



## Commission Action

July 7, 2016

---

<b>PROJECT</b> <b>New Perimeter Fences and Gates</b> White House Complex 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Washington, DC	<b>NCPC FILE NUMBER</b> 7776
<b>SUBMITTED BY</b> United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service	<b>NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER</b> 1.31(38.40)44366
	<b>APPLICANT'S REQUEST</b> Approval of comments on concept design
	<b>ACTION TAKEN</b> Approved comments as requested
	<b>REVIEW AUTHORITY</b> Approval per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d)

---

The Commission:

**Notes** the Commission previously approved temporary security measures for the White House fence, with the understanding that a more lasting solution would be developed.

**Supports** comprehensive, permanent measures to address the security needs of the White House complex.

**Notes** three options have been developed regarding the fence top and base design, including both ornamental and functional elements. All options assume the same fence height. Regarding these options:

**Comments** that Option (1) appears somewhat ornate and may visually compete with the more modest neo-classical style of the President's residence.

**Comments** favorably on the fence design for Option (2), as it provides an appropriate hierarchy of ornamental and security elements, and limits the visual weight of the fence top.

**Does not support** Option (3) as it emphasizes security elements instead of ornamental features, and will therefore detract from the visitor experience.

**Recommends** the applicant continue to develop the fence elements, including the pickets, finials, anti-climb measures, and other components, to best balance proportion, hierarchy and the level of detail appropriate to the design.

**Requests** the fence base and foundation be designed to avoid unnecessary impacts to the root zone of any significant or specimen trees.

---

**Notes** two alternatives for picket size and spacing have be submitted, including a 2” picket with 5-1/2” spacing, and a 1-3/4” picket with 5” spacing.

**Comments** favorably on the 2” picket with 5-1/2” spacing as the NPS and USSS preferred alternative, noting that the wider picket spacing may provide better visual access to the White House and grounds for visitors located near the fence.

**Requests** the opportunity to review a full-size mock-up of the fence design prior to preliminary review, including the picket size and spacing, posts, anti-climb features and ornamental elements.

**Requests** additional renderings and perspectives of the fence from several locations prior to preliminary review, along with a comparison to existing conditions. These additional perspectives should include:

- Several direct views of the fence from a variety of locations and distances along Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
- A view from the Ellipse, looking north toward the White House; and
- A view from Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, of a proposed pedestrian and vehicular gate

//Original Signed//

07/07/2016

\_\_\_\_\_  
Julia A. Koster

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Secretary to the National Capital Planning Commission