

Shaw

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Columbia, Boone Co., Mo. March 17 1883

My Dear Dr. Dawson JW Sabin Prof. Agri
MS Shaw

Can I trouble you to give me your opinion about two proposals for the location of a museum. The legislature has voted \$100,000 for enlargements. I send you a plan of building and of proposed enlargement in dotted lines. Also an elevation of west end. The building is of four stories. The library room the third over Hall.

It has been proposed to devote the whole top flat to rooms for geological and Nat. Hist. Museum and lecture rooms. It would give an abundance of rooms. I have proposed in its place to devote the ^{west} south end wing 43 x 60 feet, and fill up all windows and make a fire wall above roof. and to divide the ~~three~~ vertical space of this ~~rooms~~ into two, each 22 feet high, and make a gallery in each, and to leave the top flat the same as in old building. The first flat with gallery to be devoted to Geol. & Min. The second to Geol. & Min., and the top for Archeology &c. Then I propose that the space of R. of old building be the lecture room of Geol. & Min., and the same room on third floor to Nat. History essentially but not at present. The basement will give good work rooms.

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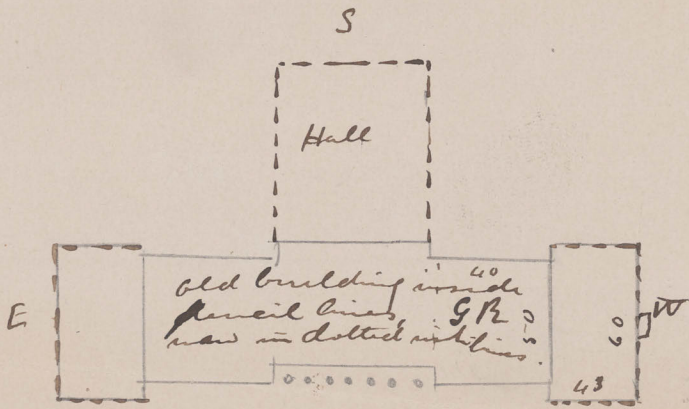
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Then there will only two doors of iron communicating with ^{rooms} nurseries. The entrance will be from the south west. I consider this the most desirable on account of design, on account of fire (I may say that the lightning here is terrible, and many trees have been struck since middle of last Sept. one or a few feet from the building was struck a week ago) Then it will be more accessible than the bottom top. The former proposal was arranged and I have so strongly voiced out my views that I expect to get them carried out, but I take the liberty of asking you to express your opinion. Of course the top floor would be lighted from roof a trifle, and, larger, and all on one floor.

Speaking the other day about going ~~to~~ to the Alps, I found that I will likely be able to get a month's extension of time. So I expect to go about May 1st (but not quite certain). If I go I think it will be by Allan line, and so pass through Montreal, but unfortunately I will not be able to get there $\frac{1}{3}$ the date of Convocation.

I am
 Your old servant
 J. W. Spencer



- 3 Archael. sec
- 2 for Good sec
- 1 for Geol & Min

| old part | Proposed museum |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 1841-1851 | 3 |
| 1851-1861 | 2 |
| 1861-1871 | 1 |
| GR-1851 | |