



## Delegated Action of the Executive Director

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<b>PROJECT</b> <b>New Fence and Retaining Wall at the Embassy of Bangladesh</b> International Chancery Center 3510 International Drive, NW Washington, DC	<b>NCPC FILE NUMBER</b> 1844
<b>SUBMITTED BY</b> United States Department of State	<b>NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER</b> 72.10(38.00)44599
	<b>ACTION TAKEN</b> Approve preliminary and final site development plans
	<b>REVIEW AUTHORITY</b> Approval of Projects at the International Center Per Section 4 of the International Center Act (Public Law 90-553, amended by Public Law 97-186)

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The Department of State (DOS) has submitted preliminary and final site development plans for a new fence and retaining wall at the Embassy of Bangladesh, located in northwest Washington, at 3510 International Drive. Completed in 2000, the Embassy of Bangladesh occupies Lot 3 in the southwest quadrant of the International Chancery Center (ICC). The Embassy of Bangladesh is bound by International Drive to the northeast, the Embassy of Morocco to the southeast, the Embassy of Ghana to the north, and Reno Road to the southwest. The site slopes steeply down toward Reno Road, with a drop of approximately 40 feet. In December 2017, the Executive Director approved a similar rear yard fence at the Embassy of Morocco through a delegated action (NCPC project # 5253).

The project is needed to increase security along the rear and side yards of the Embassy. The scope of work entails excavating and leveling soil; installing footings; installing metal fence posts and railing system; building a low cinder block retaining wall; and adding a wall cap. The proposed wrought-iron black fence will be approximately 200 feet long by six feet tall, and will be located at the rear yard along Reno Road. The fence will connect to existing adjacent fences around the site. The proposed fence will have two by two inch posts which will run 16 inches underground and filled with concrete. The material and design of the new fence will be compatible with the adjacent fences. The fence will step down to follow the existing topography.

Due to the higher elevation of the recently constructed Moroccan Embassy as a result of regrading, a retaining wall is needed between the boundary line of Bangladesh and Moroccan Embassies to prevent potential landslides during heavy rain and snow. Therefore, the project also entails constructing a two-foot tall concrete retaining wall with a four-foot tall iron fence on top. The total height of the fence and retaining wall will be six feet. The retaining wall will be approximately 100 feet in length and should not be visible from street level. As such, the retaining wall will not have any viewshed impacts. Further, the fence and retaining wall will not require any tree removal.

The proposed plans for the new fence and retaining wall at the Embassy of Bangladesh are not inconsistent with the *Development Controls for the Chancery Section of the International Center in the District of Columbia*, which among other things, contain specifications pertaining to fences and retaining walls, as defined in §610.00-613.13. The development controls state that “fences and retaining walls may be constructed on lot lines and within setback areas and building lines, provided that:

- The top of such fences may be no higher than six and one-half feet (6’ - 6”) above the final grade, and the average height on any such retaining wall may be no higher than seven and one-half feet (7’ -6”) above the final grade;
- No fences or retaining walls or other construction shall be located within any building restriction line indicated on the plat subdivision; and
- All surfaces of fences shall be finished and designed in such a manner as to harmonize with the design and materials used in the construction of the Chancery and shall present no objectionable characteristics to adjacent lots.”

The proposed fence and retaining wall will be located on the Embassy lot line. The fence and retaining wall will reach a total height of six feet, as such they will remain below the maximum height prescribed in the *Development Controls*. The design of the fence will have a similar appearance to adjacent existing perimeter fences, which are installed at the Embassies of Ghana and Morocco. In addition, the fence is compatible to the existing fence installed along the front yard of the Embassy of Bangladesh along International Drive.

Both DOS and NCPC have a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) responsibility for this project. DOS and NCPC have independently determined that the project is consistent with the *Development Controls* for the ICC which were adopted by the Commission in 1971 and analyzed in the associated 1976 and 1981 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) documents. Since the project is consistent with the *Development Controls*, staff has determined that no additional environmental review is required for this project.

The Department of State has determined that the proposed project is not subject to further review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) because the buildings within the ICC are not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, as documented in the previous EIS documents. Due to its approval authority over the project, NCPC has an independent responsibility to comply with Section 106. On February 9, 2018, NCPC initiated consultation with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer (DC SHPO) regarding the proposed fence and retaining wall at the Embassy of Bangladesh. NCPC determined that no identified historic properties would be affected by the proposed project within the Area of Potential Effect (APE). On February 12, 2018, the DC SHPO concurred with NCPC’s delineation of the APE and its determination of no effect to historic properties, including archaeological sites. However, they noted that should there be any unanticipated archaeological discoveries made during this undertaking, the applicant should stop work immediately and contact the DC SHPO archaeologist.

The ICC site has the potential to yield unidentified archeological resources, related to history or prehistory, because of its geographic location, as well as being the site of the former National

Bureau of Standards (NBS), constructed in the early 1900s. Moving forward, the DC SHPO is requiring that the DOS prepare an archeological assessment with a GIS analysis, and an evaluation of the above ground built resources. Both of these components (below and above ground resources) will inform the Determination of Eligibility (DOE) for the entire ICC campus to be submitted to the DCSHPO. The goal of obtaining the DOE concurrence by the DCSHPO is to streamline the review process for any future projects within the ICC.

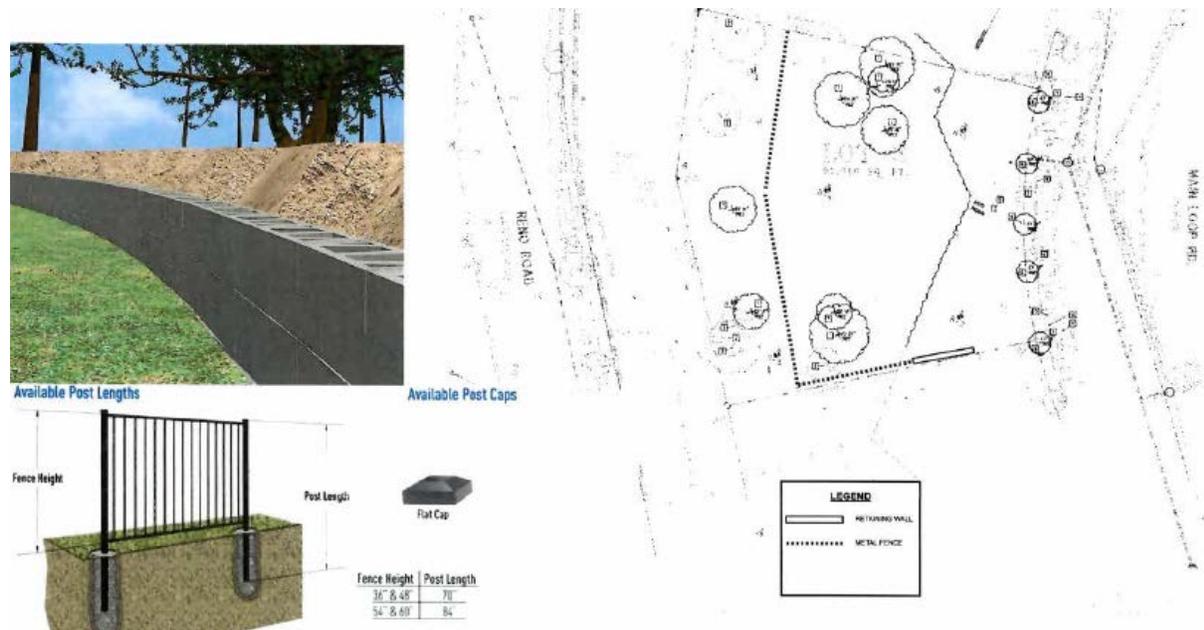


Figure 1 Embassy of Bangladesh Site Plan – Proposed Fence at the rear yard, and retaining wall with fence on top at the east side yard.

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the project on February 7, 2018. The Committee forwarded the proposed preliminary and final site and building plans to the Commission with the statement that the proposal has been coordinated with all participating agencies. The participating agencies were the NCPC; the National Park Service; the General Services Administration; the District of Columbia Office of Planning; the District of Columbia Department of Transportation; the District Department of Energy and Environment; and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. The State Historic Preservation Office noted that they had not been contacted regarding this project and consequently could not coordinate. As stated above, NCPC has since initiated consultation and received concurrence from the DC SHPO.

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Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996 and per Section 4 of the International Center Act (Public Law 90-553, amended by Public Law 97-186), I approve the preliminary and final site development plans for the New Fence and Retaining Wall

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at the Embassy of Bangladesh, located on Lot 3 within the International Chancery Center (ICC) at  
3510 International Drive, NW, Washington, DC.

// Original Signed //

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Marcel Acosta  
Executive Director

February 22, 2018

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Date