

Fayette Park Idea Given Up By Engineer

Opposition to Moving of White Memorial Brings New Suggestions

City Planners Meet Point Out That State Tower Location Would Be Advantageous

Controversy over the designation of a site for the projected Christopher Columbus monument which the Italian-American citizens of the city propose to put up at a cost of \$30,000 as soon as a site is allotted, quickened today as the matter became a civic and political issue.

The City Planning Commission, meeting this afternoon, was expected to discuss the question, but to make no decision. Clarence M. Howard, secretary of the commission and its consulting engineer and city planner, said at noon that he "does not expect any action."

Objection to moving the Hamilton S. White memorial in Fayette Park to make room for the Columbus statue, has developed such proportions that it appeared doubtful today if the commission will go through with that plan. Even Mr. Howard, who recommended it to the Mayor, is apparently much enthusiastic for it than he was a week ago.

"As a matter of fact," he told The Herald today, "my first choice for the Columbus monument was Columbus Park, at East Genesee and Cherry Streets. We could develop a site there that would give the monument a wonderful setting. It was not, however, satisfactory to the committee in charge of the monument project.

"I also suggested the big plaza which is to be cleared in front of the new New York Central station in Erie Boulevard. There will be a plaza, off the end of Forman Avenue, which would make a splendid site for such a monument. This, too, was unacceptable to the committee.

"We then turned to Fayette Park, which the committee declared would be admirable. After a talk with Mrs. Hamilton S. White, widow of the fire hero, and several of her late husband's friends, I was satisfied that there would be no opposition to moving the White memorial to the east end of the park to make room for the Columbus statue. For that reason, I recommended that it be done. Now, I find that there is opposition.

"In view of the sentiment that seems to exist, it seems to me that an admirable solution of the problem would be to put the monument in Hanover Square, in front of the State Tower Building. That site, I think, would be acceptable to the committee in charge of the Columbus monument project. It is quite central and, with a vista from Clinton Square, would show off the monument very nicely."

Neither John G. Cicciarelli, chairman of the committee in charge of the monument fund, nor John W. Barnell, who has conducted the negotiations in its behalf with the municipal administration, could be reached this morning to comment on Mr. Howard's latest suggestion for solution of the problem.

The Hanover Square site is now occupied by a municipal comfort station, which will be eliminated, if it is decided to erect the monument there.

Citizens who are interested in the monument controversy, while reluctant to be drawn into conflict with the City Planning Commission, apparently are opposed to disturbing the White memorial. They take the view that there are plenty of sites available elsewhere in the city.

Some of these suggested today were St. Marys Circle, between the courthouse and the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception; the new Erie Boulevard plaza opposite the proposed New York Central station; a triangle of land owned by the city at the Onondaga Avenue entrance to upper Onondaga Park; Columbus Park, at East Genesee and Cherry Streets; the plaza at Fulton and North Salina Streets; Washington Square, in the old First Ward; Lehighworth Park, off West Genesee Street; and a park in the West End, at West Genesee Street and Milton Avenue, where it was proposed to build a branch library a year ago.

Any one of these, or any other available site which might be acceptable to the Columbus Memorial Committee, would apparently meet with no opposition from any source. Sentiment on the moving of the White Memorial, however, is already so strong that most of those concerned with the project believe it will never be done.