you may have under consideration a variety of ideas and so, probably, arrive at a better solution of the problem. Because of my close connection with the project and my extensive study of the whole matter, I beg leave of you to be allowed to form an association with an architect of repute and so to be allowed to submit my designs for your consideration on a par with the others.

In making this request, my prime consideration has been for the welfare of The Temple, as it has been in all other matters relating to The Temple in the past.

Respectfully yours,

Charles C. Colman

Copies to

Messrs. B. Lowenstein
Louis M. Wolf
Max Myers
H. D. Koblitz
Rabbi A. H. Silver

CHARLES R. GRECO, A.I.A.
ARCHITECT
8 BEACON STREET, BOSTON
GUARDIAN BUILDING, CLEVELAND

April 19, 1921

MEMORANDUM OF WORK ON THE TEMPLE

Early in December 1920 I received a letter from the Secretary of The Committee dated December 8th (copy herewith enclosed) stating that the Temple Committee was to institute a competition and asking if I was interested. On December 11th I replied to them that I was interested and would like to compete (copy of letter herewith attached).

I received the program and letter dated December 21st (copy of letter herewith attached) saying the Committee "institutes a competition", and invited me to compete, stating that I must reply before a certain time. I accepted the invitation on December 27th (copy of letter herewith attached). Later I received from the American Institute of Architects a copy of the letter which they sent to the Committee saying that no member of the Institute could compete. We notified the Secretary of the Committee that I would compete and would not be withdrawn by any third party (a copy of telegram herewith attached). Mr. Koblitz told Mr. Reed and Mr. Mayer of this office that the Committee was trying to work out some scheme which would be acceptable to the Institute and suggested that they were considering paying each competitor for sketches with the hope that this would satisfy the requirements or that they might possibly yet employ an Advisor.

Immediately upon accepting the invitation on December 27th, we began the study of the problem and the making of tentative sketches. About January 19th I brought these sketches to Cleveland for consultation with Mr. Reed. I called to see Mr. Koblitz to inquire how they had finally settled with the Institute and he said that there was no competition, as I was the only one of the six invited who was willing to compete.

This was the first information that I, or any representative of mine, received that the Committee had discontinued the competition. I claimed at this time that as according to the program, which says in Article 2 that "the Association institutes a competition", and that as everything else pertaining to this competition had been in writing, and that as I had received no word from the Committee, either orally or in writing, that the competition had been discontinued, that I should complete my sketches on the requirements contained in the program, and submit them on the date set therein.

If I had completed my drawings, and sent them in, being the only one in the competition, I would have been entitled to the thousand dollars as first prize mentioned in Article 4. Furthermore, if the Committee did not wish to have me as the Architect of their building I would have been entitled to the further sum of \$2000.00 as provided in Article 7.

CHARLES R. GRECO, A.I.A.
ARCHITECT
8 BEACON STREET, BOSTON
GUARDIAN BUILDING, CLEVELAND

-2-

I explained the situation to Mr. Koblitz and he said that he would see the Committee and take the matter up with them. On the next day when I called to see him he said that the Committee had decided to select one Architect to work out sketches in conjunction with them, who was to make sketches and restudy the problem; and he said the Committee agreed that they would not consult with, or accept from any Architect sketches other than those of the Architect with whom they were to study their problem, until such time as they were satisfied that this Architect could not grasp their problem. Furthermore, he said that two Architects were considered in this capacity, and that I was the one finally decided upon. I said to Mr. Koblitz: "So that we thoroughly understand each other, in short, you mean this: that if I sign this agreement your Committee agrees not to play with any other Architect until they are satisfied that I cannot make good". He said that this was the understanding and on the strength of this I told him that I would send him a signed copy of a letter which he had prepared, releasing the Temple from all financial obligation to me incurred by my preparation of sketches previous to this time. (copy of letter herewith attached). After receiving this letter he was to make an appointment for me to meet the Committee and show them the tentative sketches which I had worked up to date. The meeting was held the following Monday afternoon at the office of Mr. Wolf. Our tentative sketches showing the requirements as set forth in the program were submitted. It was suggested that the two buildings be connected by the Chapel and the Administration Quarters, otherwise, in completing our sketches we were to follow the requirements as to location and size as set forth in the original program.

On March 7th we presented our completed preliminary sketches to the Committee. After the Committee had seen the sketches, they said they wished to refer them to the General Committee, but could not do so until Mr. Wise and Mr. Dauby returned to town. Upon their return to Cleveland a meeting was to be arranged and I was to be notified so that I might be present when they presented these sketches to the General Committee.

Now, I understand that the Committee has received sketches for their consideration from another Architect who was not included among the list of six chosen to compete when the competition was instituted, and who therefore did not have the program to follow in its mandatory requirements, and was not bound down to the location of the various units as we were.

It was our understanding that it was the intent of the Committee to find what might be the cubical contents and expense of a building arranged according to their program of December 21st, and if necessary later to adopt such savings in arrangement as might be expedient. This was the understanding when we started to make our latest sketches, and it was on this basis that the Committee was to restudy with me

CHARLES R. GRECO, A.I.A.
ARCHITECT
8 BEACON STREET, BOSTON
GUARDIAN BUILDING, CLEVELAND

-3-

the different arrangements possible. This is further expressed in the second paragraph of Part 2 of the program where it is provided "-- that the design presented is not necessarily accepted as the design for said buildings".

I feel that the Committee in receiving these sketches from another Architect, has not lived up to the agreement under which I signed a release and prepared my latest drawings. I would like an opportunity to appear before either the Sub-Committee or the General Committee so that I may answer any questions that may be asked in order that my position in this matter may be made clear in the minds of all the members.



CHARLES R. GRECO, A.I.A.
ARCHITECT
8 BEACON STREET, BOSTON
GUARDIAN BUILDING, CLEVELAND

April 23, 1921

Rabbi A. H. Silver,
The Temple,
Cor. 55th & Central,
City.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I am enclosing herewith for your consideration a statement showing the history of the work I have done for the Temple Building Committee and the circumstances under which it was done, together with copies of correspondence referred to therein.

I have tried to put into concrete form the matter which I have gone over with you in conversation, thinking that it might be more convenient for you to have it in this form.

Sincerely yours,

Charles R. Greco

The Temple

CLEVELAND

Office of the Finance Committee
for the New Temple
Building Fund
711 ELECTRIC BUILDING

THE COMMITTEE

B. Mahler, *Chairman and Treasurer*

E. M. Baker
N. L. Dauby
Herman Einstein
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S. Goldhamer
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Eugene K. Hays
S. M. Hexter
Emil Joseph
Maurice Maschke
Max Meisel
Max Myers
Herman Moss
E. N. Newbury
Jesse F. Solomon
Abraham Stearn
Isaac Stone
Sam Weil
Sam D. Wise
L. J. Wolf
Louis M. Wolf

April 27, 1921.

Rabbi A. H. Silver,
Central Ave. at E. 55th St.,
Cleveland.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

You are urgently requested to attend a
joint meeting of the Finance and Building Committees
of the new Temple, Wednesday, May 4th, 6:30 P. M.
at the Excelsior Club.

As this is an important meeting, kindly
make every effort possible to be on hand.

Very truly yours,

B. Mahler
Chairman.

HERMAN MOSS

314 HIPPODROME BUILDING

CLEVELAND

April 30, 1921

Rabbi A. H. Silver,
c/o The Temple,
Cleveland.

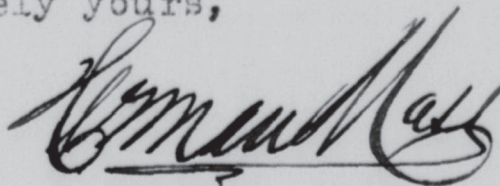
My dear Rabbi Silver:

I regret very much indeed that an important business conference in the East will prevent me from attending the meeting of the Finance and Building Committee of the New Temple which is to be held on Wednesday, May 4th.

Presume that the question of the decision of the Building Committee which was rendered a few weeks ago in the selection of the Architect is likely to come up and I want you to know that, on the basis of the plans which were submitted to us at that time, it is my firm conviction that those of Mr. Morris, connected with the Lehman-Schmitt Company were so far superior that I cast my vote in favor of this company.

As a member of the active Building Committee of the Excelsior Club I had an intimate knowledge of the class of work which the firm of Lehman & Schmitt performed. If we can have as satisfactory an experience in the construction of the New Temple we may feel very fortunate indeed.

Sincerely yours,



CONGREGATION BETH EL
DETROIT

June 1, 1921

Rabbi A. H. Silver,
The Temple.
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear friend and colleague:

The business manager of Mr. Albert Kahn, architect of our new Temple, has asked me to inquire whether final arrangements have been made by your congregation with any architect, for the building of your new Temple. In case the matter is still open, I imagine that Mr. Kahn would like to get into touch with you or the officers of your congregation who may have charge of the matter.

With cordial greetings and regards, believe me to be, as always

Sincerely yours,

Leah Frankel

June 3rd, 1921

Dr. Leo M. Franklin
10 Edison Avenue,
Detroit, Mich.

My dear Dr. Franklin,

Acknowledging receipt of your letter
of the first instat, permit me to say that The
Temple has already engaged an architect for its
new structure.

Trusting that you are well, and with
my kindest regards to Mrs. Franklin and your family,
I beg to remain

Very sincerely yours,

CHARLES R. GRECO, A.I.A.
ARCHITECT
8 BEACON STREET, BOSTON
GUARDIAN BUILDING, CLEVELAND

Boston, Mass., July 27, 1921.

Rabbi A. H. Silver,
Camp Kilcornan,
The Weirs, N. H.

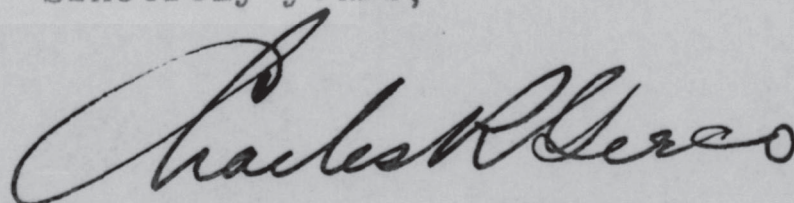
Dear Rabbi Silver:

In reply to your letter of the 22nd I wish to say that the studies are getting along very well and that I will be able to write you next week stating some definite time when I would like to see you.

I thank you very much for extending an invitation to spend a week-end with you and if I am able to do so I will but otherwise I will come up and stay with you as long as it is necessary to go over the proposition thoroughly.

I am Trusting you are having a very pleasant vacation,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Charles R. Greco". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Charles R. Greco".

CHARLES R. GRECO, A.I.A.
ARCHITECT
8 BEACON STREET, BOSTON
GUARDIAN BUILDING, CLEVELAND

Boston, Mass., August 4, 1921.

Rabbi A. H. Silver,
Camp Kilcornan,
The Wiers, N. H.

My dear Rabbi Silver:

I am taking my family to Kennebunk, Maine, to spend the month of August and I intend to stay with them until the first of the week and I will come direct from there to see you.

I will undoubtedly leave Kennebunk on Monday and therefore get to the Wiers some time during the afternoon. If by any chance I should stay over and not leave Kennebunk until Tuesday I will wire you. If it is not convenient for you to see me on either of those days will you kindly wire me at the Atlantis, Kennebunk Beach, Maine.

I will bring with me a study which we have made and which seems to me to be a condensed form of the building which you spoke of at our last conference.

Trusting that you are quite well and that I shall see you next week, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Charles R. Greco

CRG/RL

ALBERT S. GOTTLIEB,
ARCHITECT,
101 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
Temple Tifereth Israel,
Central & East 55th Sts.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

August 8, 1921.

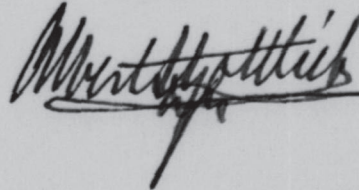
My dear Rabbi Silver,

I am taking the liberty to write you for information in regard to your proposed new Temple and Community House for which a competition was to be held and in which I was one of the invited competitors. Unfortunately the terms of that competition were such as to prevent members of the American Institute of Architects from participating and much to my personal regret as I was intensely interested in this work and expected to put my very best efforts into it. I should like to know whether this matter may come up again in the form of a competition or whether any other decision has been reached as to the selection of an architect.

I wrote several months ago to your Secretary, Mr. Koblitz about this but never received any reply.

If you can tell me anything about it, I shall feel much indebted to you.

Very truly yours,



ASG :SMS: