



Delegated Action of the Executive Director

PROJECT Embassy of Ghana - Front Entrance Gate Alterations International Chancery Center 3512 International Drive, NW Washington, DC	NCPC FILE NUMBER 7982
SUBMITTED BY United States Department of State	NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER 72.10(38.00)44742
	ACTION TAKEN Approve as requested
	REVIEW AUTHORITY 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)

The Department of State (DOS) has submitted preliminary and final site and building plans for the front entrance gate alterations at the Embassy of Ghana, located in northwest Washington. Constructed in 1989, the Embassy of Ghana occupies Lot 2 in the southwest quadrant of the International Chancery Center (ICC). The site is bounded by International Drive to the east, the Embassy of Bangladesh to the south, the Embassy of Israel to the north, and Reno Road to the west. The Embassy of the People's Republic of China, and vacant Lot 10 are located to the east across International Drive. The project entails in-kind repairs and replacement of minor site elements at the front entrance of the Embassy of Ghana, which serves as the main entry for employees and visitors. The Embassy exterior front is composed of solid wall segments alternating with gates. The wall segments measure a total of 98 feet in length, and the three gates, including two for vehicles and one for pedestrians, measure a total length of 46 feet.

The project includes the following components:

1. Repairing a damaged section of the front exterior security wall. The section of the exterior wall to be reconstructed measures 28 feet long by seven feet in height. The proposed materials and paint will match the existing front wall design.
2. Replacing the decorative Ghanaian symbols that are part of the front walls.
3. Replacing the two existing driveway gates with new electronically operated cantilever gates. The gates will measure 12 feet (12'-0") in width by 6 feet 10 inches (6'-10") in height. The gates will include remote operating systems with controls. The color of the proposed gates, which is black, will match the existing gates. The new gates will include a curvilinear profile at the top.
4. Painting the existing pedestrian entrance gate.
5. Repairing a small cracked section of concrete driveway (approximately 25 feet by 30 feet) located in the inner compound of the Embassy.
6. Replacing existing security lighting and landscaping as required.

The proposed plans for the front entrance gate alterations at the Embassy of Ghana 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. 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;
- 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 gate replacement and exterior wall repair will not affect the location of the fence along the lot line. The exterior wall will continue to be seven feet tall, while the driveway gates will measure 6 feet 10 inches. Therefore, the exterior wall will remain below the maximum height prescribed in the Development Controls. The wall and gate materials, and finishes will match the existing conditions. The existing gates have a straight profile, while the proposed gates will have a curvilinear profile. However, the gate will be compatible with the design of the Embassy.

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. Therefore, staff has determined that no additional environmental review is required for this project.

The Department of State has determined that the proposed front entrance gate alterations are not subject to further review under Section 106 because the buildings within the ICC are not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Due to its approval authority over the project, NCPC has a responsibility to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. On April 19, 2018 NCPC initiated consultation with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO) for the proposed in-kind repairs and replacement of minor site elements, with no ground disturbance, at the at the entry gate to the Embassy of Ghana. NCPC determined that the project would have no effect on historic properties. The DC SHPO concurred with that finding on April 25, 2018.



Figure 1 Existing Front Walls and Gates at the Embassy of Ghana

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the project on April 11, 2018. Without objection, the Committee forwarded the proposed preliminary and final site development 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 State Historic Preservation Office; the District of Columbia Department of Transportation; the District Department of Energy and Environment; and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

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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 Front Entrance Gate Alterations at the Embassy of Ghana, located on Lot 2 within the International Chancery Center (ICC) at 3512 International Drive, NW, Washington, DC.

// Original Signed //

Marcel Acosta
Executive Director

April 27, 2018

Date