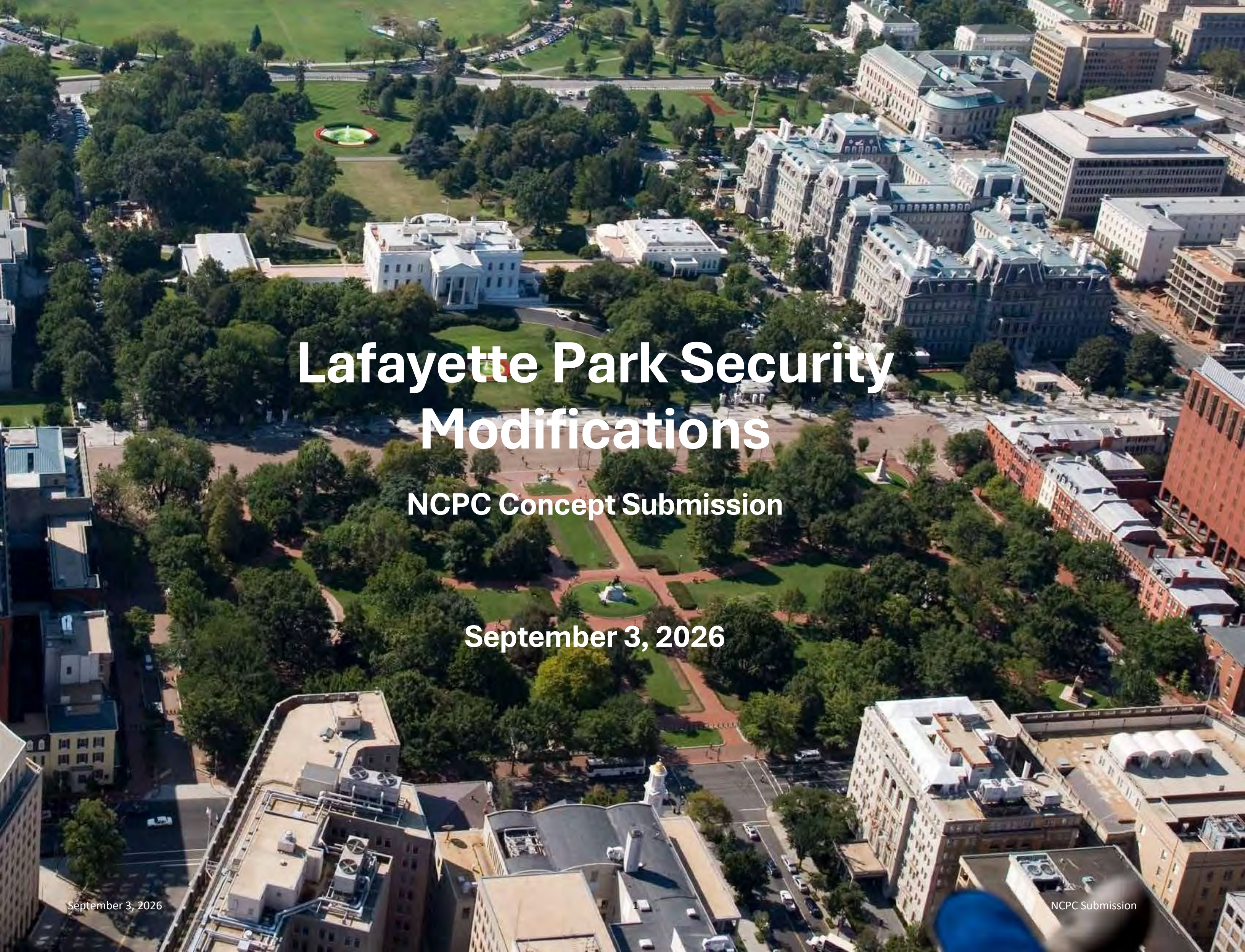


An aerial photograph of Lafayette Park in Washington, D.C. The park is a large green space with many trees, a circular fountain in the upper left, and a baseball field in the lower center. It is surrounded by various buildings, including the White House to the north and several large, multi-story buildings to the east and south. The text "Lafayette Park Security Modifications" is overlaid in large white letters, and "NCPC Concept Submission" is overlaid in smaller white letters below it.

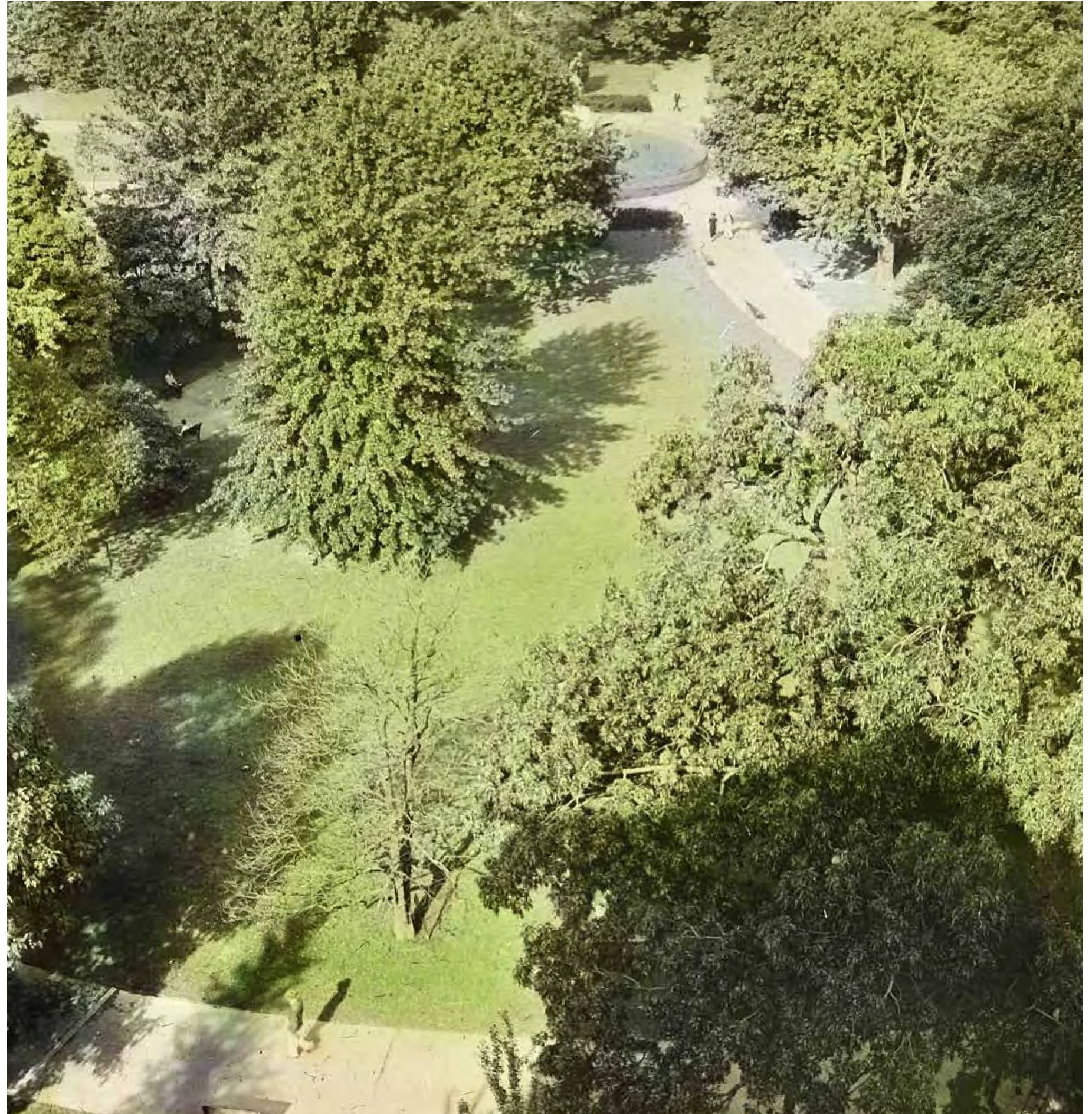
Lafayette Park Security Modifications

NCPC Concept Submission

September 3, 2026

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1. Introduction and Background

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Project Summary

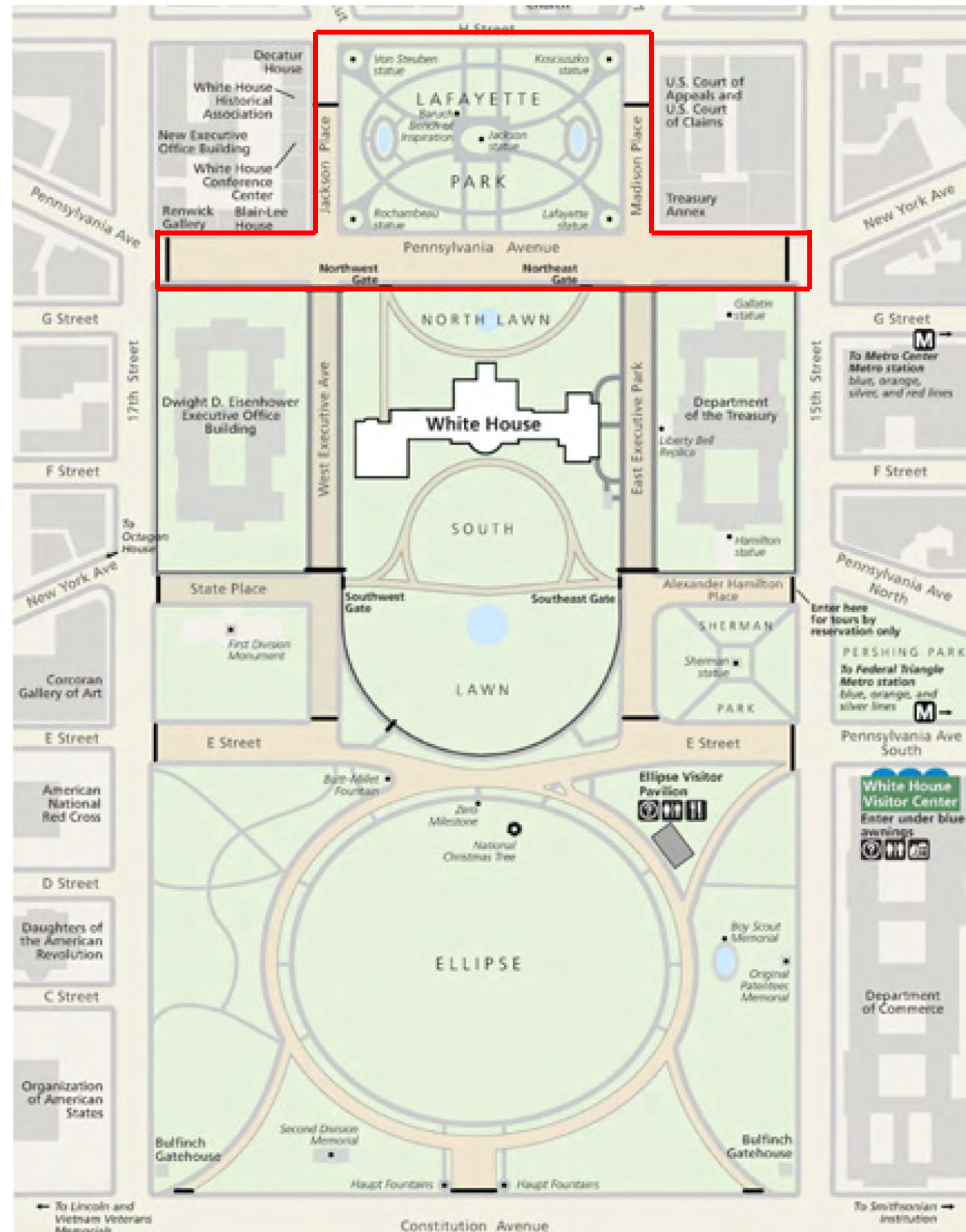
The United States Secret Service (USSS) and the Executive Office of the President (EOP), in coordination with the Department of Interior (DOI) and the National Park Service (NPS), supports a program of security and access improvements for Lafayette Park and its surrounding streets in northwest Washington, DC. The 8-acre park occupies a full block north of the White House, bounded by H Street NW, Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Madison Place NW, and Jackson Place NW, with related corridors on Pennsylvania Avenue NW between 15th and 17th Streets NW and along Jackson and Madison Places. The objective is to enhance long-term safety, preserve the park's identity as a significant NPS landscape, and maintain public access to this nationally symbolic space. The concept approach may include discreet fencing, monitoring systems, and alarms, applied in a way that preserves day-to-day openness while enabling temporary closures when required.

Current Conditions

Lafayette Park functions as an open civic landscape and a vital venue for First Amendment activity. The current reliance on temporary barriers, such as bike-rack fencing, anti-climb barricades, and modular panels, provides short-term control but imposes recurring setup, staffing, and operational burdens that degrade visitor experience and are not sustainable as a primary long-term strategy. The park cannot be easily secured during heightened conditions, and the approach is piecemeal and lacks a holistic framework. Quick, safe closures of Pennsylvania Avenue NW will need to be enabled, intuitive zones of demarcation along Jackson Place NW for Blair House operations, and along Madison Place NW to contain events while preserving access to neighboring buildings. This project will maintain a welcoming northern edge along H Street NW and ensure public access to meaningful portions of the park, including White House views.

Security Considerations

The site currently faces some security risks through the existing barriers, fencing, and paving. Temporary fencing is not a sustainable long-term strategy, as recurring setup and takedown, heavy staffing demands, and performance gaps at joints and terminations create operational challenges and increase risk during busy events. Existing brick pavers are also too thin and insufficiently embedded, making them prone to dislodgement that can cause tripping hazards and raise safety concerns if bricks are misused as projectiles during heightened security periods. Installing a comprehensive yet flexible fencing strategy for varying security risks, along with increasing paver thickness and base course depth, will improve the park's security and stability while maintaining a historically compatible appearance.



NPS President's Park Map

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Project Summary

Security Approach

A layered, low-profile security strategy is recommended that reduces manpower-intensive operations while respecting the park's historic setting. Landscape-integrated elements will help keep the park accessible to the public while creating flexible security solutions. During times of heightened security, designated security access points along the perimeter of the park will streamline operations while consolidated entry nodes will improve oversight, response times, and accessibility. To address safety risks associated with paving, this project recommends upgrading ground surface where needed by increasing paver thickness and enhancing the depth of placement to prevent dislodgement that causes tripping hazards and could otherwise be misused as projectiles during heightened security periods.

Compliance and Coordination

This project will be conducted within a robust compliance and coordination framework while maintaining the park's historically compatible appearance. As a federal undertaking, all actions will comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, with consultation led by in collaboration with the DC SHPO, recognized tribal nations, and federal review bodies. The USSS and NPS will engage adjacent property owners and agencies, including the Milken Institute, the Renwick Gallery, DC Department of Transportation (DDOT), the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), the General Services Administration (GSA), the Treasury Department, and the White House Historical Association to avoid and minimize adverse effects, protect cultural and natural resources, preserve sightlines, and maintain ADA access and emergency egress. Environmental considerations, such as tree canopy, pervious and impervious balance, grading, and drainage, will guide material and alignment choices that respect the White House and President's Park cultural landscape.

Timeline

The USSS anticipates planning in 2026 with phased implementation beginning in 2027, sequenced according to funding availability. Across near, mid, and long-term phases, we will target measurable outcomes, including defined time-to-secure for event postures, reduced staff-to-perimeter ratios, improved visitor experience and wayfinding, resilient and tamper-resistant hardscape, and preservation-sensitive treatments that limit changes to contributing characteristics. This approach keeps Lafayette Park open and inviting under normal conditions, provides a clear, flexible framework for temporary security closures when needed, and strengthens the park's role as a secure, accessible, and iconic public space.



Lafayette Square (Once the White House Overlooked a Residential Neighborhood, 1902) by Peter Waddell

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Introduction

The USSS and EOP, in coordination with DOI and NPS, propose to implement security and access improvements for Lafayette Park and its surrounding streets in northwest Washington, DC. This project would enhance long-term safety, protect park resources, strengthen the park's identity as a significant NPS landscape, and support continued public use of this nationally symbolic space.

Lafayette Park occupies a 8-acre block in Lafayette Square directly north of the White House, bounded by H Street NW, Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Madison Place NW, and Jackson Place NW. The project area also includes adjacent access corridors along Jackson and Madison Places and Pennsylvania Avenue between 15th and 17th Streets NW.

The USSS, EOP, DOI, and NPS have developed a concept approach for permanent security upgrades that may include fencing, monitoring systems, and alarms. These improvements build on ongoing interagency planning efforts and are intended to protect the park resources and preserve the park's openness while providing the flexibility to implement temporary closures when required for situational security needs.

It is anticipated that a comprehensive perimeter security plan for the White House and President's Park will be developed for the future. As noted above, project area also includes Pennsylvania Avenue NW between 15th and 17th Streets NW. The treatment of these entry points will be considered and submitted for review in a second phase of the project.



Site Map, Google Earth

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

History

Lafayette Park comprises the entire block bounded by H Street NW, Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Madison Place NW, and Jackson Place NW. The parcel is 8 acres and was included in the original design for “President’s Park” as indicated by Pierre Charles L’Enfant in 1791. Initially an open green, the space was first designed as a park by Andrew Jackson Downing in 1851. Implementation of the design occurred over several decades during the second half of the nineteenth century. Based on Downing’s plans, an equestrian statue of Andrew Jackson commemorating the seventh president and his military achievements was erected in the center of the park in 1853.

Statues honoring European military leaders who supported the American Revolutionary cause—Marquis de Lafayette, the Comte de Rochambeau, Baron von Steuben, and Brig. Gen. Tadeusz Kosciuszko—were added to the four corners of the park during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In 1914, the Lafayette Lodge was added to the northeastern corner of the park to provide visitor services and a place for staff to store maintenance tools and equipment. The park was redesigned during the 1930s to simplify the arrangement of paths and plantings. Additional changes were made based on the Warnecke Plan of the 1960s, including the addition of a pair of fountains marking the east-west axis within the park, which were completed in 1970. Lafayette Park is generally open to the public. It is a popular location for events, programs, and public gatherings. Due to its proximity to and reciprocal views with the White House, it has also become a popular destination for First Amendment activities.



Lithograph, 1848



LOC, 1880



LOC, 1933

Timeline

The siting and symbolic configuration of the landscape of the White House and President’s Park as a centerpiece for the new federal city of Washington, D.C., were first articulated in plans prepared by Pierre Charles L’Enfant in **1791** and led to federal government acquisition of the necessary land, which became known first as Appropriation 1, and later Reservation 1.



LOC, 1857



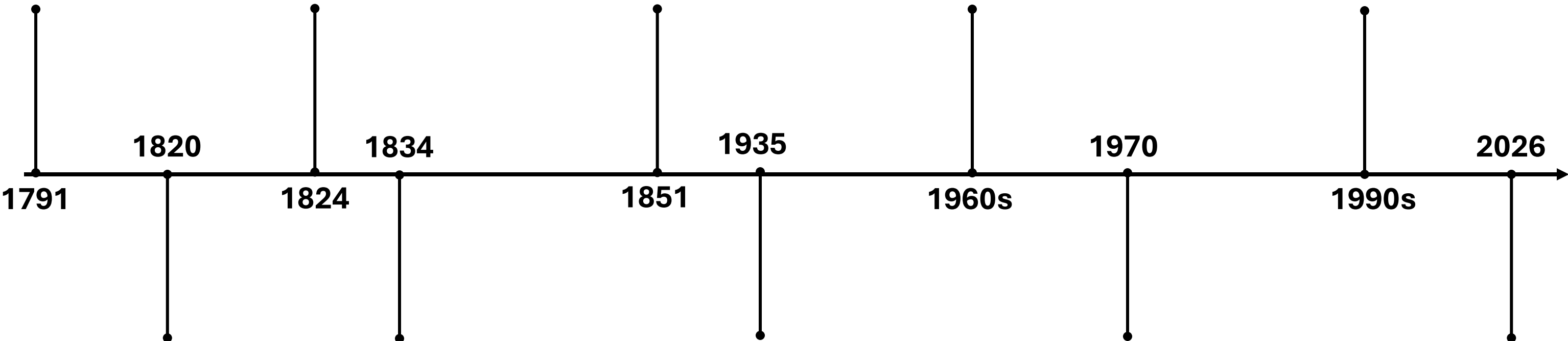
John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Boston

President Thomas Jefferson authorizes separation of President’s Park from White House Grounds

Architect Andrew Jackson Downing hired to design park grounds

President Kennedy implements additional security measures at the park

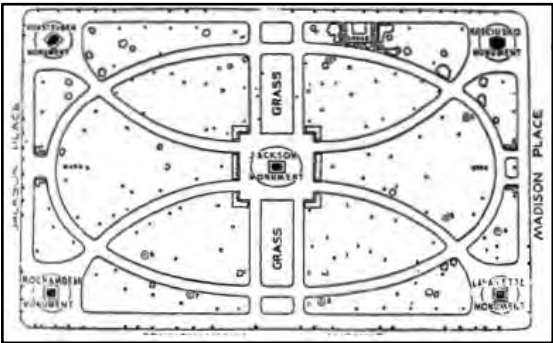
Pennsylvania Avenue NW closed to vehicular traffic following the Oklahoma City Bombing



In 1820, the route of present-day Pennsylvania Avenue NW was cleared to “practically and symbolically” separate the private portion of the President’s Grounds from Lafayette Square, which was indicated as set aside as a park for the people.

President’s Park becomes known as Lafayette Square

Olmsted Management Plan re-emphasizes importance of L’Enfant vistas to the south and north and calls for plant modifications to complement this concept (Diagram from 1937 reconditioning)



NPS PRPA Lafayette Park, 2021

Lafayette Square becomes a National Historic Landmark District

America’s 250th Anniversary



Library of Congress

Paving History Timeline

Work began on the paving of **Pennsylvania Avenue NW** between Seventeenth and Twenty-second Streets NW, including sidewalks. The grounds of the President’s House also **received grading in preparation for the laying out of walks.**

In **1851**, work was done on the grounds of the President’s House, as well as on the Mall. In **1851** Easby reported that the stables had been repaired, a new cow barn built, and new drains and **paving installed** around the stables and stable yard. Also completed in **1851** was a new watch house built, new iron gates installed at the northeast and northwest entrances, and **roads paved and repaired.**

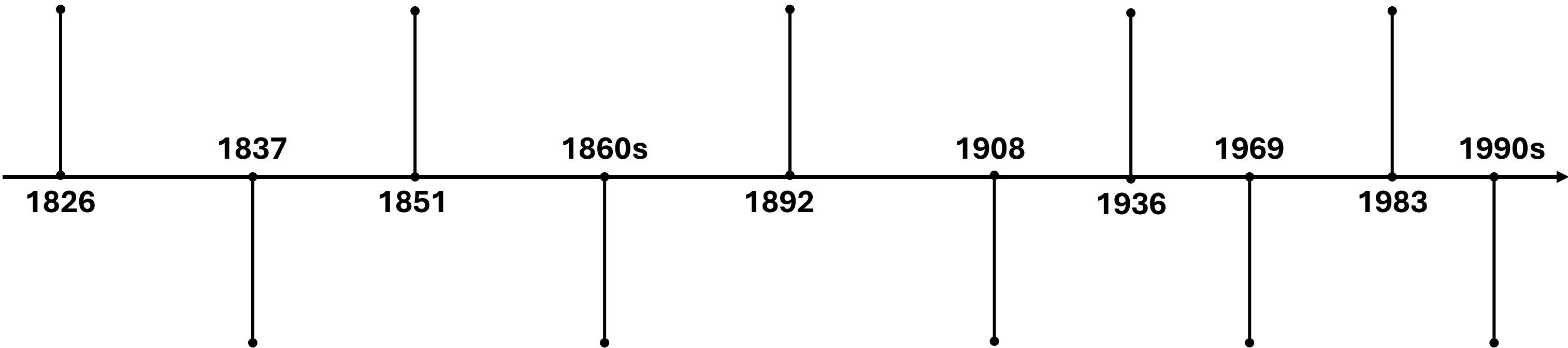
The report for fiscal year **1892** identified **repairs to the asphalt paving on the grounds north of the President’s House.** It recommended that the mounds to the south be graded and shaped, that the **gravel walks be removed and replaced** with artificial or granolithic stone.

Figure 2-54. An 1865 image of the south facade of the Treasury Building following Lincoln’s assassination. (Source: Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2017645157/>, accessed January 2, 2024)



The brick walks were first introduced into Lafayette Park in **1936.**

Brick Walks in Lafayette Park were repaired in **1983.**



Martin Van Buren became president.... The lawns were regularly rolled and watered, and **paths were graveled.** Cast-iron benches and settees were also purchased, including circular benches around some of the trees.

Other photographs from the **1860s** show the area before the regrading and paving of Seventeenth Street NW in 1870, as well as some venerable elm trees that were removed in **1879** with the public reacting in protest.



Figure 2-25. A c. 1827–33 engraving of the South Grounds of the President’s house, depicting fences and formal gardens. (Source: Machen collection, Historical Society of Washington, D.C. need number)

The resurfacing of the Ellipse roadway was completed in **1907**, while the asphalt paving on West Executive Avenue was repaired around the same time... In **1908** the surface of the main roadway on the north side was recoated.

Brick walks in Lafayette Park were replaced in **1969.**

Precast concrete pavers inset with granite pavers and edging materials used for walks along Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Seventeenth Street NW, Fifteenth Street NW, and Constitution Avenue NW postdate the period of significance and are different in color, finish, and texture than historic stone paving. The paving used for Pennsylvania Avenue NW since the **1990s** also differs to a great degree from historic paving materials.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Past Fencing Alignment

According to *Cultural Landscape Report: Site History and Evaluation, 1791-1994, The White House and President's Park*, Lafayette Park (Lafayette Square) was first enclosed with a wood fence by 1826. In 1845 a program was initiated to improve many of the “streets, avenues, and public reservations” in the city of Washington. The reservations designated were Lafayette Square, President’s Park South], Fountain Square, the National Mall, and the vacant ground adjoining the U.S. Capitol. As part of this program, an estimate was given to enclose “Lafayette Square” with posts and wood railings “of the best materials,” possibly to replace the enclosure that existed in 1826. In 1853, the old wood fence was replaced with an iron fence, and gaslights were installed in the park. From 1888-1889, the iron fence around Lafayette Park was removed and sent to the Gettysburg Memorial Association to be used at the National Cemetery. This removal was attributed to pressure from nearby residents. In 1889, as a replacement to the fencing, funding for granite curbs was requested on behalf of the NPS.



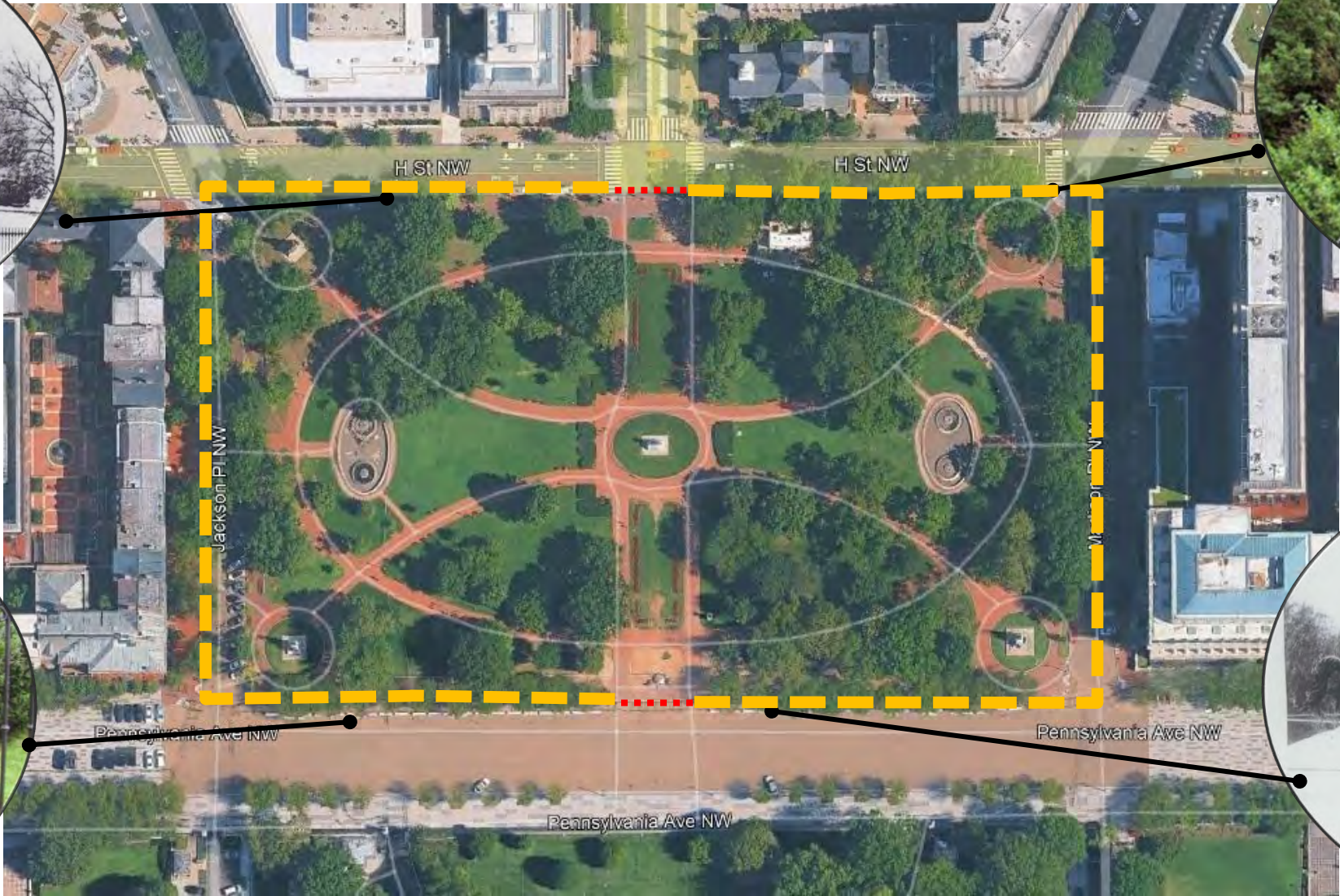
Lafayette Park from H Street, CFA 1885



Finial on Original Lafayette Park Fence, 2009



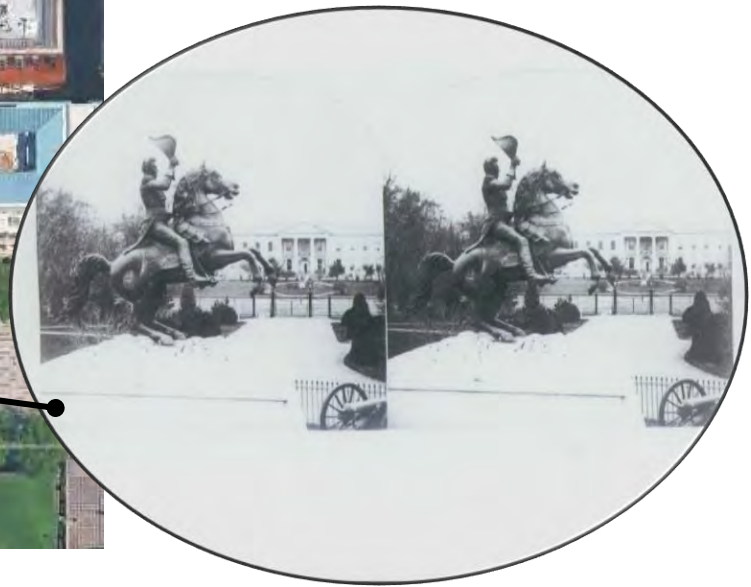
Original Lafayette Park Iron Fence, Located in Gettysburg Cemetery, 2009



1853 Iron Fence Perimeter



1853 Iron Fence Gate



Lafayette Park Fence Gate, 1853-1889

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Purpose and Need Statement

The proposed fence would provide necessary perimeter security while also helping to preserve and protect Lafayette Park's historic landscape and associated park resources during periods when public activity has previously resulted in damage. By establishing a defined and managed perimeter, the fence would help reduce opportunities for vandalism, trampling, unauthorized encampments, damage to vegetation and turf, and other impacts that have occurred during demonstrations, large gatherings, or periods of heightened public activity. The fence would support the continued protection of the park's cultural landscape while allowing the NPS and its partners to better manage access, visitor circulation, and security needs in a manner consistent with the preservation of President's Park.

The purpose of the proposed action is to ensure a secure environment, including Lafayette Park and Pennsylvania Avenue NW, for Executive Residence functions in a manner that:

- Can be **readily employed** when needed, including in dynamic situations
- **Enhances visitor use and experience** at Lafayette Park and Pennsylvania Avenue NW through security features that are compatible with the historic character of the project site and reduce ad-hoc security measures
- Offers a **comprehensive approach** that works seamlessly with existing security measures

Security additions for Lafayette Park are needed to address the following issues:

- Lafayette Park **cannot easily prohibit public access** during times of heightened security
- Existing temporary security structures **do not reflect the historic character** of the site and confuse visitors, thereby degrading the visitor use and experience of the historic site
- The current approach lacks a holistic security solution and instead **uses piecemeal, temporary methods** to secure necessary areas
- Existing pavers are easily dislodged and used as projectiles during periods of civil unrest



Site Visit Photo

2. Representative Conditions

REPRESENTATIVE CONDITIONS

Overview

This section includes maps and graphic images that depict relevant site condition. These include site plans, topographic sections and maps, historic and recent photos of view corridors, and contextual images of important areas at the site.

Key features in the section include:

- Lafayette Park occupies a full city block and is characterized by canopy trees, open lawn, curving pathways, and statuary.
- Topography drops 17 feet from the northwest corner to the southeast corner of the site.
- H Street NW and the White House are on similar vertical planes, with Pennsylvania Avenue NW being slightly lower in elevation.
- The primary view corridor is on the north- south axis with the primary view facing the center of the White House; secondary view corridors include Vermont Avenue NW and Connecticut Avenue NW
- Additional viewshed considerations include Jackson Place NW, Madison Place NW, 16th Street NW, and Pennsylvania Avenue NW at 15th and 17th Streets NW.
- Five historic statues are located within the park.

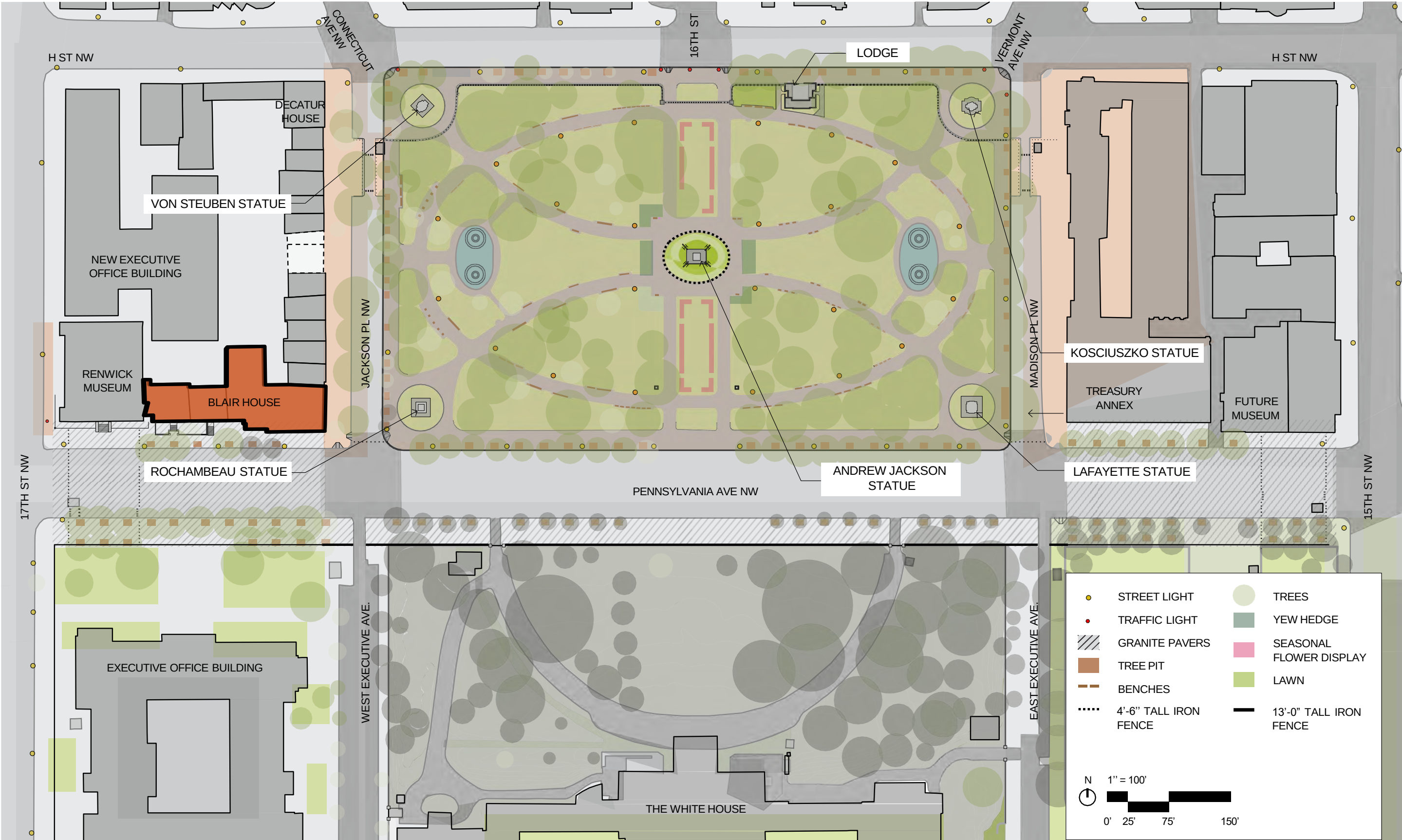


The White House and President's Park Comprehensive Design Plan, NPS, 1999

REPRESENTATIVE CONDITIONS

Site Plan

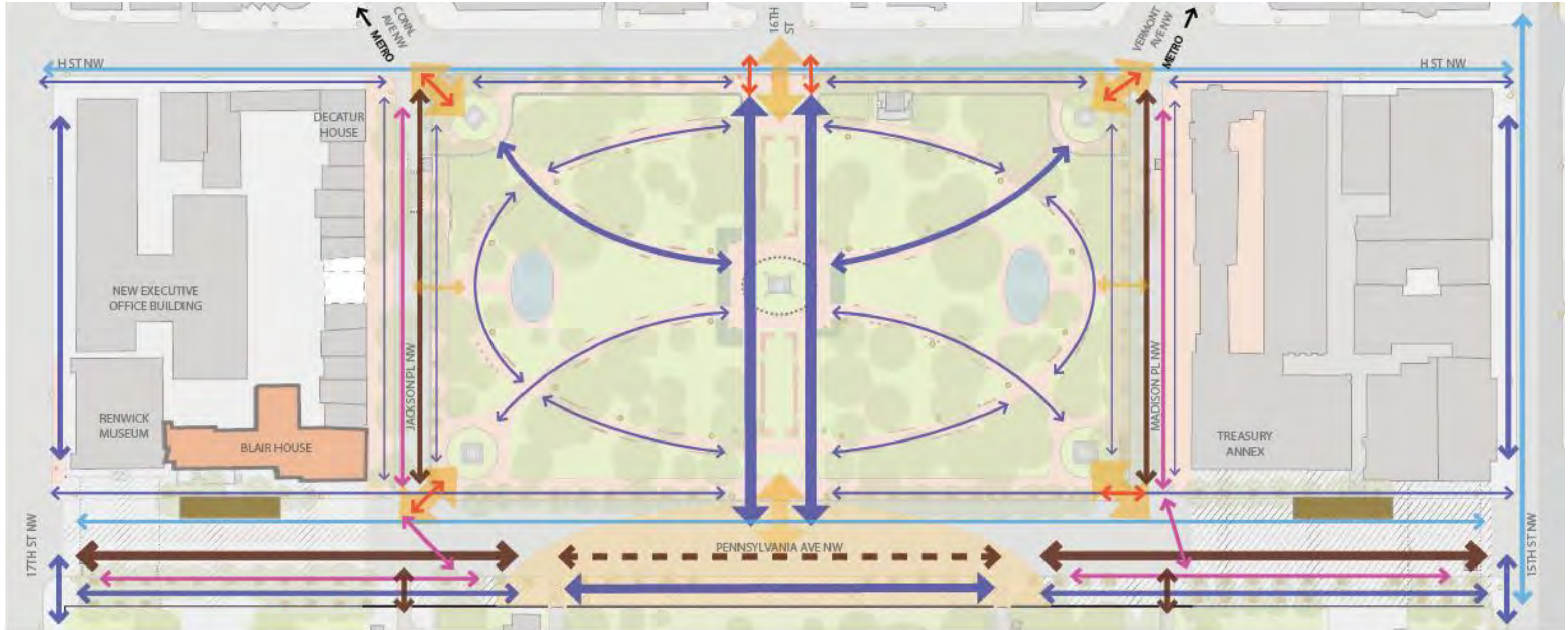
The 8-acre Lafayette Park project site comprises the entire block bounded by H Street NW, Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Madison Place NW, and Jackson Place NW.



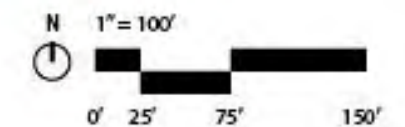
REPRESENTATIVE CONDITIONS

Site Plan: Circulation

Lafayette Park currently allows vehicular, pedestrian, and bike traffic on H Street. Pedestrian and bike traffic are allowed on Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Madison Place NW, and Jackson Place NW. Sally port entrances are located on the northern end of Jackson Place NW and Madison Place NW.



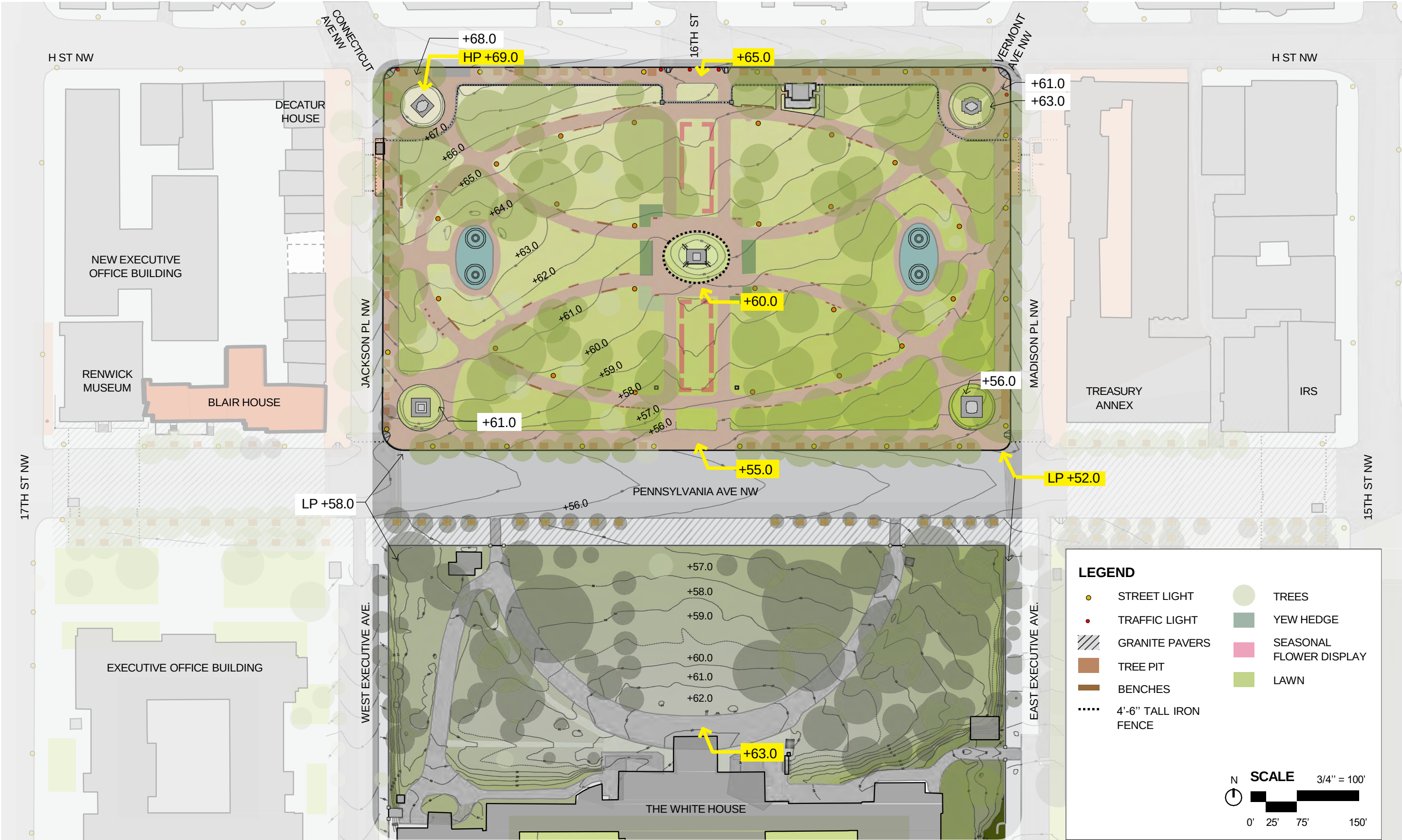
- PRIMARY DESTINATION
- VEHICLE PARKING
- VEHICLE TRAVEL PATHS
- PRIMARY ENTRANCES
- PEDESTRIAN TRAVEL PATHS
- STAFF PATH
- BIKE PATH (designated)
- CURB CUT (ADA)



REPRESENTATIVE CONDITIONS

Topographic Plan

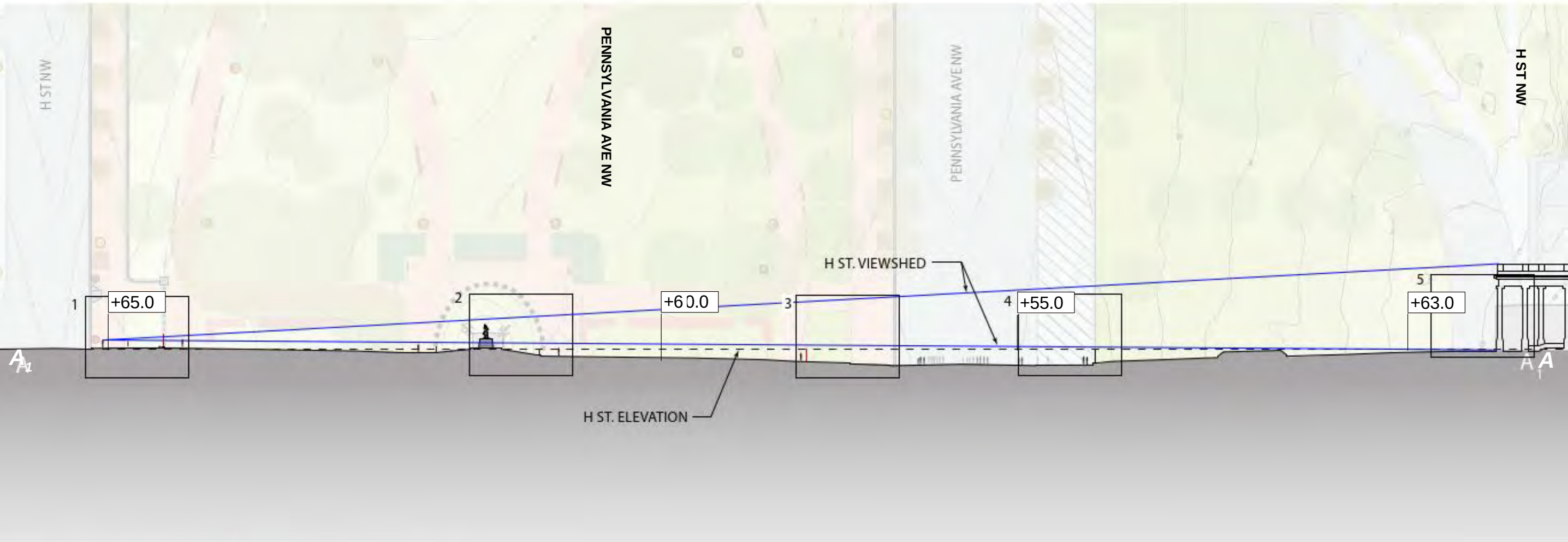
The topography of the site generally slopes from northwest to southeast.



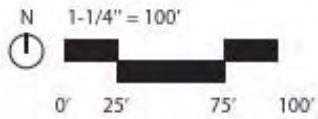
REPRESENTATIVE CONDITIONS

North/South Axis Section

Elevation of the park is highest at the White House and H Street NW at 63 feet and 65 feet respectively, with a decline to 55 feet of elevation at Pennsylvania Avenue NW.

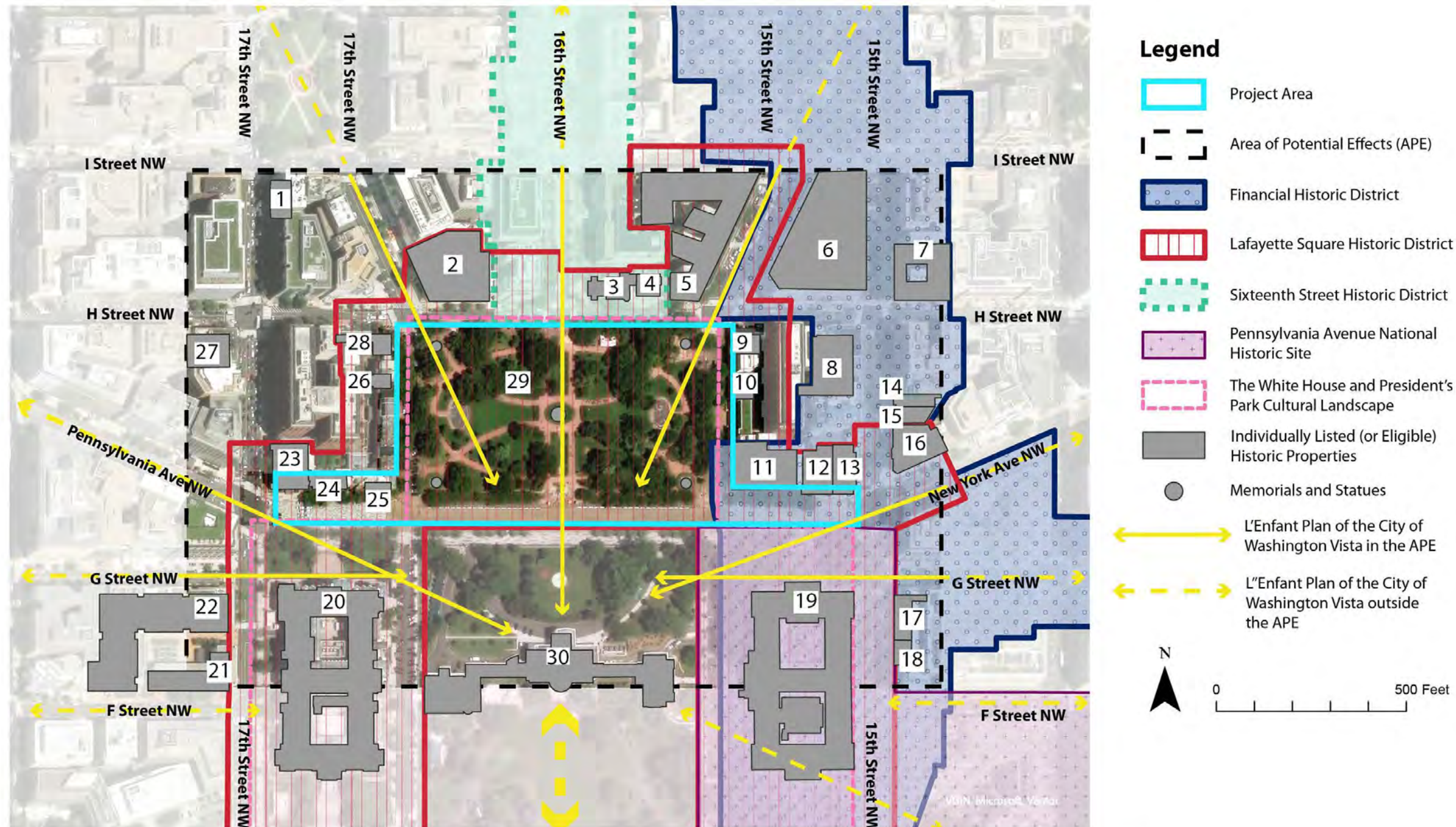


A



Proposed APE Map

The proposed APE includes 30 historic properties and four Historic Districts and Sites, including The White House and President's Park Cultural Landscape.

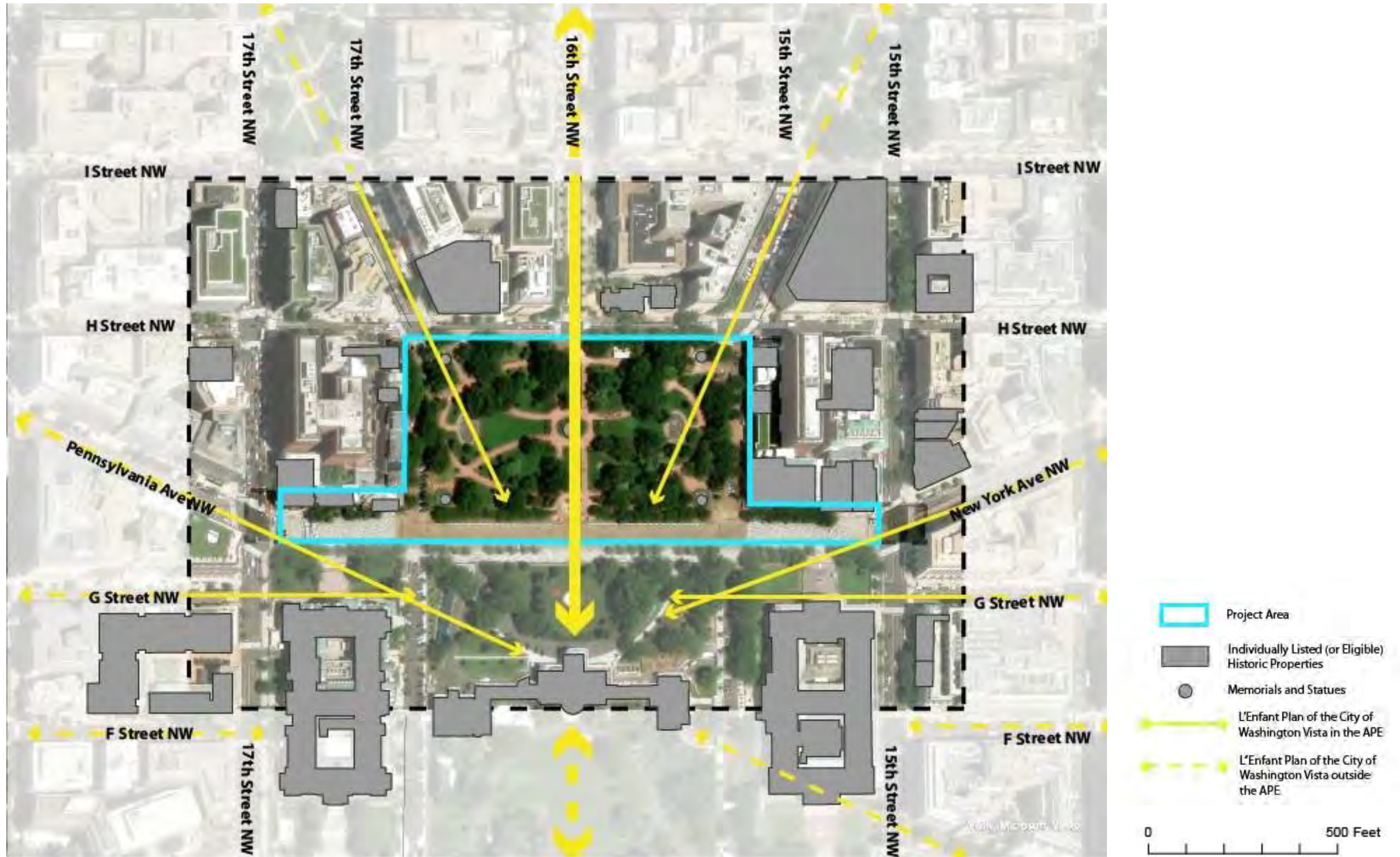


Individually Listed (or Eligible) Historic Properties

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| 1. Hill Building | 9. Cutts-Madison House | 16. National Savings Trust Building | 24. Blair House |
| 2. US Chamber of Commerce | 10. Benjamin Ogle Tayloe House | 17. Riggs Building (Albee Building) | 25. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace |
| 3. St. John's Church | 11. Treasury Annex | 18. National Metropolitan Bank | 26. American Peace Society (Charles Glover House) |
| 4. Ashburton House (St. John's Parish House) | 12. Riggs National Bank | 19. US Department of the Treasury | 27. Metropolitan Club |
| 5. Bureau of War Risk Insurance | 13. American Security and Trust Building | 20. State, War and Navy Building (Eisenhower Executive Office Building) | 28. Stephen Decatur House |
| 6. Lafayette Building | 14. Swartzell, Rheem & Hensey Building | 21. Winder Building | 29. Lafayette Square |
| 7. Southern Building | 15. Hibbs Building (Folger Building) | 22. Federal Home Loan Bank | 30. The White House |
| 8. Union Trust Company | | 23. Renwick Galley | |

Contextual Views

This map shows the contextual view corridors through Lafayette Park from the surrounding streets within Washington, D.C. highlighted in yellow. Lafayette Park is outlined in light blue.



REPRESENTATIVE CONDITIONS

Lafayette Park: Pathways

Pathways lacing across Lafayette Park have evolved from previous gravel to brick surfaces. Two pathways run parallel to each other, crossing the entirety of the park from North to South and passing the Jackson Statue in the center. Two additional paths connect the corner statues in the park. One path connects the Baron Von Steben Statue in the Northwest corner to the Kosciusko Statue in the Northeast corner, while the other path connects the Comte de Rochambeau Statue in the Southwest corner and the Marquis de Lafayette Statue in the Southeast corner. A oval-shaped pathway connects all four of these pathways together, resulting in a fully interconnected pathway system within the park. Smaller off-shoot paths also provide access to the east and west fountains within the park. Temporary fencing and brick pads have been added to the pathways to increase security in a temporary manner.



1933-1936

Gravel paths with metal edging



1990

Brick paths



2020

Temporary security fencing

Brick paths with brick pads under benches

REPRESENTATIVE CONDITIONS

Lafayette Park: Von Steuben Statue

A statue honoring Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben, a Revolutionary War officer, is located at the northwest corner of Lafayette Park. The statue, which faces northwest, is encircled by turf and curbing. Sidewalk materials and barriers around the Von Steuben statue have changed over time, creating varying visitor use and experience through the years in regard to security and accessibility of the statue .



1924

Concrete sidewalk



2018

Brick sidewalk

Bike rack barriers



2026

Bike rack barriers

Temporary fencing

REPRESENTATIVE CONDITIONS

H Street NW Corridor

The northern boundary of Lafayette Park , which runs along H Street NW, offers a direct view of the park’s landscape and historic surroundings. The following images show how different boundary treatments over time have affected the view into the park, including changing bollards and curb heights.



1880
H Street NW
Looking west

Historic fence along
perimeter of park



1913
H Street NW
Looking west

Gravel walkway

Lafayette Lodge

Stone entry marker
and curb

Concrete sidewalk



2021
H Street NW
Looking west

Lafayette Lodge

Granite curb with
bollards

Brick sidewalk

REPRESENTATIVE CONDITIONS

Jackson Place NW

Jackson Place NW defines the park's western edge, lined with historic townhouses and federal buildings. The sallyport placed at the northern end of Jackson Place NW is a key security point for individuals entering the area to gain access to the offices located in the townhouses on Jackson Place NW, the Stephen Decatur House, the Blair House, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the American Peace Society, the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, and the western portion of Lafayette Park when it is undergoing enhanced security measures. A set of bollards is present to prevent unwanted vehicle intrusions, and officers are present to screen pedestrians entering the area.



2024
Looking south from H Street NW



2024
Looking north

REPRESENTATIVE CONDITIONS

Madison Place NW

Madison Place NW borders the east side of Lafayette Park, featuring significant government and historic structures. The sallyport placed at the northern end of Madison Place NW is a key security point for individuals entering the area to gain access to the Treasury Annex, the Cutts-Madison House, the Benjamin Ogle Tayloe House, and the eastern portion of Lafayette Park when it is undergoing enhanced security measures. A set of bollards is present to prevent unwanted vehicle intrusions, and officers are present to screen pedestrians entering the area.



2024
Looking south from H Street NW



2024
Looking north

REPRESENTATIVE CONDITIONS

Pennsylvania Avenue NW Corridor

Pennsylvania Avenue NW is a prominent ceremonial road running along the south side of Lafayette Park, connecting the White House to the U.S. Capitol. Park visitors often congregate on this street and sidewalk to take photos of the White House, as well as other recreation activities, such as street hockey. The roadway is not open to vehicular traffic.



1951
Pennsylvania Ave
Looking west

Open to
traffic

Concrete
sidewalk



2021
Pennsylvania Ave
Looking west

Bike rack
barriers

Brick sidewalk



2026
Pennsylvania Ave
Looking east

3. Security Considerations

SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS

Overview

Lafayette Park is currently an open, accessible civic landscape without a continuous perimeter fence. While temporary barriers such as bike-rack fencing, anti-climb barricades, and modular panels have been used to support major events and periods of heightened security, these measures are not viable as a long-term solution.

This section includes maps and information relating to park closures. Key features in the section include:

- Locations of existing temporary barriers within and surrounding the park.
- Illustration of potential security considerations relating to security closures, including the Blair House and visiting dignitaries.
- Existing conditions of the current installed temporary fencing.
- Discussion of areas with materials that could present a safety risk.



Library of Congress, Survey of The White House and President's Park, 1933

Temporary Barriers

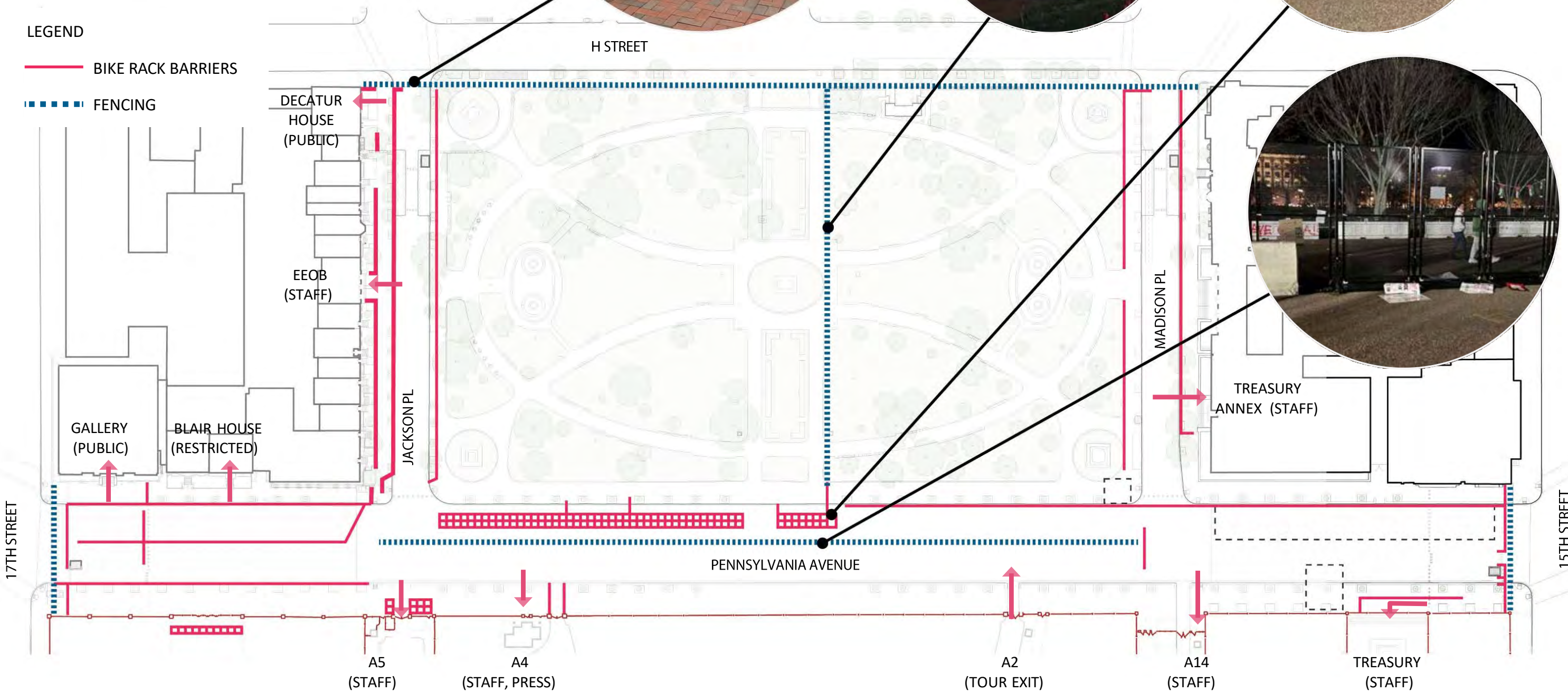
Temporary fencing as of April 2026 included formal White House fencing, temporary bike rack barriers, and temporary large-scale fencing. Barrier considerations include horizontal alignment, accounting for various security scenarios, adequate vertical dimensions, layers of fencing, and appropriate typologies.



LEGEND

BIKE RACK BARRIERS

FENCING



SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS

Existing Conditions: Temporary Barriers

Many types of barriers are currently in use within and around Lafayette Park. Below is a description of the temporary barriers and their locations.



Anti-scale fencing on H Street NW, June 2026



Anti-scale fencing and concrete barriers at H Street and 16th Street NW, June 2026



Bike rack barriers on Pennsylvania Avenue NW near the White House, April 2026



Chain link fencing on Jackson Place NW, April 2026



Bike rack barriers on Pennsylvania Avenue and 15th Street NW, April 2026



Bike rack barriers on Pennsylvania Avenue and 17th Street NW, April 2026

SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS

Security Need: Permanently Anchored Pedestrian Barrier Solution

During times of civil unrest, demonstrations and National Special Security Events (NSSEs), the areas surrounding the White House Complex are routinely a focal point for the general public.

Many demonstrations result in the peaceful public gathering in Lafayette Park and on Pennsylvania Avenue where attendees follow the law and express their views on many topics. There are however several examples of assemblies that elevate into non-peaceful demonstration

which have resulted in violence towards law enforcement officers maintaining the necessary stand-off from restricted areas and vandalism to NPS resources throughout Lafayette Park.

A well-designed permanent fence would assist the USSS with its unique security requirements associated with protecting the White House Complex, allow for the protection of NPS resources during times of civil unrest and general enhance public safety for visitor in the area and ensure safety crowds gathering to demonstrate in view of the White House.

In the future, the project will continue to evaluate visitor experience and safety, including access and egress.



SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS

Existing Conditions: Temporary Barriers - 2026

Currently, Lafayette Park has temporary fencing enclosing the park. Pictures below shows temporary fencing surrounding the park, with fence heights ranging from 4' bike racks and concrete barriers to 10' temporary fencing, shown below. Personnel is required to transport temporary barriers to the park, set up the fencing, and secure the panels to each other to ensure their stability. The set up of temporary fencing can take as long as 72 hours, and dismantling the barriers can take equally as long. The added personnel needed to implement this measure, along with the unappealing aesthetics of this fencing, led to the dismissal of this solution.



SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS

Park Materials and Security Risks

The current brick paver assemblies at Lafayette Park are too thin and inadequately embedded, which increases their susceptibility to uplift and dislodgement. This condition not only poses tripping hazards for park visitors but also raises safety concerns, particularly during heightened security periods when bricks could potentially be removed and used as projectiles.

To address these issues, it is essential to secure the pavers, either through the thickness of the pavers or enhancing the depth of placement, to ensure a more stable installation. This will not only mitigate safety risks but also preserve the park's historic appearance, maintaining its integrity while enhancing overall functionality and safety for all users.



Site Visit Photos, 2026

4. Fence | Alignment

Overview

Lafayette Park, in addition to lacking a continuous fence, does not have a defined secure boundary, leading to potential security risks.

This section includes maps, diagrams, and photographs relating to closure apparatuses and fencing options. Key features in the section include:

- Preferred alternative for the perimeter fence alignment.
- Preferred alternative for perimeter access points.
- Detailed renderings and diagrams of potential fencing treatments of key park perimeter areas.
- Fencing options surrounding the Lafayette Lodge and the White House Historical Society.
- Perimeter security options that were considered, but have since been dismissed.



View toward Lafayette Square, edged by an iron fence, prior to its removal in 1888-9
LOC

Alignment 1: Preferred North Alignment

This alignment encompasses areas south of H Street NW, including the Baron Von Steuben Statue and the Kosciuszko Statue. The fencing would be aligned with existing bollards except for a section at the 16th Street NW axis where existing bollards would be moved to be placed in line with the fence. This orientation would allow for expanded plaza space and viewing area at the entrance. The fence pickets would also be wider at the entrance as they would no longer be restrained by bollard placement. This would allow for wider gate entrances to the park when open to the public, and larger viewing windows will be present when the gates are closed.

Positives for Visitor Use:

- Allows flexibility in North Center Entry gates placement and style to allow for wider openings
- Enables hardscape plaza at H and 16th Streets NW, which allows gathering for First Amendment activities when park is closed
- Retains existing park bench locations

Positives for Operations:

- Swings north side gates out in the direction of egress from the Park
- Places Lafayette Lodge within the fence line
- Places statues within fence line

Negatives for Visitor Use:

- Adds additional barrier line due to moved bollards to entrance along H Street NW at 16th Street NW
- Emphasizes closed feeling of the park due to continuous fencing directly along H Street NW, except at North Center Entry
- Limits fence design (likely decreasing visibility) due to bollard placement
- Closes northern corners of the Park, limiting access during Park closures
- Limits access to statues

Negatives for Operations:

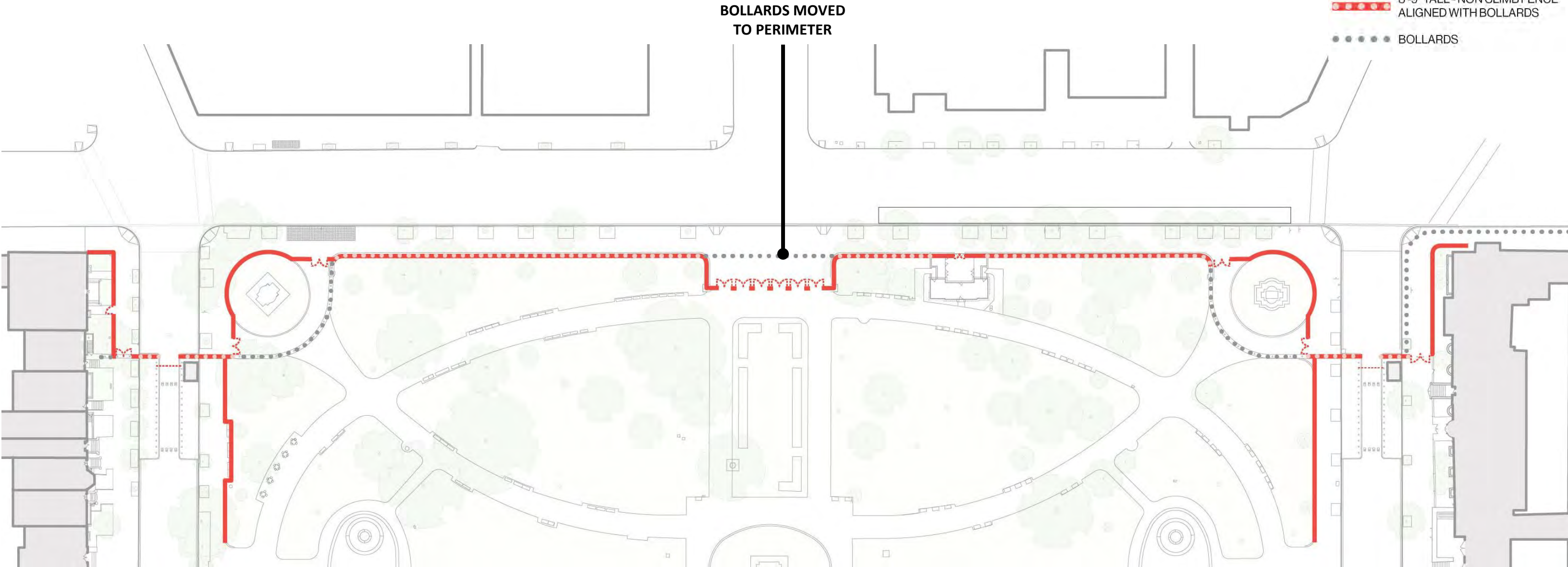
- None identified

LEGEND

8'-9' TALL - NON CLIMB FENCE

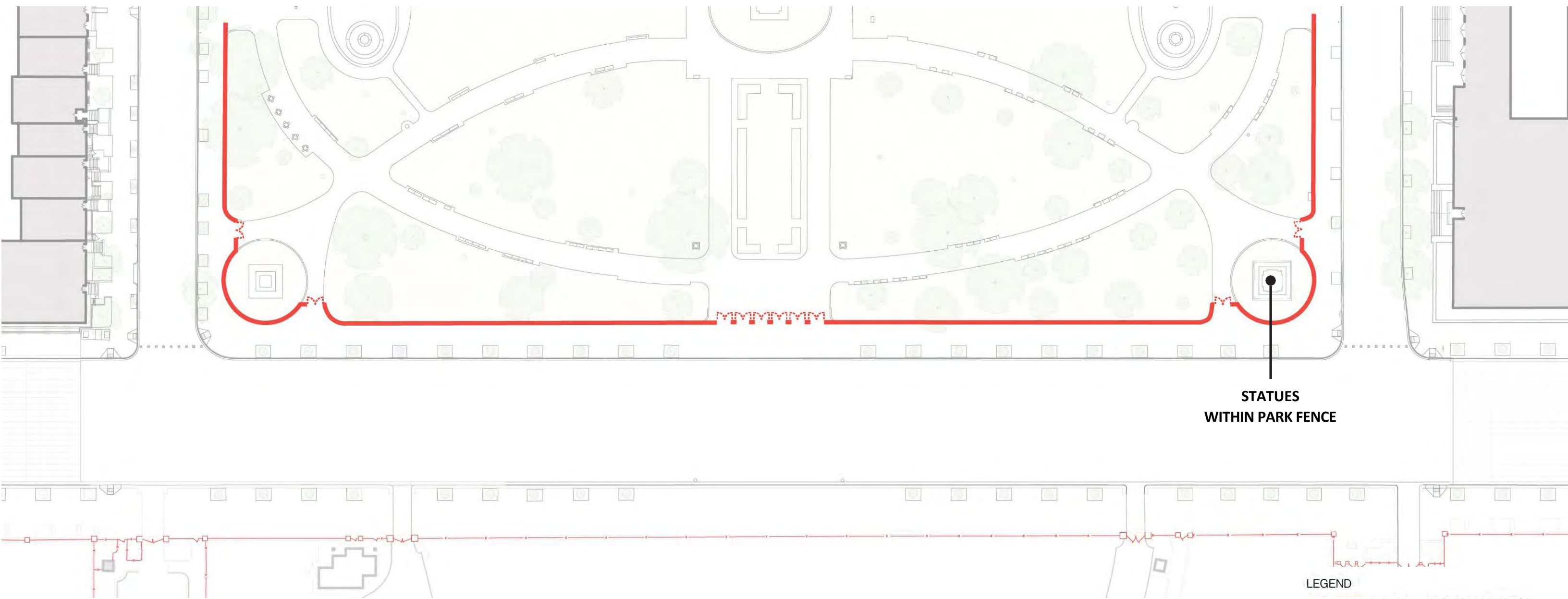
8'-9' TALL - NON CLIMB FENCE
ALIGNED WITH BOLLARDS

BOLLARDS



Alignment 1: Preferred South Alignment

This alignment encompasses areas north of Pennsylvania Avenue NW, including the Compté de Rochambeau Statue and the Marquis de Lafayette Statue. The fencing would be aligned with existing curb of the park, allowing for gate openings in the middle of the fencing and on both sides of the two statues. This orientation would allow for the park to remain open when Pennsylvania Avenue NW needs to be secured, as these gates could close while the rest of the park would remain open. This would allow for greater public access to the park and less disruptions from anticipated security events.



Positives for Visitor Use:

- Allows circulation within southern elliptical walkway during Pennsylvania Avenue NW closure
- Offers access to statues during Pennsylvania Avenue NW closure

Positives for Operations:

- Swings gates from Pennsylvania Avenue NW into the Park, in the direction of egress
- Accommodates Inauguration stands
- Establishes multiple gates to facilitate egress

Negatives for Visitor Use:

- Limits viewing area when Pennsylvania Avenue is closed

Negatives for Operations:

- None identified

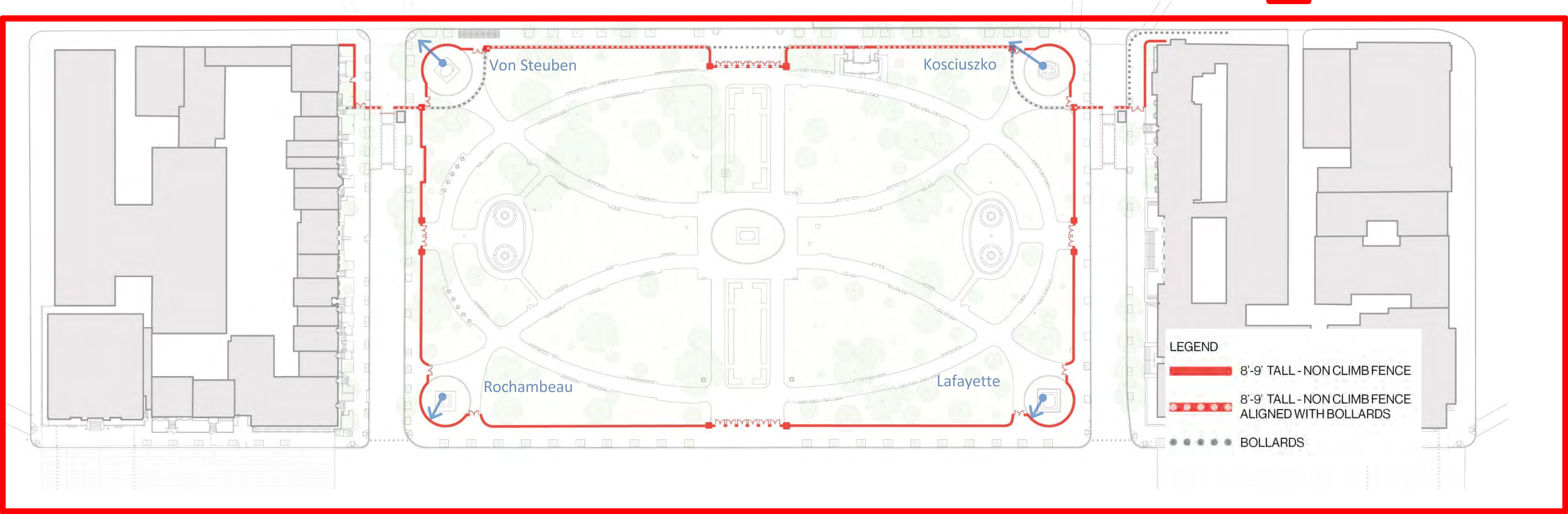
LEGEND

- 8'-9' TALL - NON CLIMB FENCE
- 8'-9' TALL - NON CLIMB FENCE ALIGNED WITH BOLLARDS
- BOLLARDS

Alignment 1: Lafayette Park Preferred Alignment

The preferred alignment places the fence along the perimeter of Lafayette Park. The alignment allows flexibility in the North Center Entry gates' placement and style to allow for wider openings. It also provides for a larger hardscape plaza at H Street NW, which will allow for First Amendment gathering activities when the park is closed. Overall, this combination provides a more open visitor experience along H Street while still maintaining security standards needed to secure the park during key moments.

 Recommended Alternative



Positives for Visitor Use:

- Allows flexibility in North Center Entry gates placement and style to allow for wider openings because it is no longer aligned with bollards
- Enables hardscape plaza at H and 16th Streets NW, which allows gathering for First Amendment activities when park is closed
- Retains existing park bench locations
- Offers access to statues during Pennsylvania Avenue NW closure

Positives for Operations:

- Swings gates out of the Park towards H Street NW, in the direction of egress
- Accommodates Inauguration stands
- Establishes multiple gates to facilitate egress

Negatives for Visitor Use:

- Adds additional barrier line due to moved bollards to entrance along H Street NW at 16th Street NW
- Emphasizes closed feeling of the park due to continuous fencing directly along H Street NW, except at North Center Entry
- Limits viewing area when Pennsylvania Avenue is closed

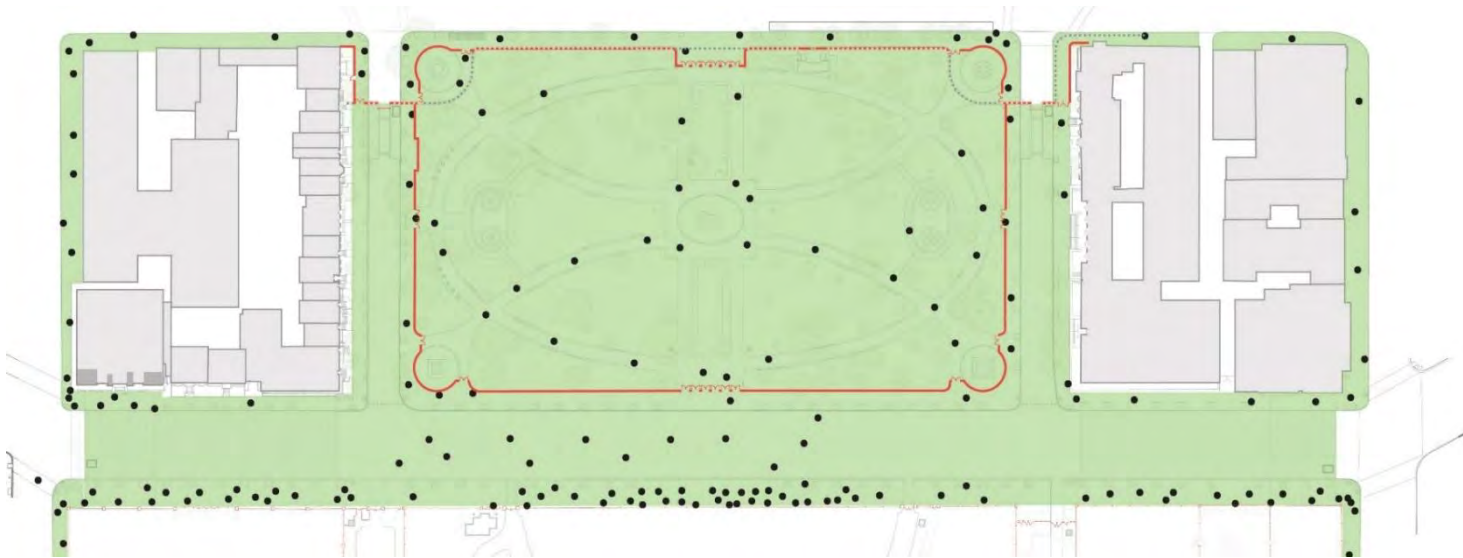
Negatives for Operations:

- None identified

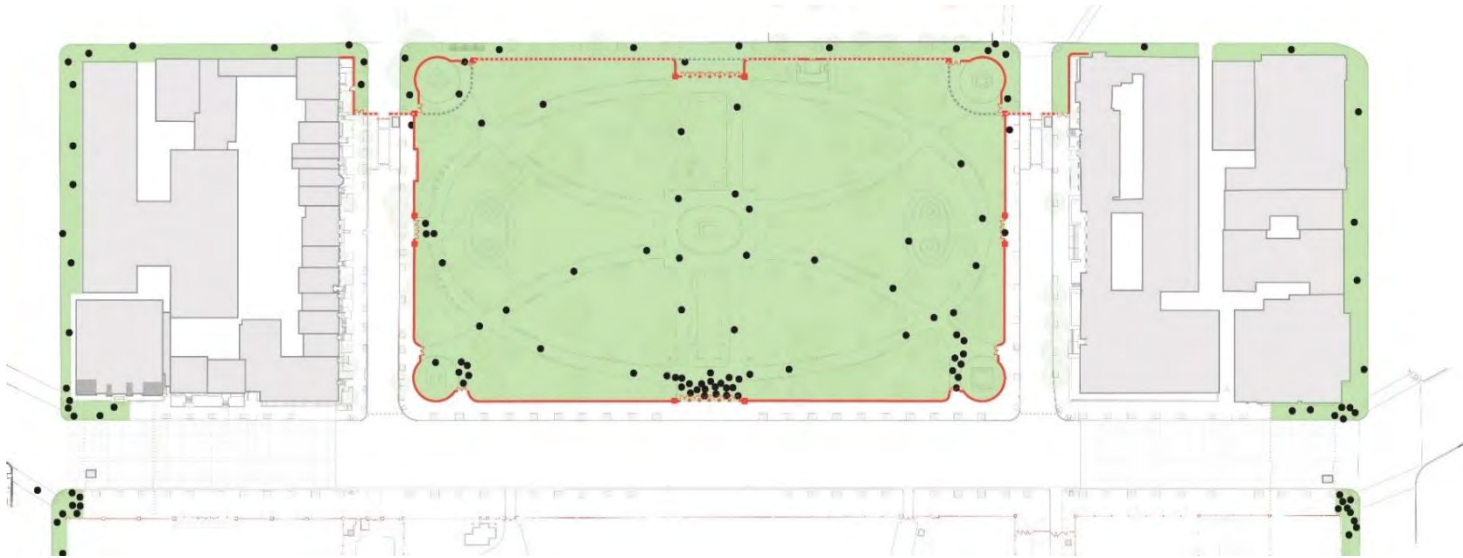
Lafayette Park Security Scenarios: Preferred Alignment 1

The below graphics show Lafayette Park with the preferred alignment implemented and how access to the park would be affected in different security scenarios. Green areas symbolize spaces where the public could access in each scenario, with the black dots representing members of the public. It is anticipated that future submissions will provide data on park closures.

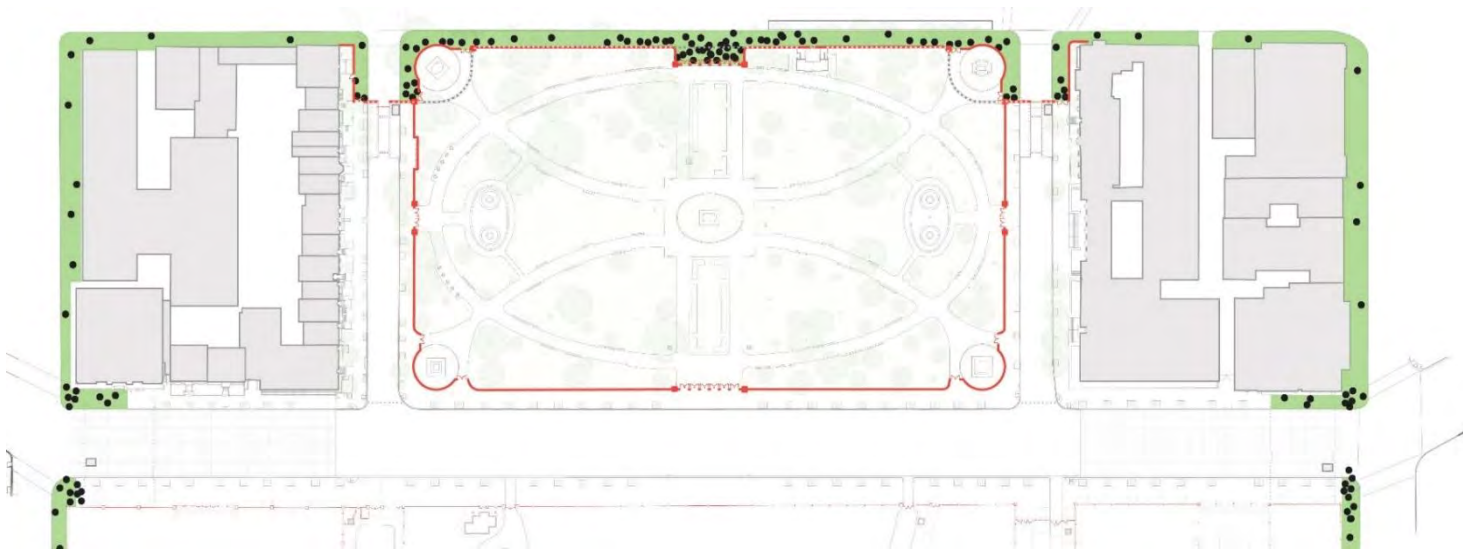
TYPICAL CONDITION



TEMPORARY PARTIAL CLOSURE

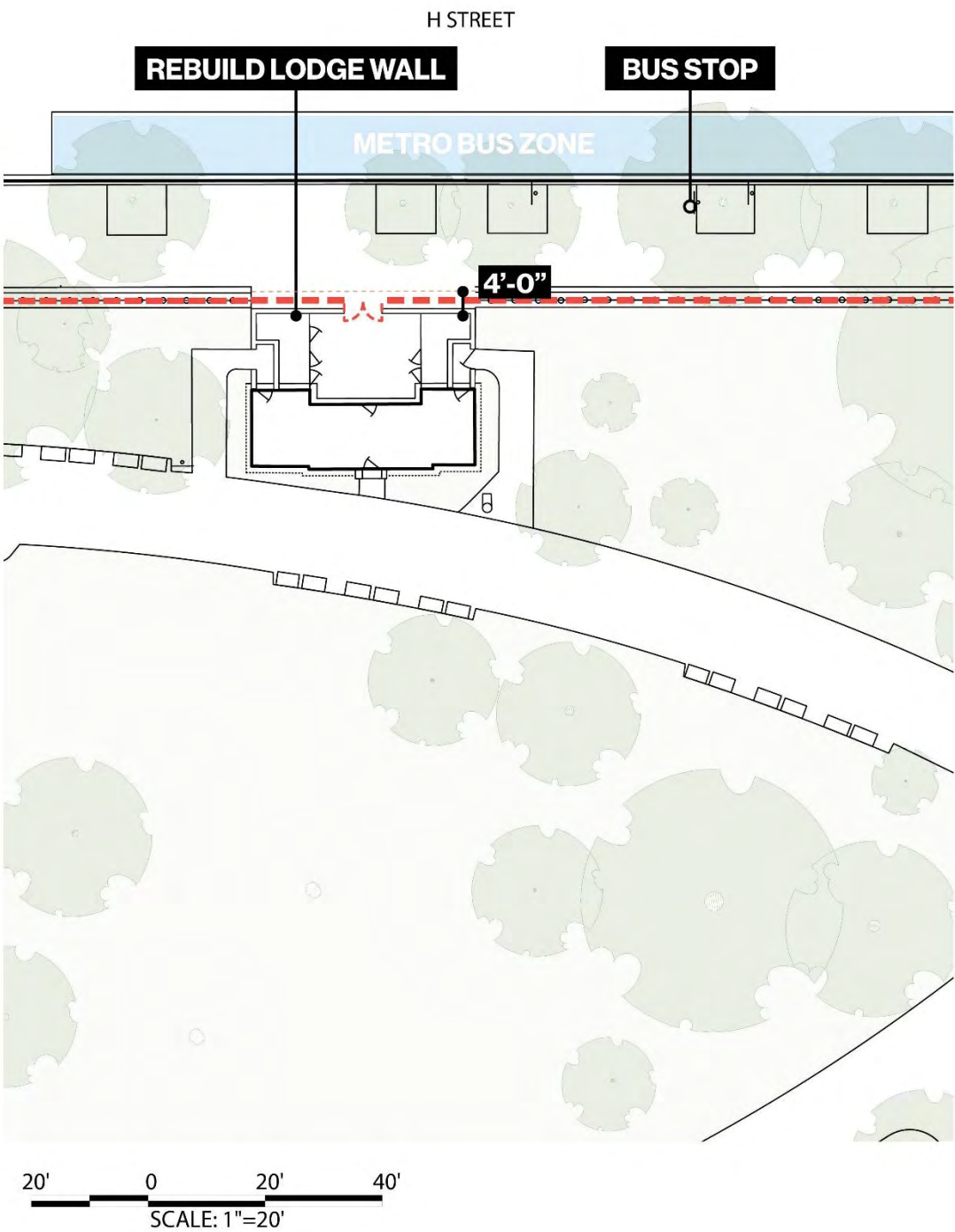


TEMPORARY FULL CLOSURE



Recommended Lafayette Lodge Treatment: Alignment 1

Fence alignment at the Lafayette Lodge offers multiple approaches that would maintain the secure boundary while discouraging potential climbing onto the lodge. This treatment would remove a portion of the rear wall of the Lodge.

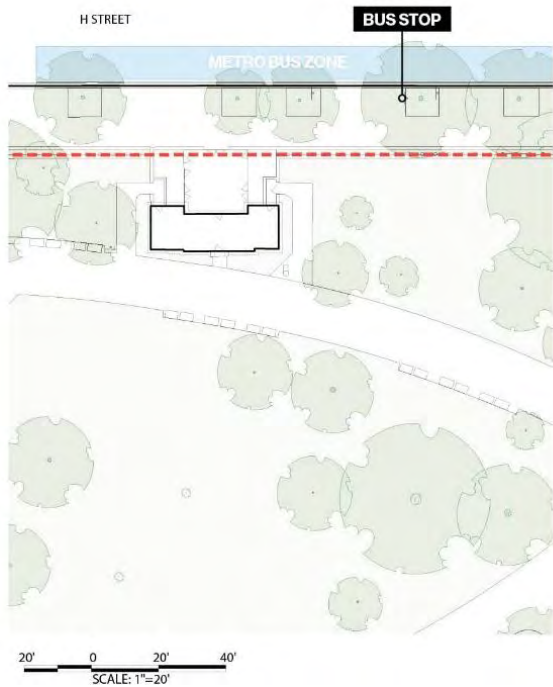


OPTION D
Rebuild Lodge wall behind fence



Lafayette Lodge Options Considered but Dismissed

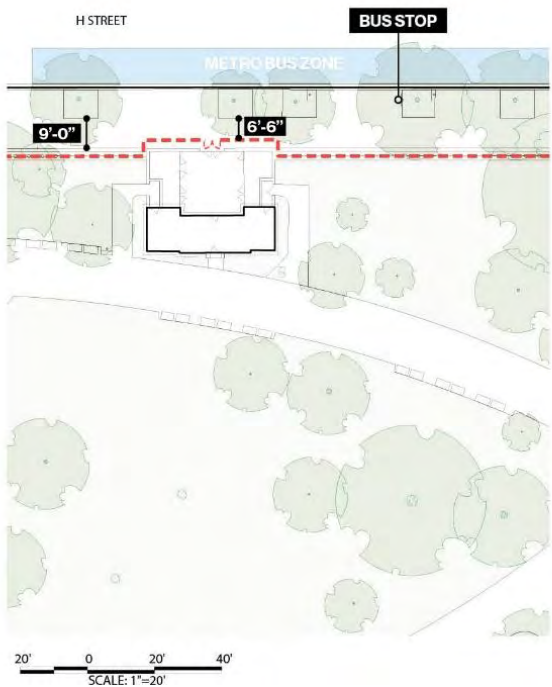
Fence alignment at the Lafayette Lodge offers multiple approaches that would maintain the secure boundary while discouraging potential climbing onto the lodge. Below, these options are discussed and reasons for their dismissal are provided.



OPTION A
Extend wall height



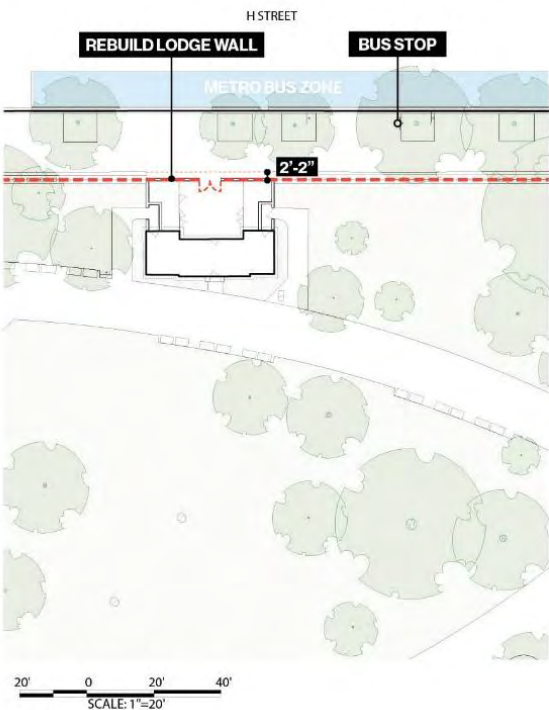
In this option, the lodge fencing would still be climbable. This could pose a security risk.



OPTION B
Fence extends into sidewalk



This fence alignment would be unappealing aesthetically and not sufficient practically for pedestrians as it would intersect portions of the sidewalk.



OPTION C
Rebuild Lodge wall to 8'



This fence alignment would be unappealing aesthetically and not sufficient practically. Furthermore, rebuilding the lodge wall would risk the historic character of the wall.

H Street looking South: Alignment 1

This rendering shows the preferred fence alignment, Alignment 1, with piers on either side of the northern fence gates on 16th Street NW and H Street NW. The gates allow visitors to move freely in and out of the park when open. The below configuration also allows for a sizable viewing area of the park on H Street NW when the gates are closed.



H Street looking South at Eye Level: Alignment 1

This rendering shows the preferred fence alignment, Alignment 1, with piers on either side of the northern fence gates on 16th Street NW and H Street NW. The below configuration also allows for a sizable viewing area of the park on H Street NW when the gates are closed. This view is shown at eye level across the street from the Lafayette Park.



H Street looking South: Alignment 1A

This rendering shows the preferred fence alignment with an altered gate configuration, referred to as Alignment 1A. Two sets of gates open on either side of the center fencing panel. Piers are present on either side of the gate openings on 16th Street NW and H Street NW, and the middle fencing panel lines up with the Andrew Jackson statue and the White House. This positioning would provide a less obstructive viewing area for patrons of the park.



H Street looking South: Alignment 1B

This rendering shows the preferred fence alignment with an altered gate configuration, referred to as Alignment 1B. Two sets of gates open on either side of the center gate section. Piers are present on either side of the gate openings on 16th Street NW and H Street NW, and the middle set of gates has 10 metal posts and 11 gate openings. This allows the middle gate opening to line up with the Andrew Jackson statue and the White House to provide a less obstructive view for patrons of the park.



Alignment 2: North Alignment

This alignment encompasses areas south of H Street NW. The fencing would be aligned with existing northern pathway in the park and allow northern sections of the park and the Baron Von Steuben Statue and the Kosciuszko Statue to remain outside of the fence line. This orientation would allow for expanded plaza space and viewing area at the entrance, with green areas being available regardless of the park’s closure status. The entrance to the park would be located at the middle of the park at the start of each north-south pathway, along with the two pathway entrances on the western and eastern sides of the park shown below. This placement would also allow for wider gate entrances to the park when open to the public, and larger viewing windows will be present when the gates are closed as they would no longer be restrained by bollard placement.

Positives for Visitor Use:

- Offers more open fence design opportunities because it is no longer aligned with bollards
- Enables larger hardscape plaza at H and 16th Streets NW, which allows gathering for First Amendment activities when park is closed
- Enables more access to park north of fence line along H Street NW, including northern corners, during Park closures
- Provides access along northern path within the park during closure
- Provides more open visitor experience along H Street NW
- Appears less imposing due to curvature of fence line

Positives for Operations:

- None identified

Negatives for Visitor Use:

- Potentially requires existing benches to be relocated
- Constrains potential gate locations at north center entry

Negatives for Operations:

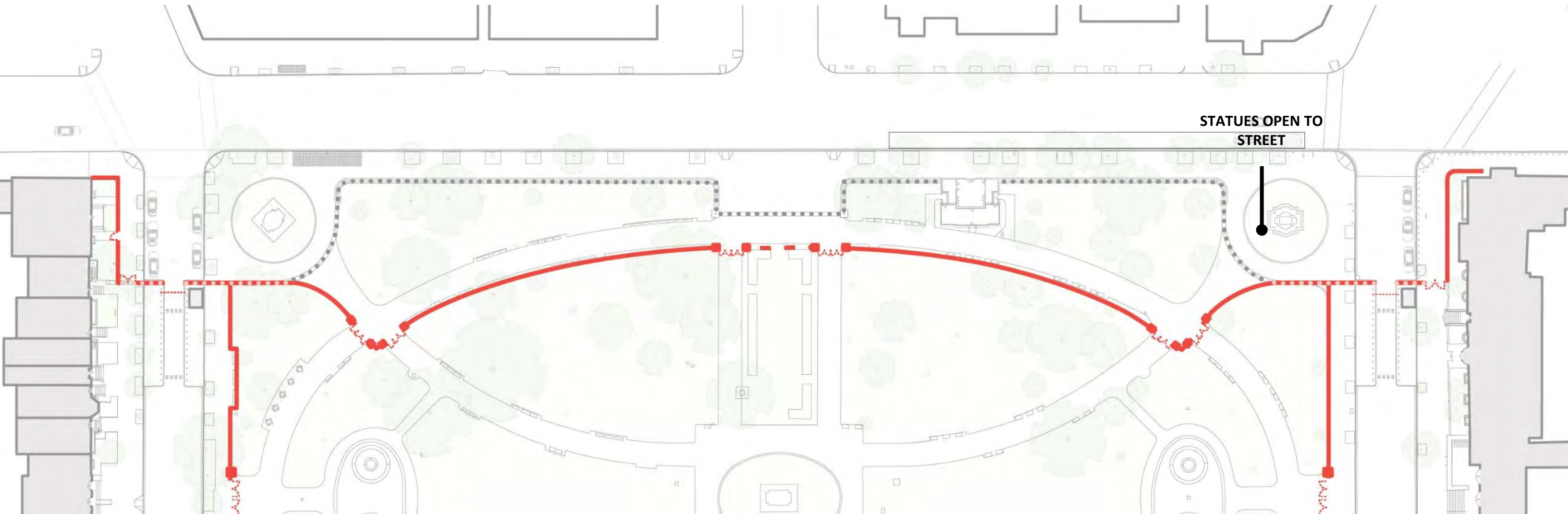
- Swings north side gates into the Park, against the direction of egress
- Places Lafayette Lodge outside the fence line
- Exposes two statues on H Street NW to potential to vandalism

LEGEND

8'-9' TALL - NON CLIMBFENCE

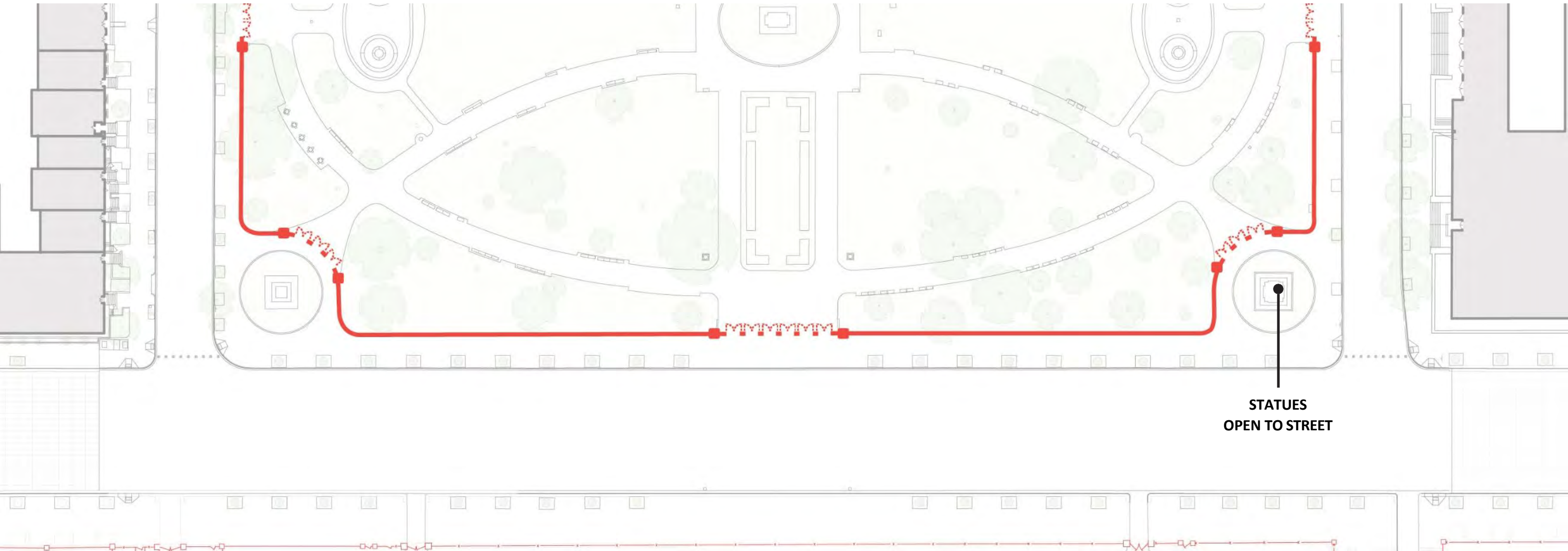
8'-9' TALL - NON CLIMBFENCE
ALIGNED WITH BOLLARDS

BOLLARDS



Alignment 2: South Alignment

This alignment encompasses areas north of Pennsylvania Avenue NW, and allows including the Compté de Rochambeau Statue and the Marquis de Lafayette Statue to remain outside of the fence line. The fencing would be aligned with existing curb of the park, allowing for gate openings in the middle of the fencing and three gate openings near each of the two statues. This orientation would allow for the park to remain open when Pennsylvania Avenue NW needs to be secured, as these gates could close while the rest of the park would remain open. This would allow for greater public access to the park and less disruptions from anticipated security events.



Positives for Visitor Use:

- Allows circulation within southern elliptical walkway during Pennsylvania Avenue NW closure
- Maintains statues open to Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Positives for Operations:

- Swings gates from Pennsylvania Avenue NW into the Park, in the direction of egress
- Accommodates Inauguration stands
- Establishes multiple gates to facilitate egress

Negatives for Visitor Use:

- Limits viewing area when Pennsylvania Avenue is closed

Negatives for Operations:

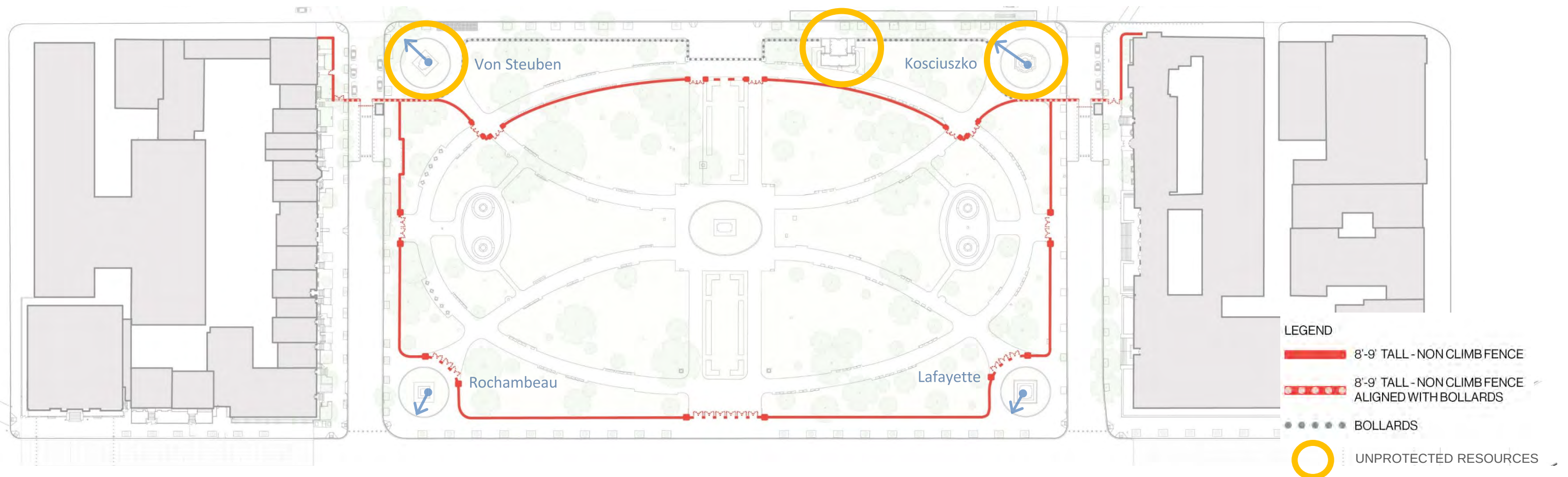
- None Identified

LEGEND

- 8'-9' TALL - NON CLIMB FENCE
- 8'-9' TALL - NON CLIMB FENCE ALIGNED WITH BOLLARDS
- BOLLARDS

Alignment 2: Lafayette Park Alignment

The alignment of Alignment 2 allows flexibility in the North Center Entry gates style to allow for wider openings. The fencing is placed so that statues remain open to the public at all corners of the park. It also allows a larger hardscape plaza at H Street NW, which will allow for First Amendment gathering activities when the park is closed. Lafayette Lodge will be enclosed with this fence line as well, providing additional security to the structure. Overall, this combination allows the park's statues to remain open to the public regardless of closures, and the perimeter allows for the maintenance of security standards needed to secure the park during key moments.



Positives for Visitor Use:

- Enables larger hardscape plaza at H and 16th Streets NW, which allows gathering for First Amendment activities when park is closed
- Enables more access to park north of fence line along H Street NW, including northern corners, during Park closures
- Provides more open visitor experience along H Street NW
- Appears less imposing due to curvature of fence line
- Allows circulation within southern elliptical walkway during Pennsylvania Avenue NW closure
- Maintains statues open to Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Positives for Operations:

- Swings gates from Pennsylvania Avenue NW into the Park, in the direction of egress
- Accommodates Inauguration stands
- Establishes multiple gates to facilitate egress

Negatives for Visitor Use:

- Adds additional barrier line due to fence relocated inboard of entrance along H Street NW at 16th Street NW
- Potentially requires existing benches to be relocated
- Constrains potential gate locations at north center entry
- Limits viewing area when Pennsylvania Avenue is closed

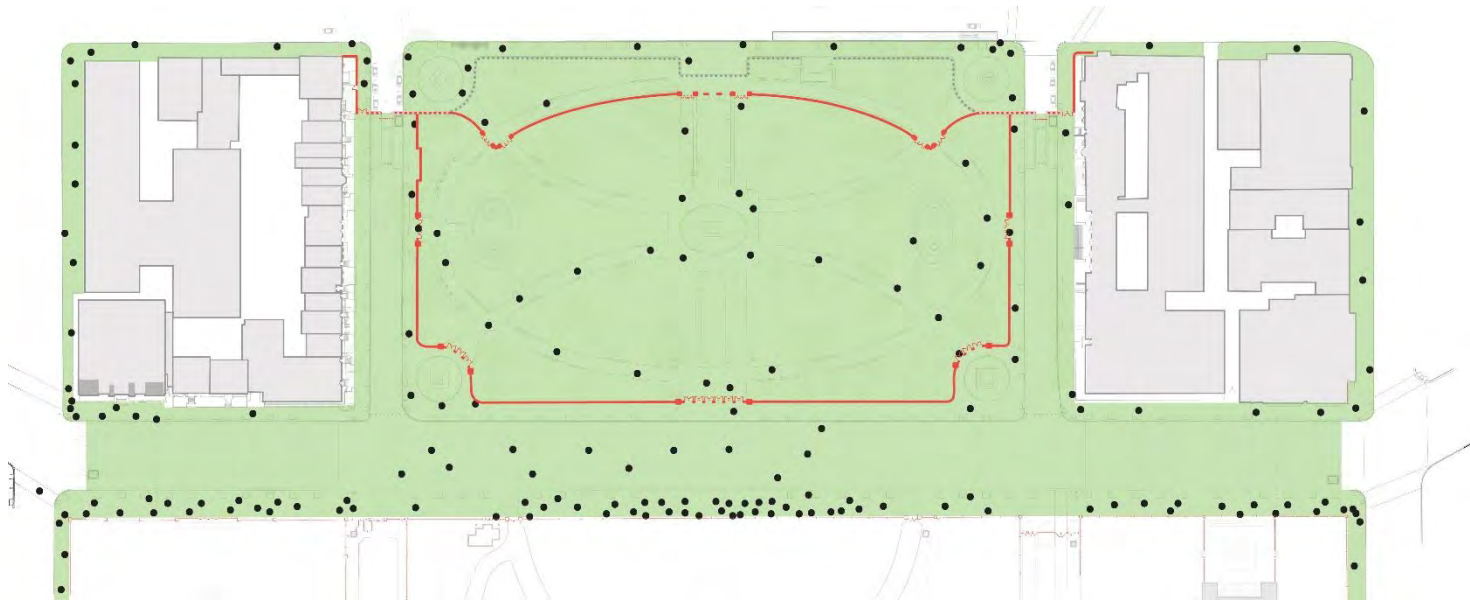
Negatives for Operations:

- Places Lafayette Lodge outside the fence line
- Exposes two statues on H Street NW to potential to vandalism
- Swings East and West gates swing into the Park, against the direction of egress
- Swings north side gates in against the direction of egress from the Park

Lafayette Park Security Scenarios: Alignment 2

The below graphics show Lafayette Park with the preferred alignment implemented and how access to the park would be affected in different security scenarios. Green areas symbolize spaces where the public could be present in each scenario, with the black dots representing members of the public.

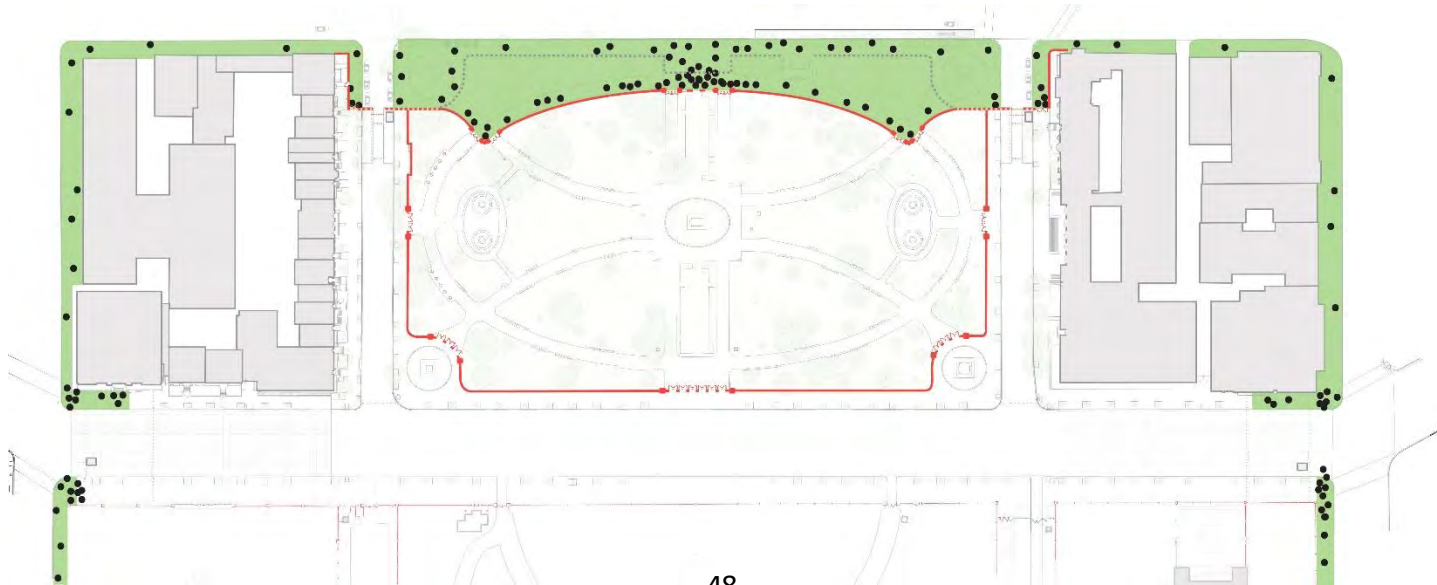
TYPICAL CONDITION



TEMPORARY PARTIAL CLOSURE



TEMPORARY FULL CLOSURE



H Street looking South: Alignment 2

This rendering shows Alignment 2 with two sets of gate openings on either side of a center fencing panel. Two sets of gates open on either side of the center fencing panel on 16th Street NW and H Street NW, and the middle fencing panel lines up with the Andrew Jackson statue and the White House. This positioning will provide a less obstructive viewing area for patrons of the park. The below configuration also allows for a sizable viewing area of the park on H Street NW and the northern path of the park when the gates are closed.



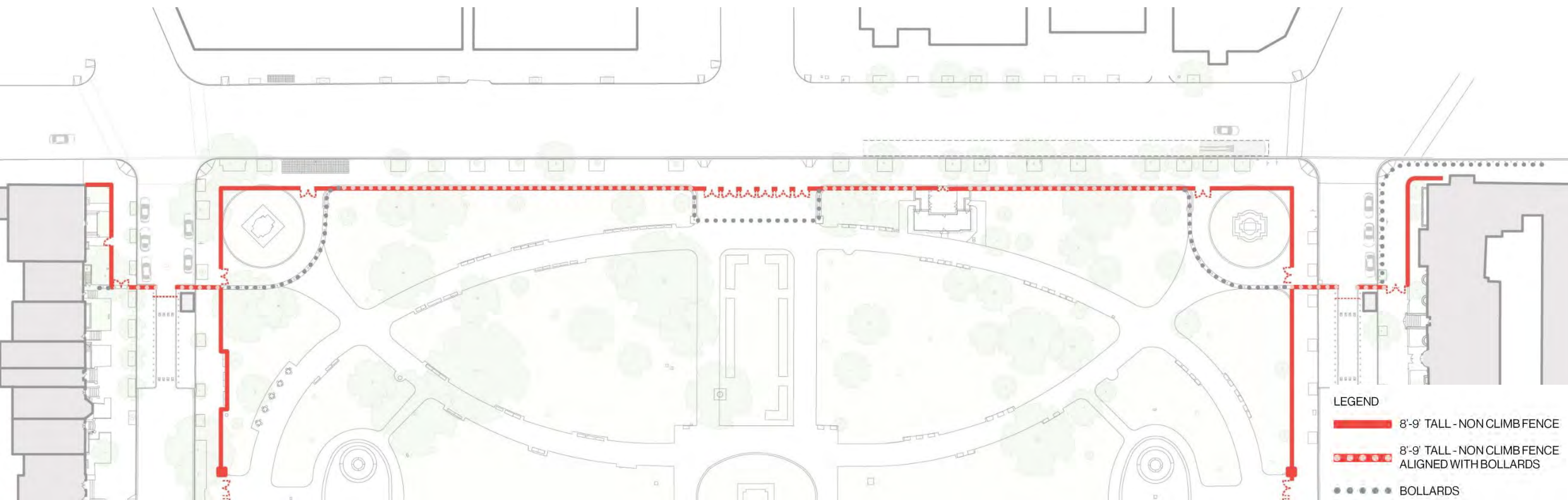
H Street looking South at Eye Level: Alignment 2

This rendering shows Alignment 2 with two sets of gate openings on either side of a center fencing panel. Two sets of gates open on either side of the center fencing panel on 16th Street NW and H Street NW, and the middle fencing panel lines up with the Andrew Jackson statue and the White House. This positioning will provide a less obstructive viewing area for patrons of the park. The below configuration also allows for a sizable viewing area of the park on H Street NW and the northern path of the park when the gates are closed. This view is shown at eye level across the street from the Lafayette Park.



Alignment 3: North Alignment Exploration

Another alignment along the northern portion of Lafayette Park explored installing a fence straight along H Street NW. This alignment allows flexibility in the North Center Entry gates' placement and style to enable wider openings. It does not provide a plaza at H Street NW for First Amendment gathering activities when the park is closed. Overall, this combination provides a secure perimeter along H Street that maintains security standards needed to secure the park during key moments. This exploration does not currently include assessments of a southern alignment.



Positives for Visitor Use:

- Allows flexibility in North Center Entry gates placement and style to allow for wider openings because it is no longer aligned with bollards
- Retains existing park bench locations

Positives for Operations:

- Protects the Lafayette Lodge and statues

Negatives for Visitor Use:

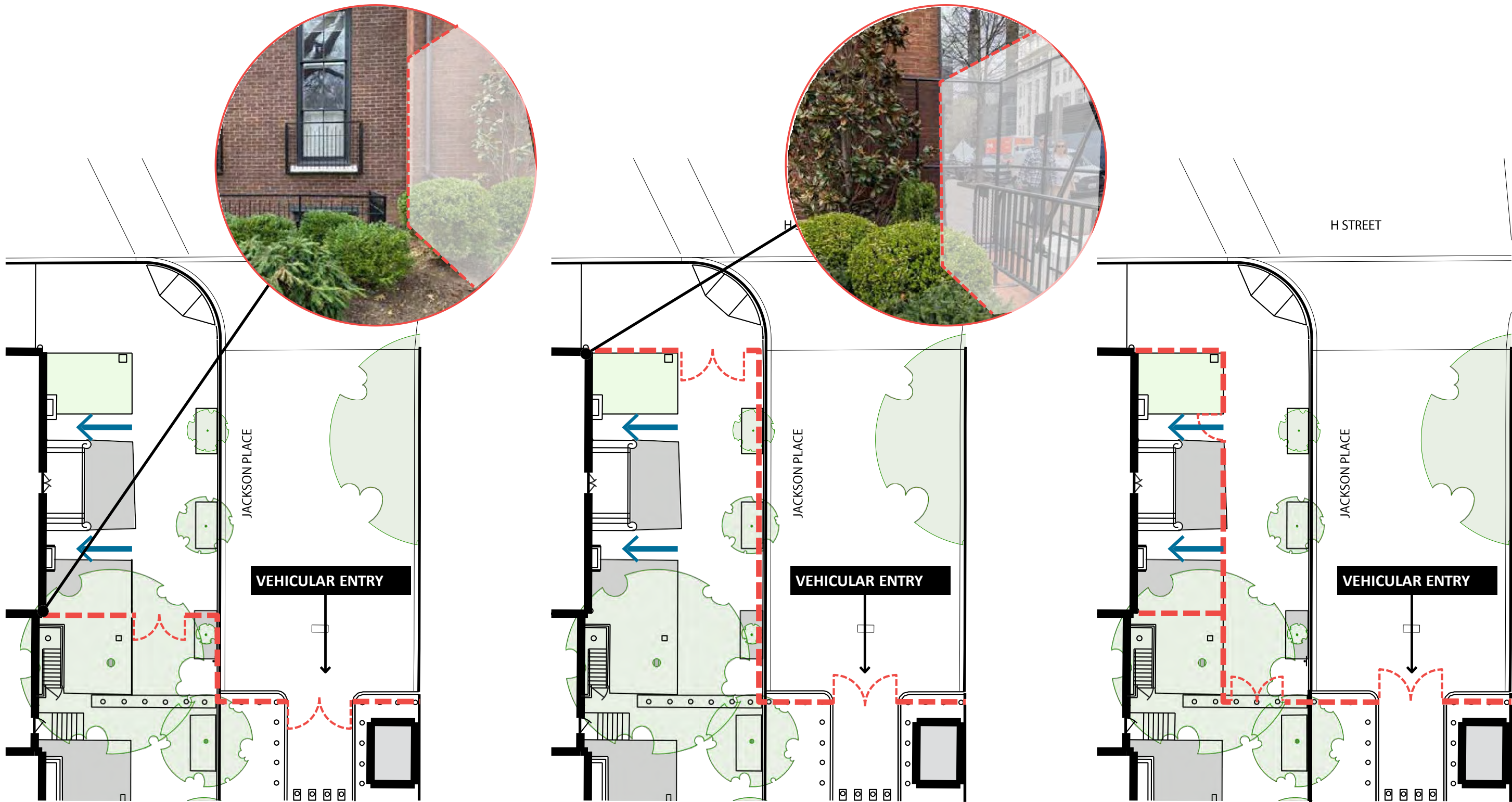
- Emphasizes closed feeling of the park due to continuous fencing directly along H Street NW
- Limits viewing area when the park is closed
- Closes northern corners of the Park, limiting access during Park closures
- Limits access to statues

Negatives for Operations:

- Swings north side gates into the Park, against the direction of egress
- Exposes pedestrian gates at 16th and H Streets NW to potential vehicle intrusions

White House Historical Society Options

Multiple fence alignments at the White House Historical Society could address security requirements. Fence alignments would extend to the edge of the Decatur House to prevent trespassers and fence scaling near the Blair House.



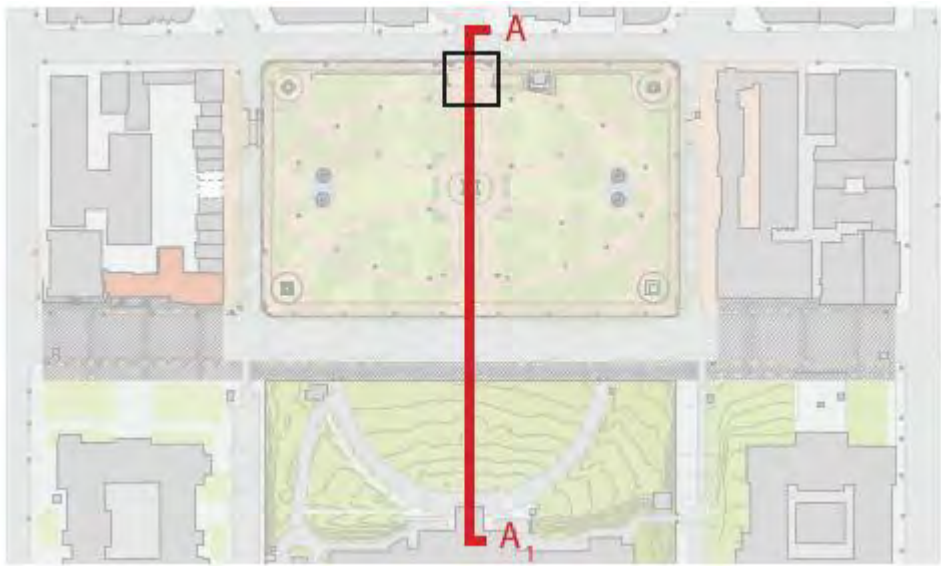
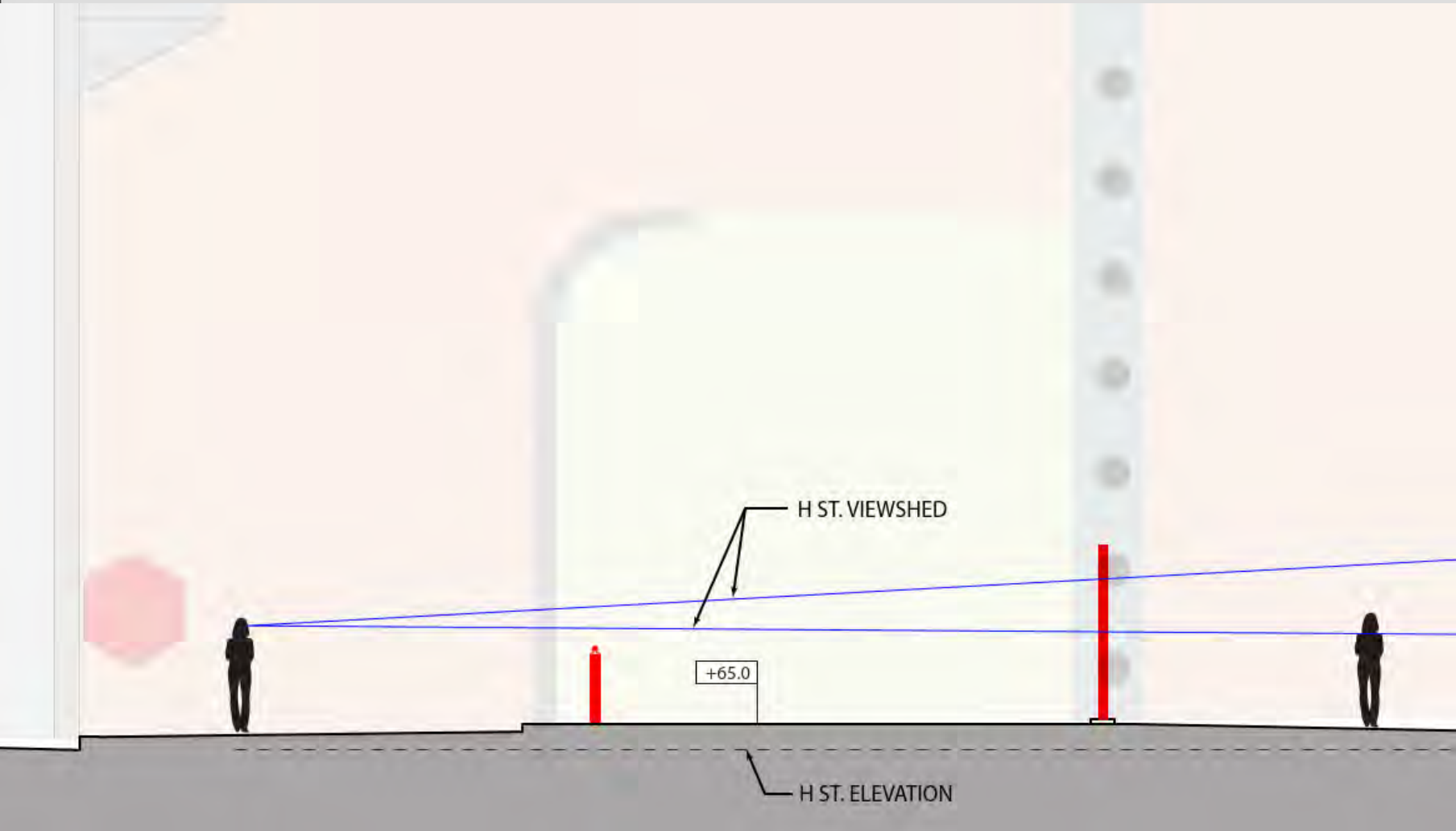
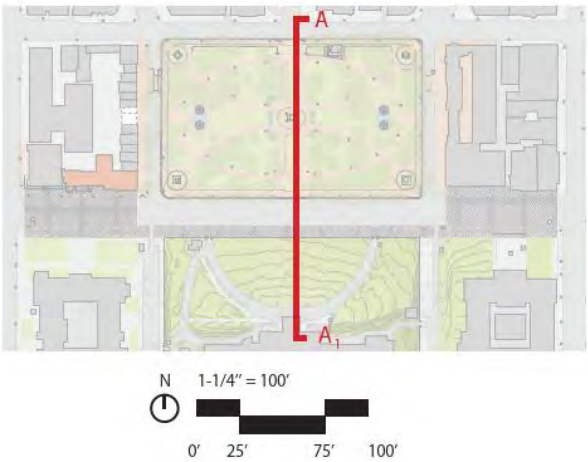
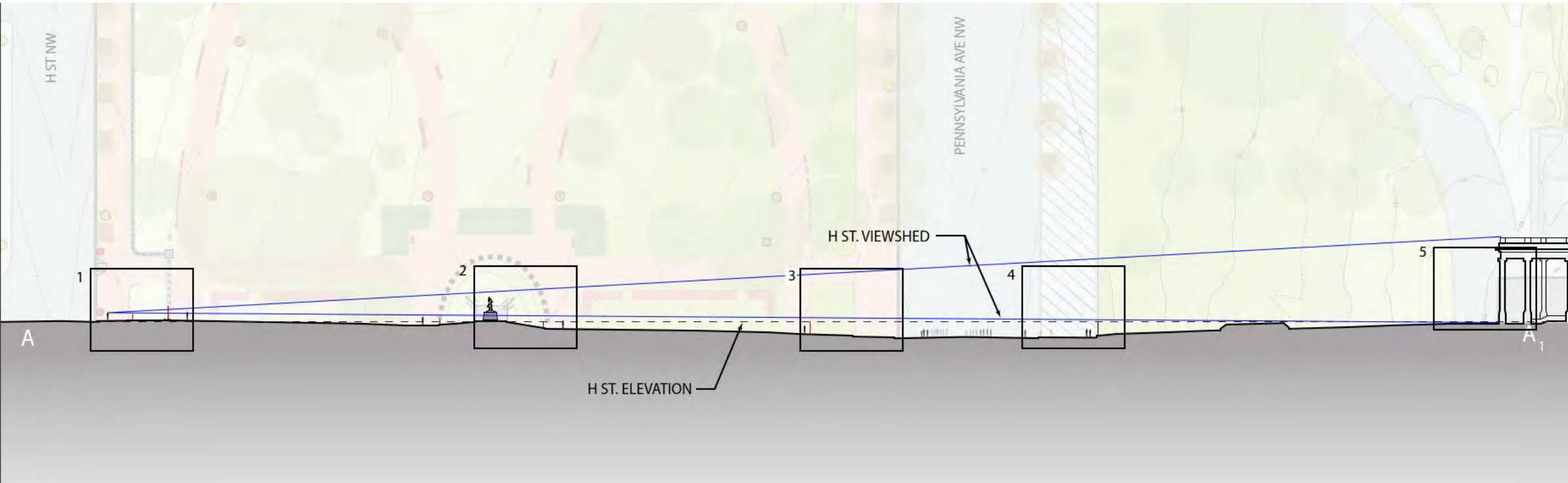
OPTION A:
Decatur House is not within fence line

OPTION B:
Fence along curb line

OPTION C:
Fence along inside of sidewalk

North/South Axis Overview & Section 1

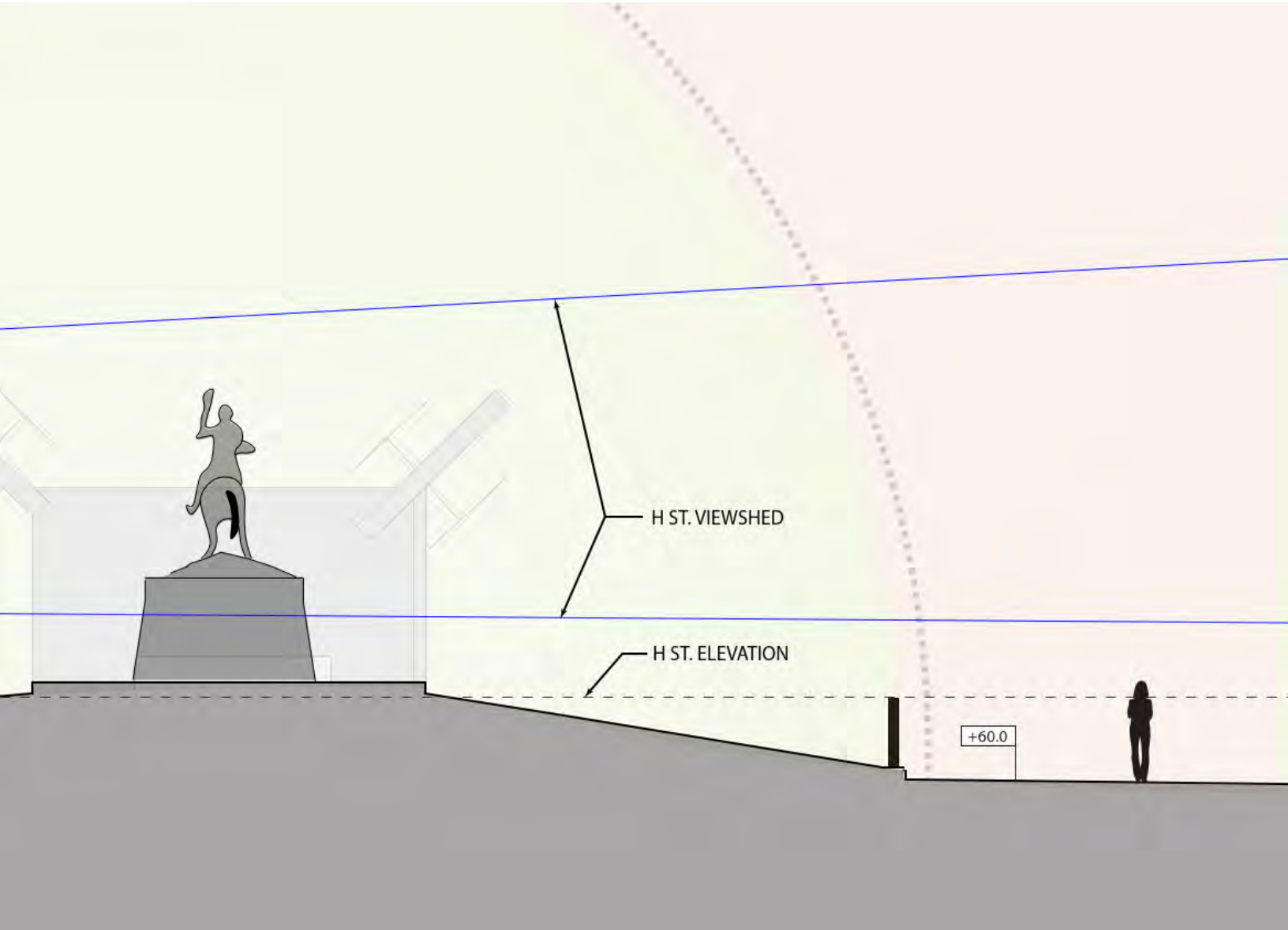
The North/ South Axis section shown below illustrates the elevation and sightlines of key points within Lafayette Park. Section 1 of the site’s North and South Axis section show the elevation and lines of sight from northern edge of the park. However, statue views are interrupted when standing outside of the proposed fencing or looking through a closed gate as shown through the sightline below.



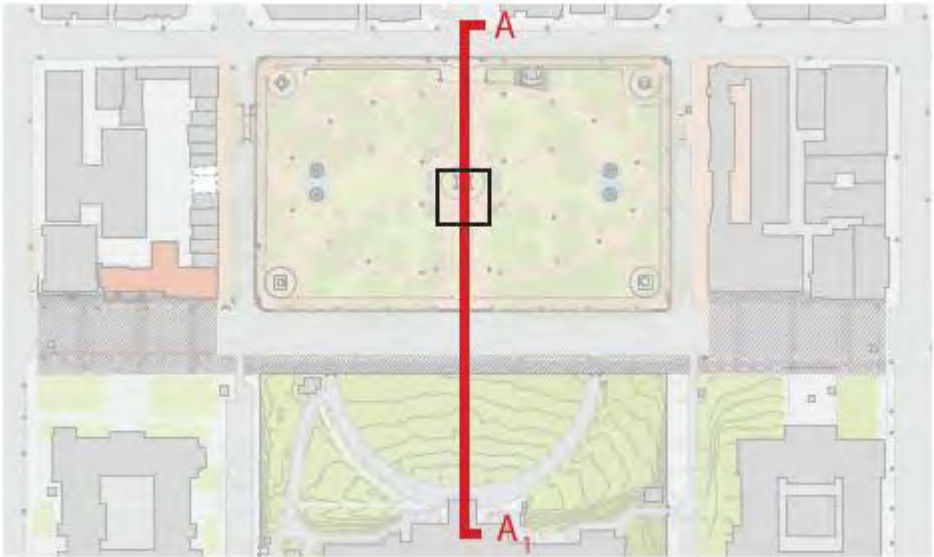
Section 1

North/South Axis Sections 2 & 3

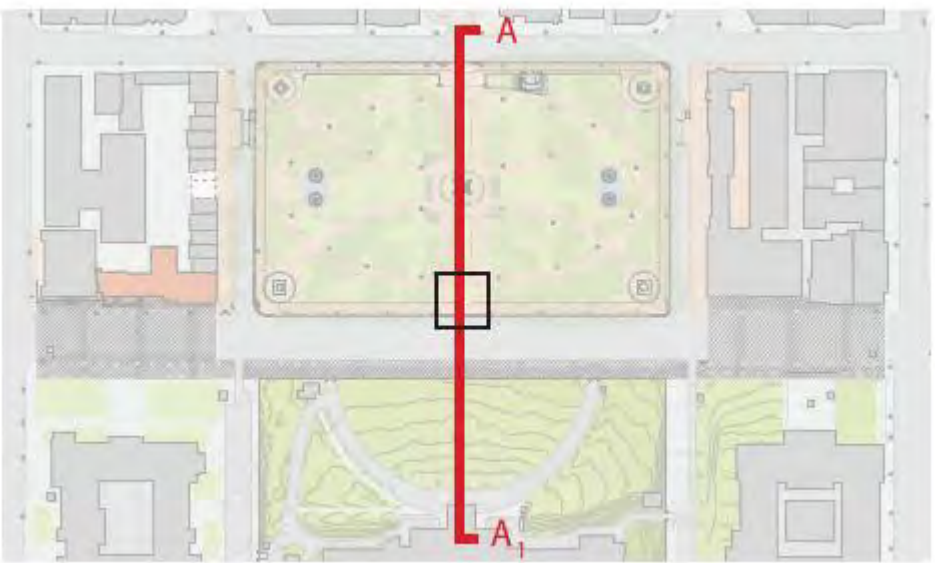
Section 2 and 3 of the site’s North and South Axis section show the elevation and lines of sight from the middle of the park. Once past the proposed fencing or looking through a gate, the historic Andrew Jackson statue is visible and views are minimally interrupted. Based on the blue sight lines, a visitor standing at the northern side of Lafayette Park would be able to see over the White House fence and be able to view the structure unobstructed by the White House fence.



Section 2

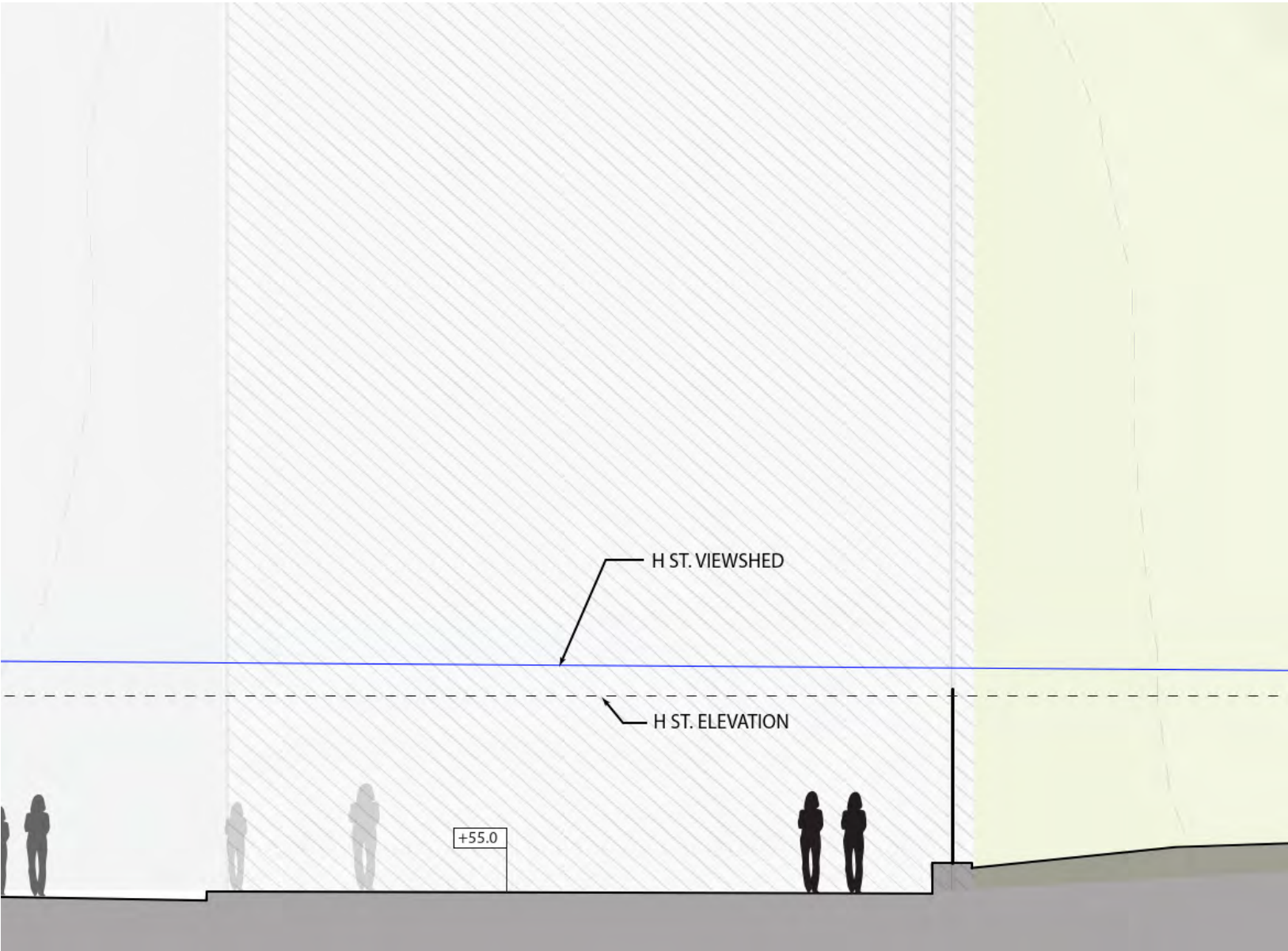


Section 3

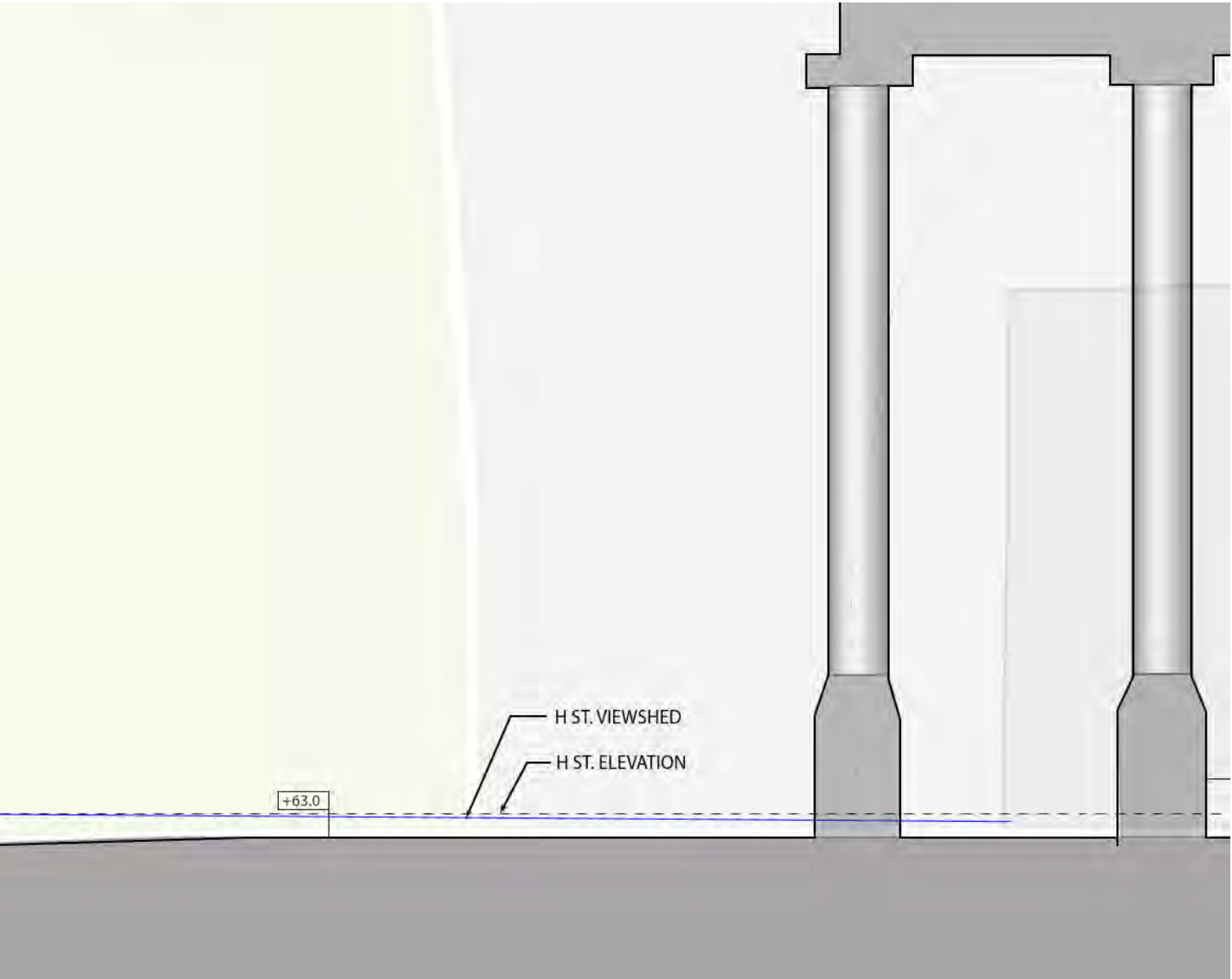
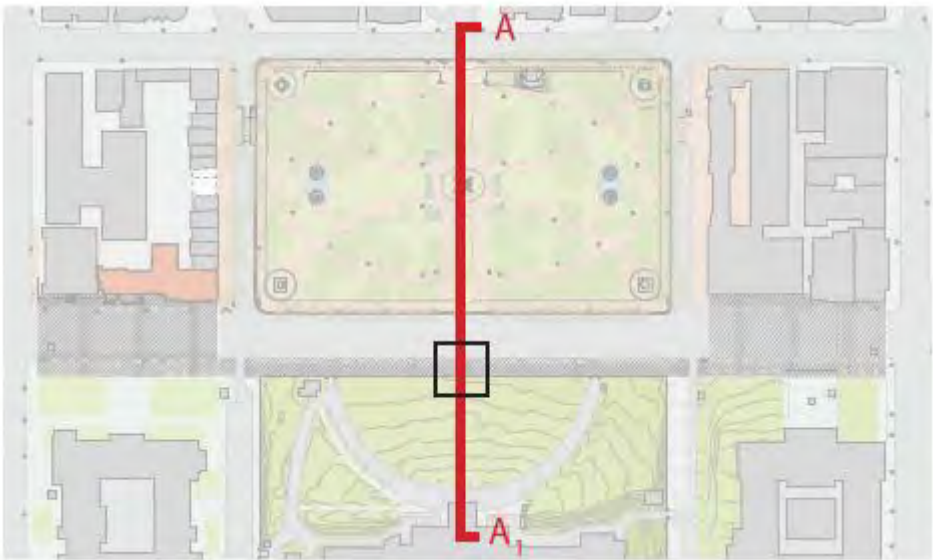


North/South Axis Sections 4 & 5

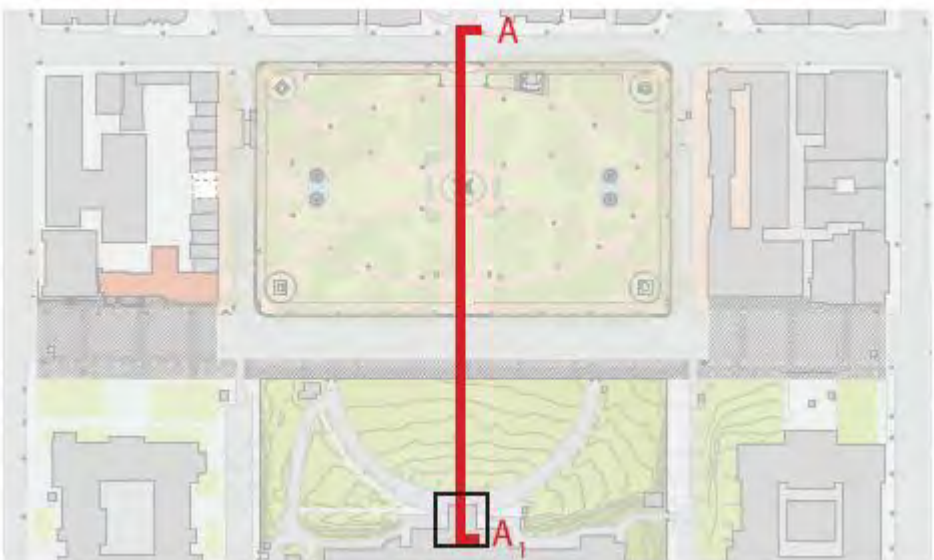
Sections 4 and 5 of the site’s North and South Axis section show the elevation and lines of sight from the southern edge of Pennsylvania Avenue NW. Based on the blue sight lines, a visitor standing at the northern side of Lafayette Park would be able to see over the White House fence and be able to view the structure unobstructed by the White House fence. Section 5 of the site’s North and South Axis section shows the elevation and lines of sight from the southern side of the White House complex. Based on the blue sight lines, a visitor standing at the southern side of the area would be able to see the White House fence based on the similar elevations of 63 feet at the White House and 65 feet at the northern edge of Lafayette Park.



Section 4

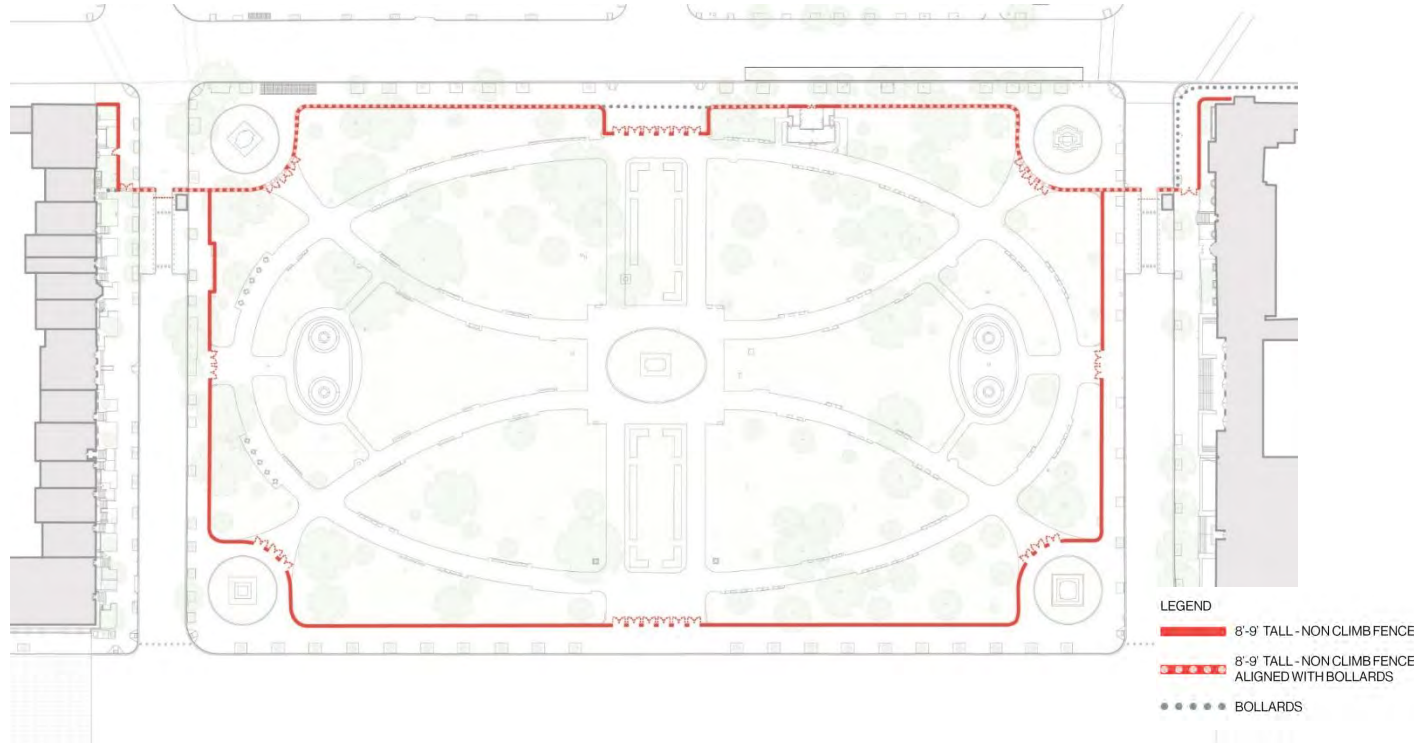


Section 5



Alignments Considered

These alignments were considered during the design process and were not advanced in the process due to a variety of reasons. The alignment on the left does not protect the statues surrounding the park due to the fencing curving around each of the four statues, and it creates additional maintenance requirements for NPS to manage and clean the statues from potential vandalism. Furthermore, the alignment on the left emphasizes the closed feeling of the park due to the continuous fencing of south of the elliptical walkway, required the coordination of fencing with existing bench locations.



Positives for Visitor Use:

- Allows flexibility in North Center Entry gates placement and style to allow for wider openings
- Allows circulation within southern elliptical walkway during Pennsylvania Avenue NW closure
- Maintains statues open to Pennsylvania Avenue NW
- Enables hardscape plaza at H and 16th Streets NW, which allows gathering for First Amendment activities when park is closed
- Retains existing park bench locations
- Aligns with historic fence location

Positives for Operations:

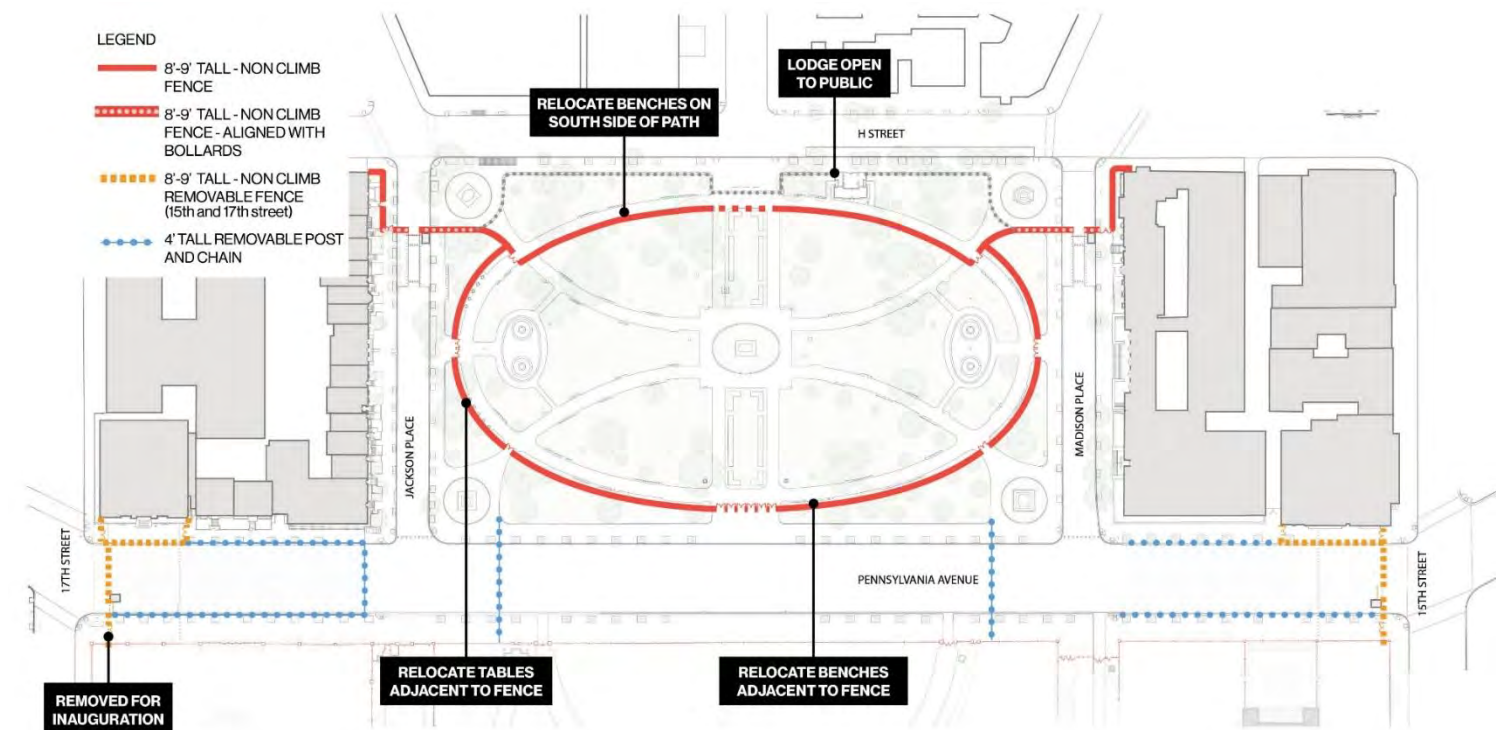
- Swings north side gates out in the direction of egress from the Park; Swings gates from Pennsylvania Avenue NW into the Park, in the direction of egress
- Places Lafayette Lodge within the fence line
- Accommodates Inauguration stands
- Establishes multiple gates to facilitate egress

Negatives for Visitor Use:

- Adds additional barrier line due to moved bollards to entrance along H Street NW at 16th Street NW
- Emphasizes closed feeling of the park due to continuous fencing directly along H Street NW, except at North Center Entry
- Limits fence design due to bollard placement
- Limits viewing area when Pennsylvania Avenue is closed

Negatives for Operations:

- Leaves statues outside of the fence line



Positives for Visitor Use:

- Allows flexibility in North Center Entry gates placement and style to allow for wider openings
- Allows circulation within southern elliptical walkway during Pennsylvania Avenue NW closure
- Offers more open fence design opportunities because it is no longer aligned with bollards
- Enables larger hardscape plaza at H and 16th Streets NW, which allows gathering for First Amendment activities when park is closed
- Enables more access to park north of fence line along H Street NW, including northern corners, during Park closures; provides more open visitor experience along H Street NW
- Appears less imposing due to curvature of fence line

Positives for Operations:

- Swings north side gates out in the direction of egress from the Park
- Swings gates from Pennsylvania Avenue NW into the Park, in the direction of egress
- Accommodates Inauguration stands

Negatives for Visitor Use:

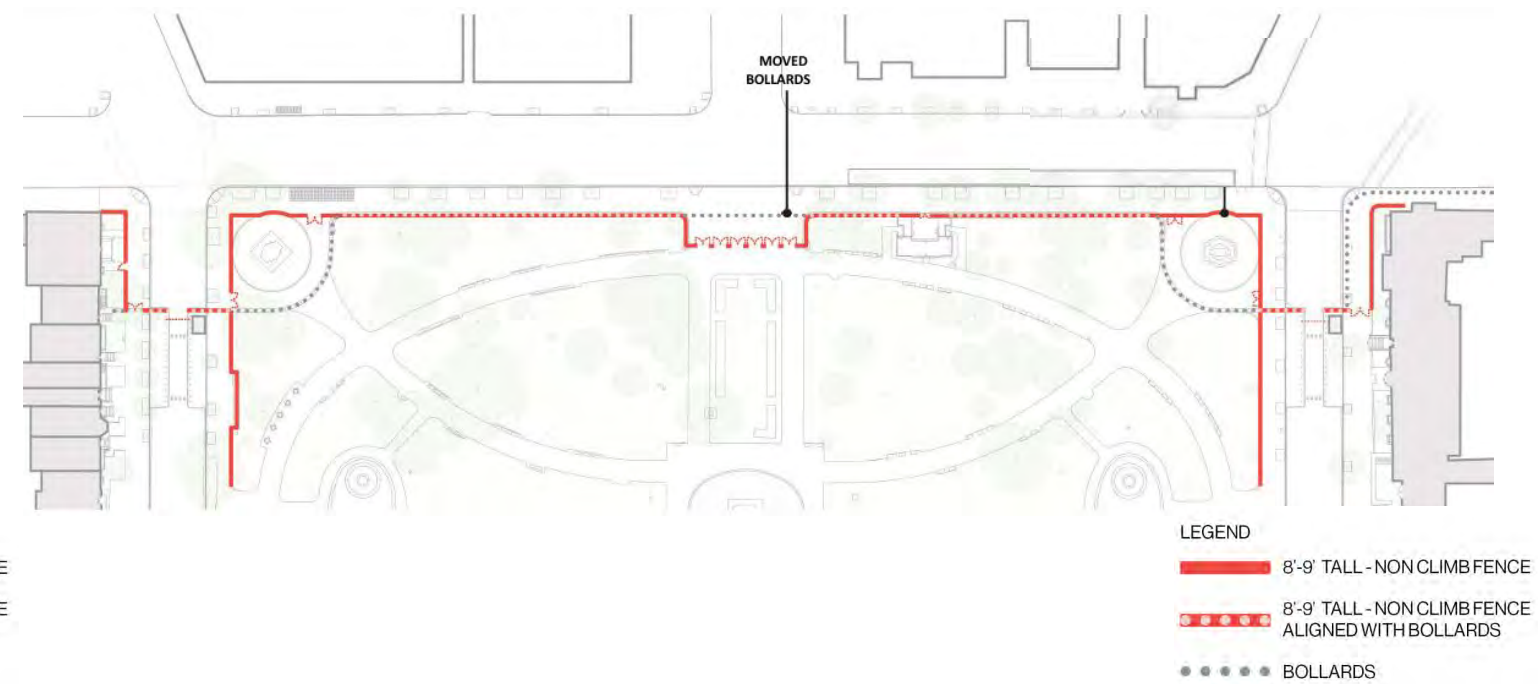
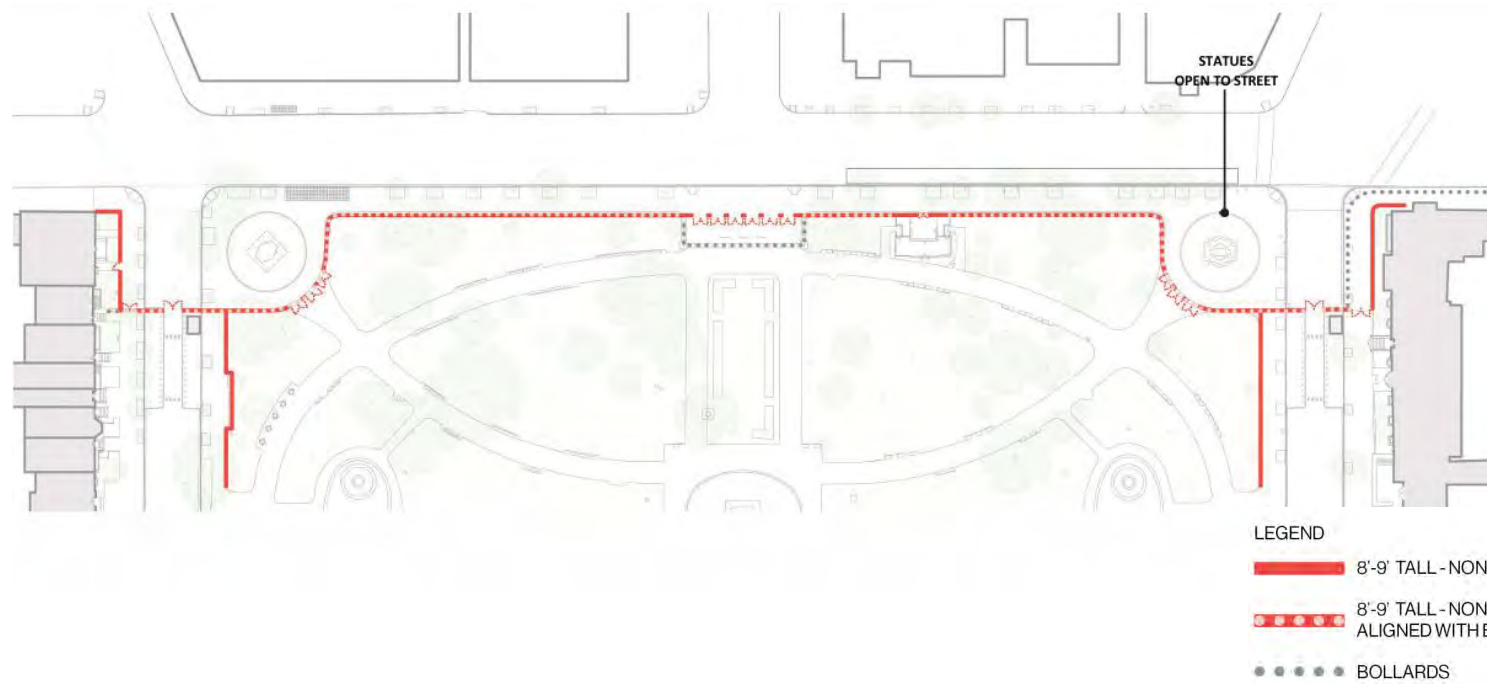
- Potentially requires existing benches to be relocated
- Requires coordination of fence with existing park bench locations
- Limits viewing area when Pennsylvania Avenue is closed
- Emphasizes closed feeling of the park due to continuous fencing along the elliptical walkway, rather than Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Negatives for Operations:

- Places Lafayette Lodge outside of fence line
- Places statues outside of fence line

Alignments Considered

These alignments were considered during the design process and were not advanced in the process due to a variety of reasons. The alignment on the left shows the gates in line with the park fence, creating a closed-off area and prevents a viewing space for visitors on H Street NW. Also, it does not protect the statues surrounding the park due to the fencing curving around each of the four statues, and it creates additional maintenance requirements for NPS to manage and clean the statues from potential vandalism. Furthermore, the alignment on the left emphasizes the closed feeling of the park due to the gate being in line with the continuous fencing around the park and sharp corners at the statues. These sharp corners limit the public's access to the statues outside of the fencing.



Positives for Visitor Use:

- Allows flexibility at H and 16th Streets NW gates placement and style to allow for wider openings
- Maximizes the feeling of openness within the park
- Places northern corners of the park outside of the fence, ensuring that area is open to the public at all times
- Retains existing park bench locations

Positives for Operations:

- Places Lafayette Lodge within the fence line
- Retains existing north bollard line

Negatives for Visitor Use:

- Does not provide gathering space at 16th Street NW during closures
- Emphasizes closed feeling of the park due to continuous fencing directly along H Street NW, except at corners
- Closes northern corners of the Park, limiting access during Park closures
- Limits fence design due to bollard placement

Negatives for Operations:

- Exposes two statues on H Street NW to potential to vandalism
- Swings north side gates into the Park, against the direction of egress
- Exposes center fence to potential vehicle intrusions

Positives for Visitor Use:

- Allows flexibility in North Center Entry gates placement and style to allow for wider openings
- Enables hardscape plaza at H and 16th Streets NW, which allows gathering for First Amendment activities when park is closed
- Retains existing park bench locations
- Aligns with historic fence location

Positives for Operations:

- Swings north side gates out in the direction of egress from the Park
- Places Lafayette Lodge within the fence line
- Places statues within fence line

Negatives for Visitor Use:

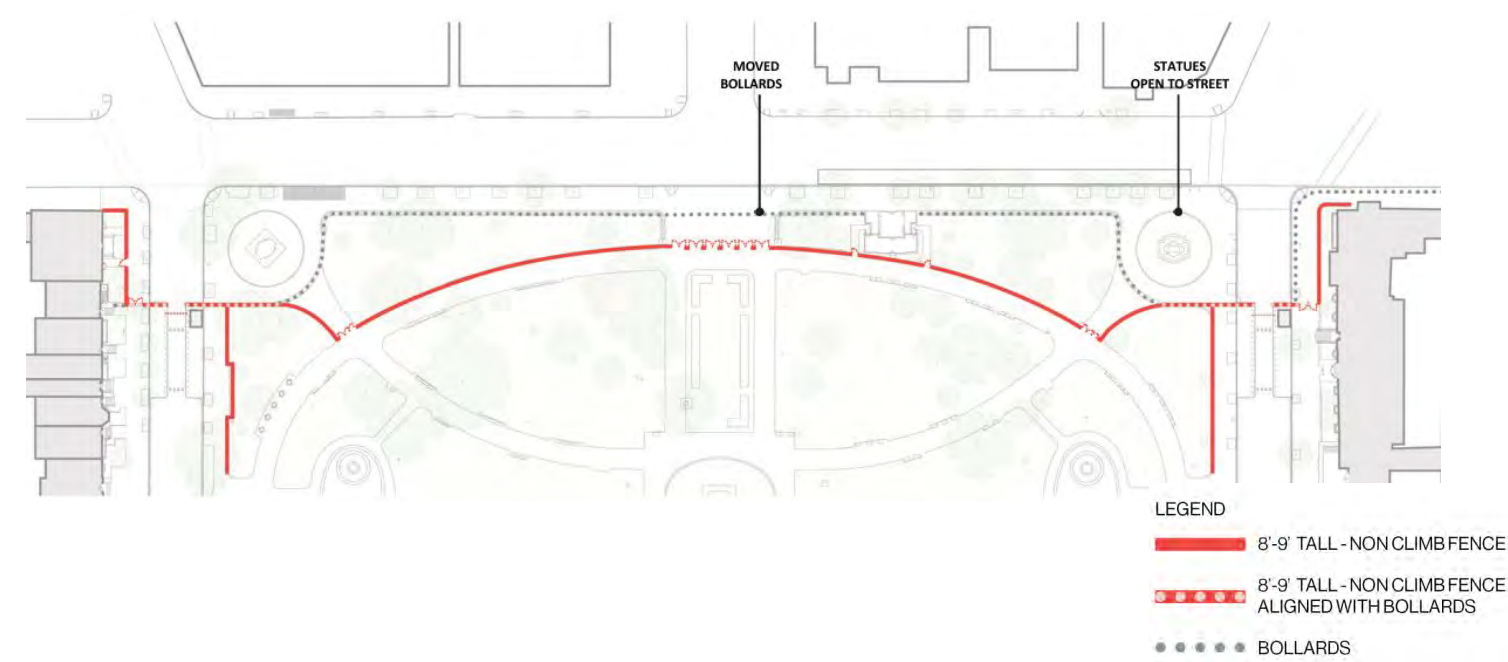
- Adds additional barrier line due to moved bollards to entrance along H Street NW at 16th Street NW
- Emphasizes closed feeling of the park due to continuous fencing directly along H Street NW, except at North Center Entry
- Limits fence design (likely decreasing visibility) due to bollard placement
- Closes northern corners of the Park, limiting access during Park closures
- Limits access to statues

Negatives for Operations:

- None identified

Alignments Considered

These alignments were considered during the design process and were not advanced in the process due to a variety of reasons. Both alignments do not protect the statues surrounding the park due to the fencing curving around each of the four statues, and it creates additional maintenance requirements for NPS to manage and clean the statues from potential vandalism. Furthermore, both alignments emphasize the closed feeling of the park due to the continuous fencing of north of the elliptical walkway, required the coordination of fencing with existing bench locations.



Positives for Visitor Use:

- Allows flexibility in North Center Entry gates placement and style to allow for wider openings
- Offers more open fence design opportunities because it is no longer aligned with bollards
- Enables larger hardscape plaza at H and 16th Streets NW, which allows gathering for First Amendment activities when park is closed
- Enables more access to park north of fence line along H Street NW, including northern corners, during Park closures
- Provides more open visitor experience along H Street NW
- Appears less imposing due to curvature of fence line

- Positives for Operations:

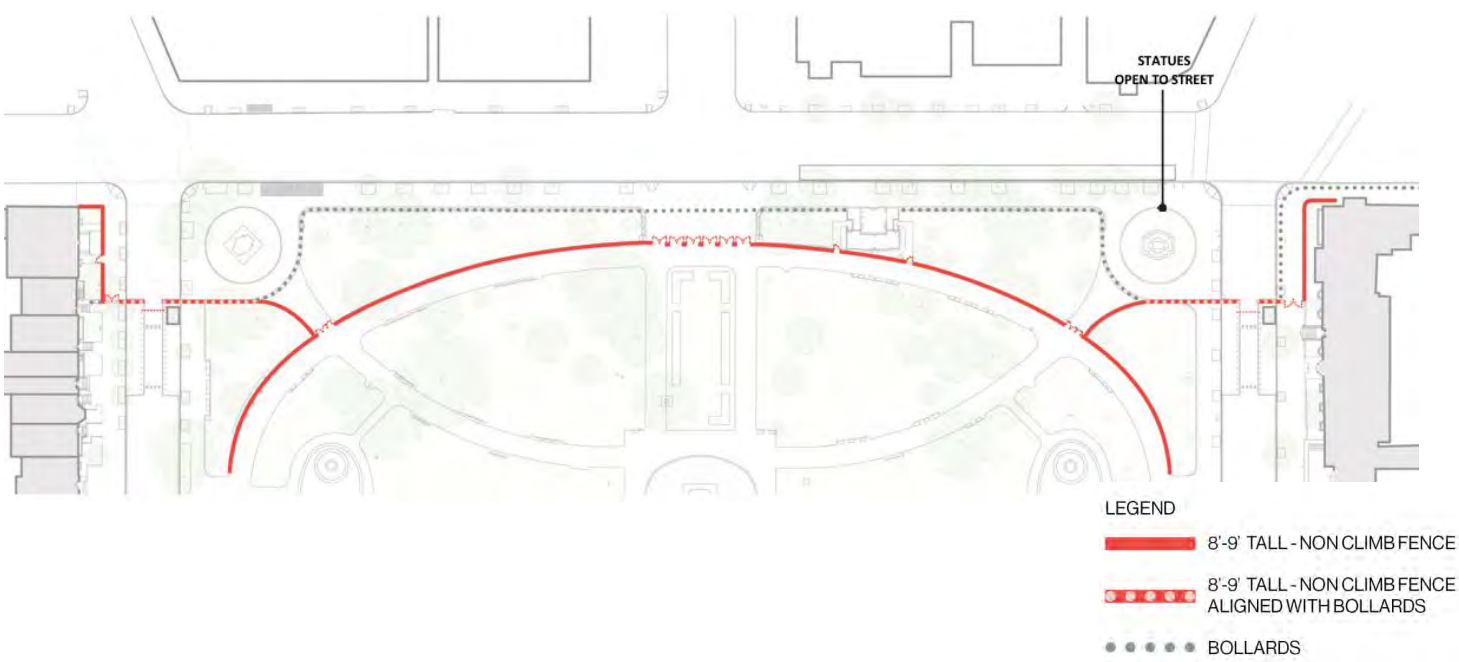
- Swings north side gates out in the direction of egress from the Park
- Sets fence line south of H Street NW, which would minimize vehicular intrusions

Negatives for Visitor Use:

- Adds additional barrier line due to moved bollards to entrance along H Street NW at 16th Street NW
- Potentially requires existing benches to be relocated
- Prevents access to most paths within the park during closure

Negatives for Operations:

- Places Lafayette Lodge outside the fence line
- Exposes two statues on H Street NW to potential to vandalism



Positives for Visitor Use:

- Allows flexibility in North Center Entry gates placement and style to allow for wider openings
- Offers more open fence design opportunities because it is no longer aligned with bollards
- Enables larger hardscape plaza at H and 16th Streets NW, which allows gathering for First Amendment activities when park is closed
- Enables more access to park north of fence line along H Street NW, including northern corners, during Park closures
- Provides more open visitor experience along H Street NW
- Appears less imposing due to curvature of fence line

Positives for Operations:

- Swings north side gates out in the direction of egress from the Park
- Sets fence line south of H Street NW, which would minimize vehicular intrusions

Negatives for Visitor Use:

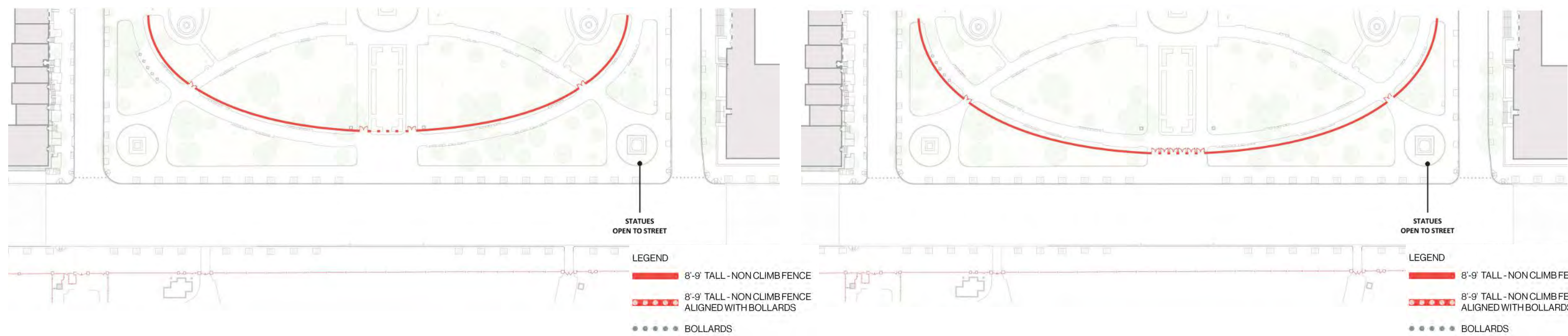
- Adds additional barrier line due to moved bollards to entrance along H Street NW at 16th Street NW
- Potentially requires existing benches to be relocated
- Prevents access to most paths within the park during closure
- Reduces publicly accessible park area
- Reduces feeling of corridors along Madison and Jackson Places

Negatives for Operations:

- Places Lafayette Lodge outside the fence line
- Exposes two statues on H Street NW to potential to vandalism

Alignments Considered

These alignments were considered during the design process and were not advanced in the process due to a variety of reasons. Both alignments do not protect the statues on the southern edge of the park due to the fencing curving around the pathways, and it creates additional maintenance requirements for NPS to manage and clean the statues from potential vandalism. Furthermore, both alignments require the coordination of fencing with existing bench locations, and they emphasize the closed feeling of the park due to continuous fencing north of the elliptical walkway, rather than Pennsylvania Avenue NW



Positives for Visitor Use:

- None Identified

Positives for Operations:

- Swings gates from Pennsylvania Avenue NW into the Park, in the direction of egress
- Accommodates Inauguration stands

Negatives for Visitor Use:

- Greatly limits viewing area when Pennsylvania Avenue is closed
- Requires coordination of fence with existing park bench locations
- Greatly emphasizes closed feeling of the park due to continuous fencing north of the elliptical walkway, rather than Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Negatives for Operations:

- Limits available placement of gates at pathways

Positives for Visitor Use:

- Allows circulation within southern elliptical walkway during Pennsylvania Avenue NW closure

Positives for Operations:

- Swings gates from Pennsylvania Avenue NW into the Park, in the direction of egress
- Accommodates Inauguration stands

Negatives for Visitor Use:

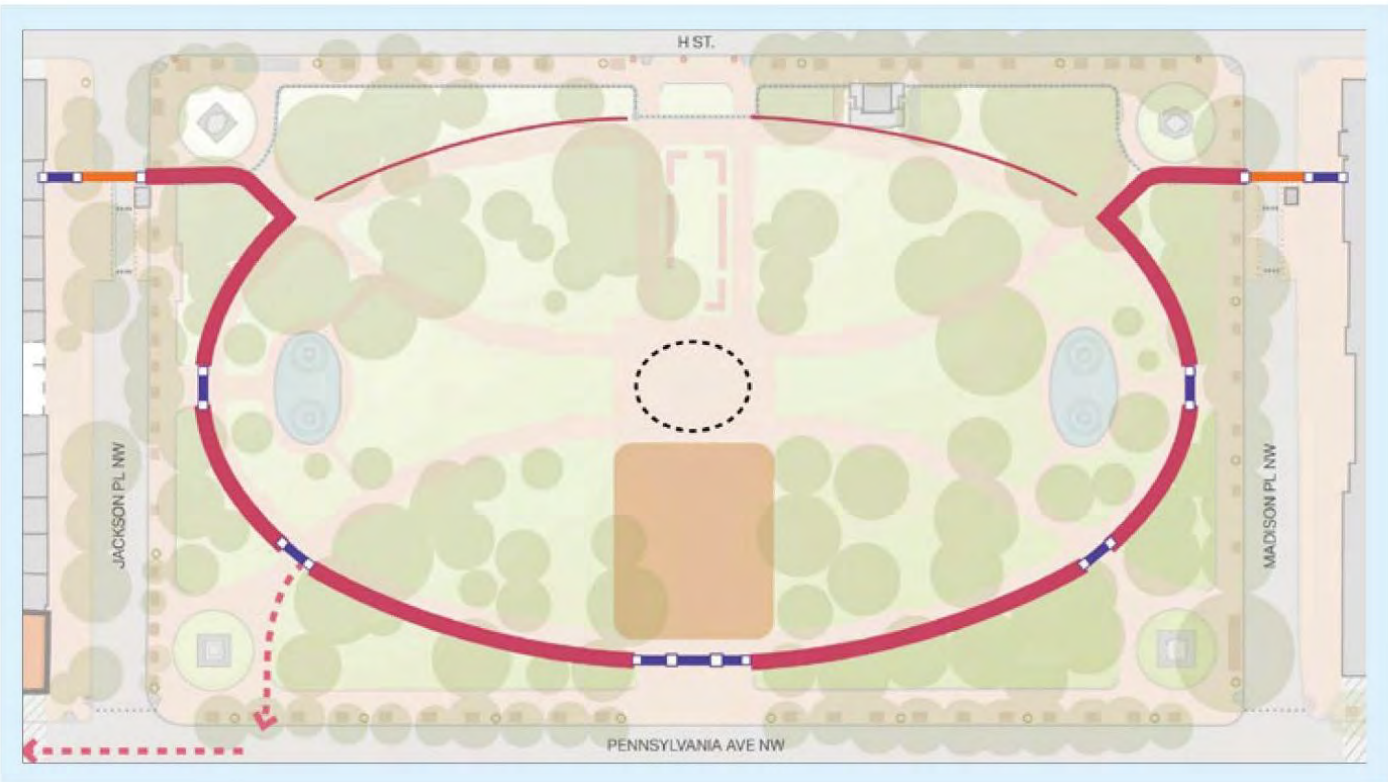
- Limits viewing area when Pennsylvania Avenue is closed
- Requires coordination of fence with existing park bench locations
- Emphasizes closed feeling of the park due to continuous fencing north of the elliptical walkway, rather than Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Negatives for Operations:

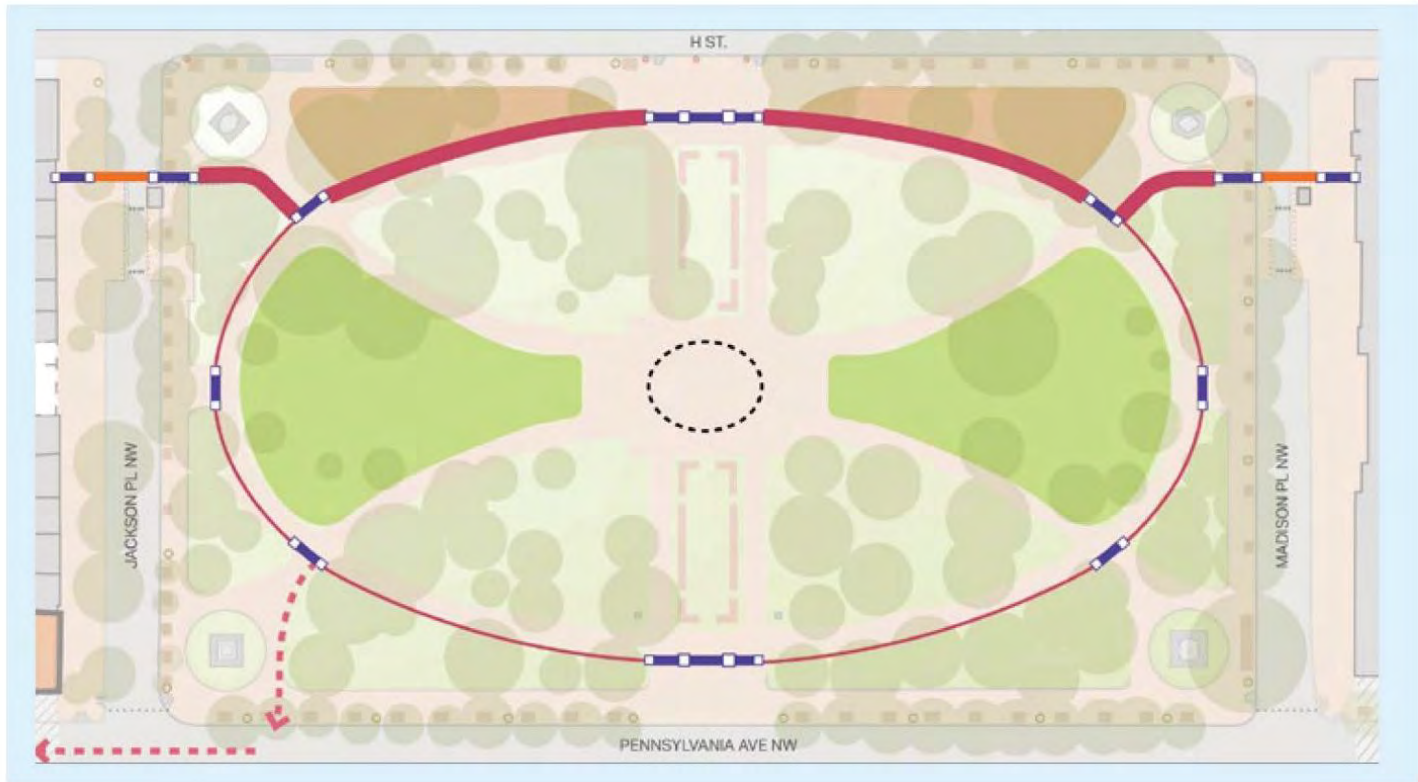
- None identified

Legacy Alignments Considered but Dismissed (2020)

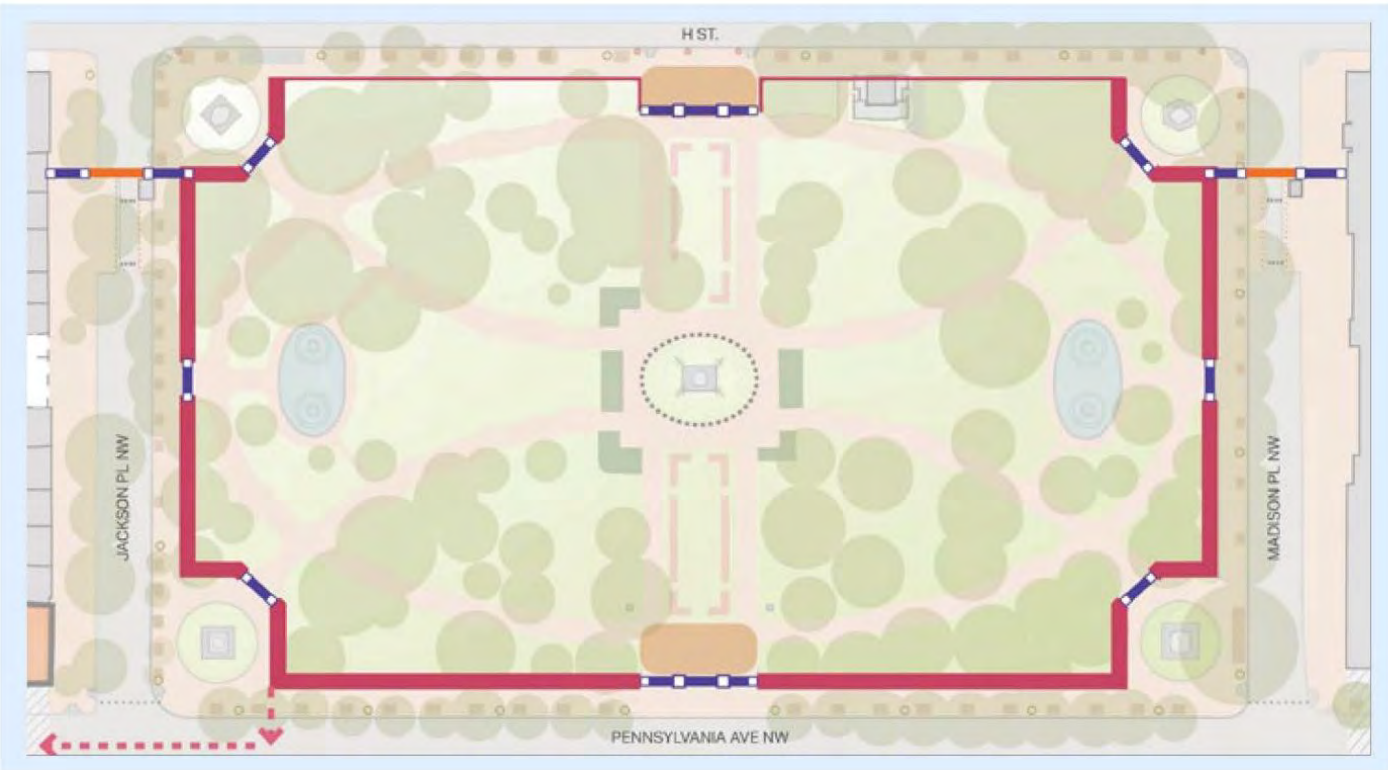
Additional fence alignments were considered in 2020, but were ultimately determined that they did not adequately address security concerns. Reasons for dismissal are addressed in the following:



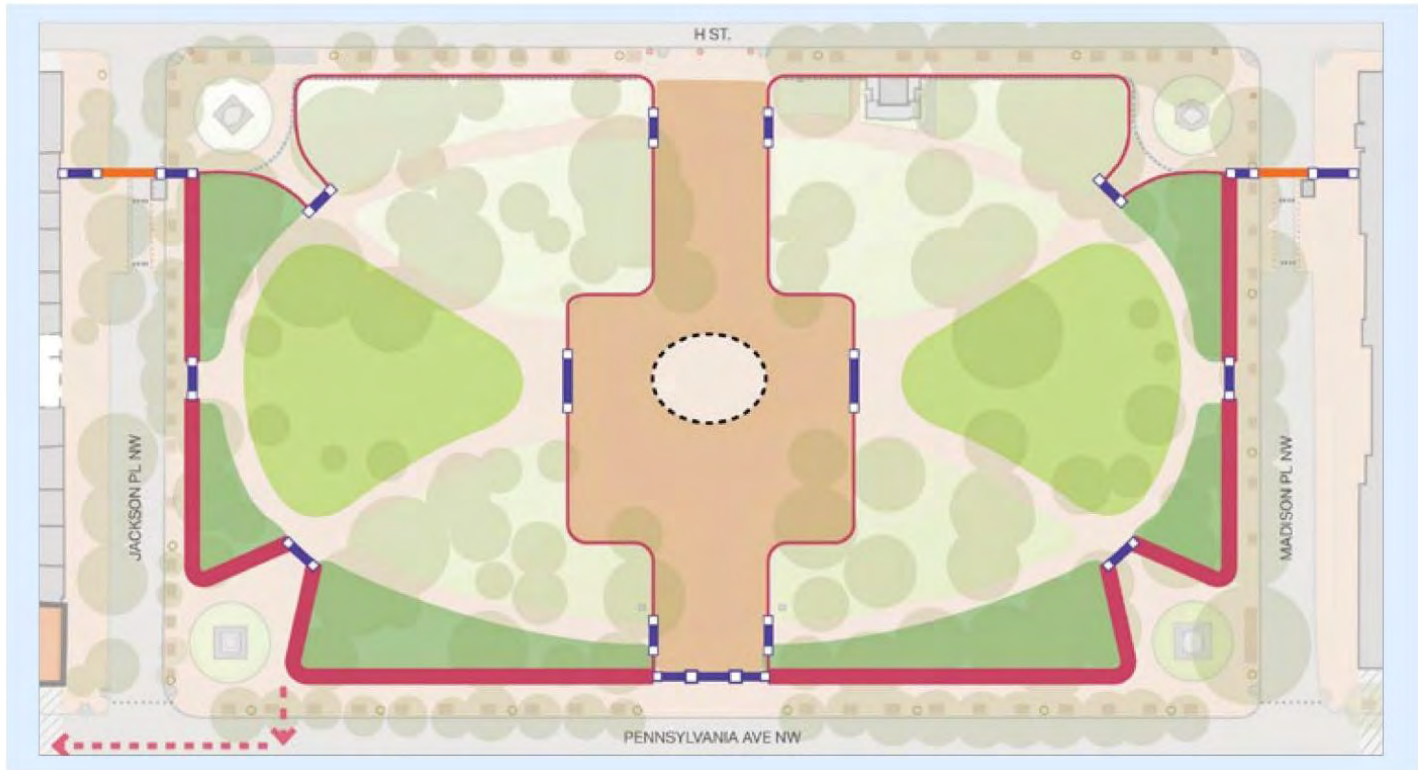
Not adequate space between the park, Blair House, and White House during partial or full street closures



Too much of the park would be inaccessible to visitors during partial and full street closures



Not adequate space between the park, Blair House, and White House during partial or full street closures



Not enough space between the park, Blair House, and White House during partial or full street closures

5. Fence | Character

Overview

Lafayette Park and its surroundings contain extensive amounts of fencing. It appears consistent, but closer inspection reveals a variety of detailed characteristics. This includes fence height, picket spacing, and finial shape, as well as other attributes.

This section includes maps and photographs relating to fence typologies and character. Key features in this section include:

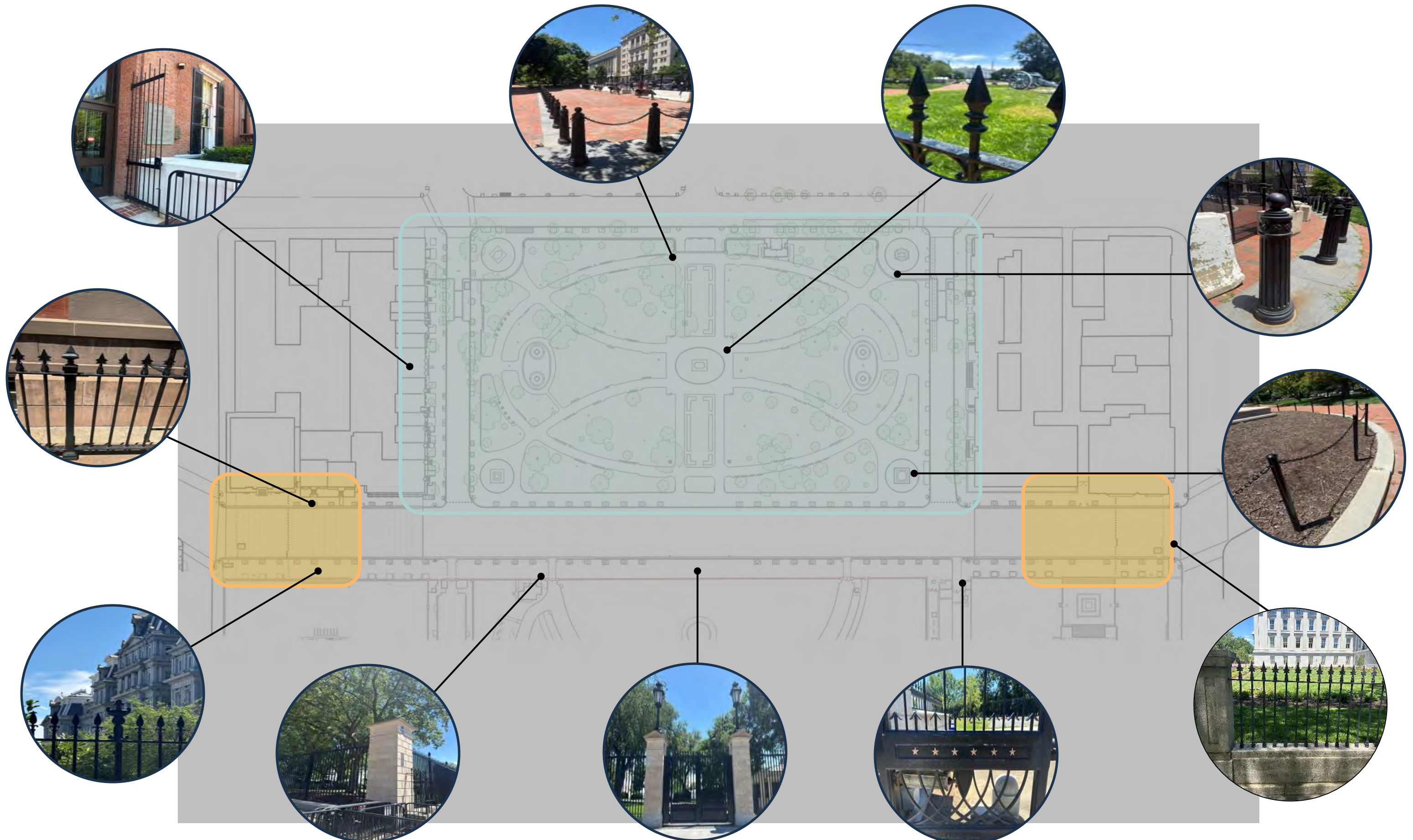
- Fencing site plan indicating historic and contemporary materials and siting
- Images of representative typologies and characteristics for fencing
- Current and historical fence typologies, along with local barrier examples
- Options for picket dimensions and spacing



Library of Congress, Survey of The White House and President's Park, 1933

Fence Character Plan

The project area includes historic Lafayette Park and intersections with Pennsylvania Avenue NW, which as has had more recent interventions that are more contemporary in character.



Current and Historic Fences

The project area has had multiple fencing types over time.



TREASURY BUILDING



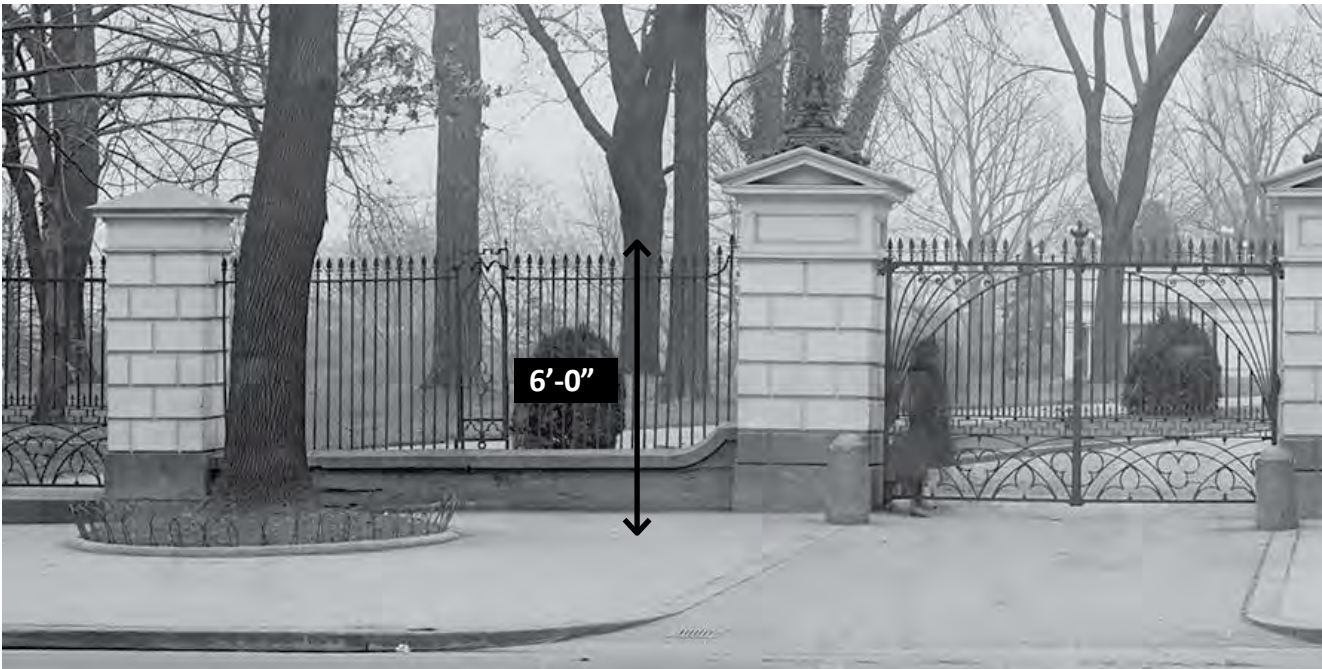
ANDREW JACKSON STATUE



EISENHOWER EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING



WHITE HOUSE FENCE



HISTORIC WHITE HOUSE FENCE



HISTORIC LAFAYETTE PARK FENCE



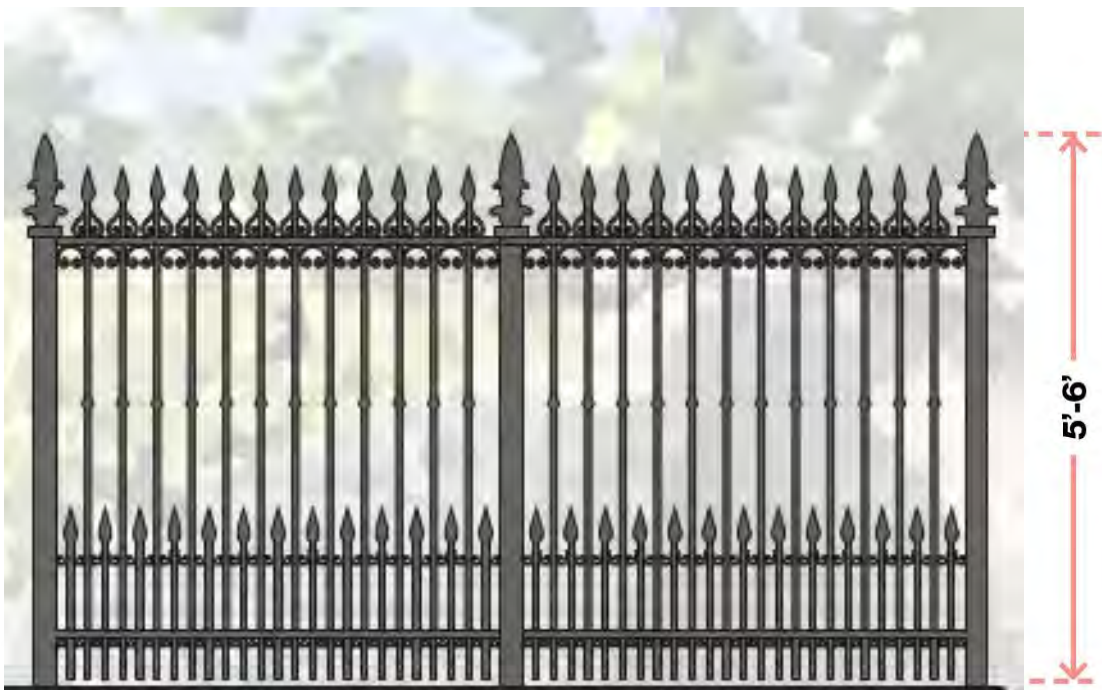
HISTORIC LAFAYETTE PARK FENCE
(Current location at Gettysburg National Cemetery)

Historic Fence: Lafayette Park Fence Heights and Elements

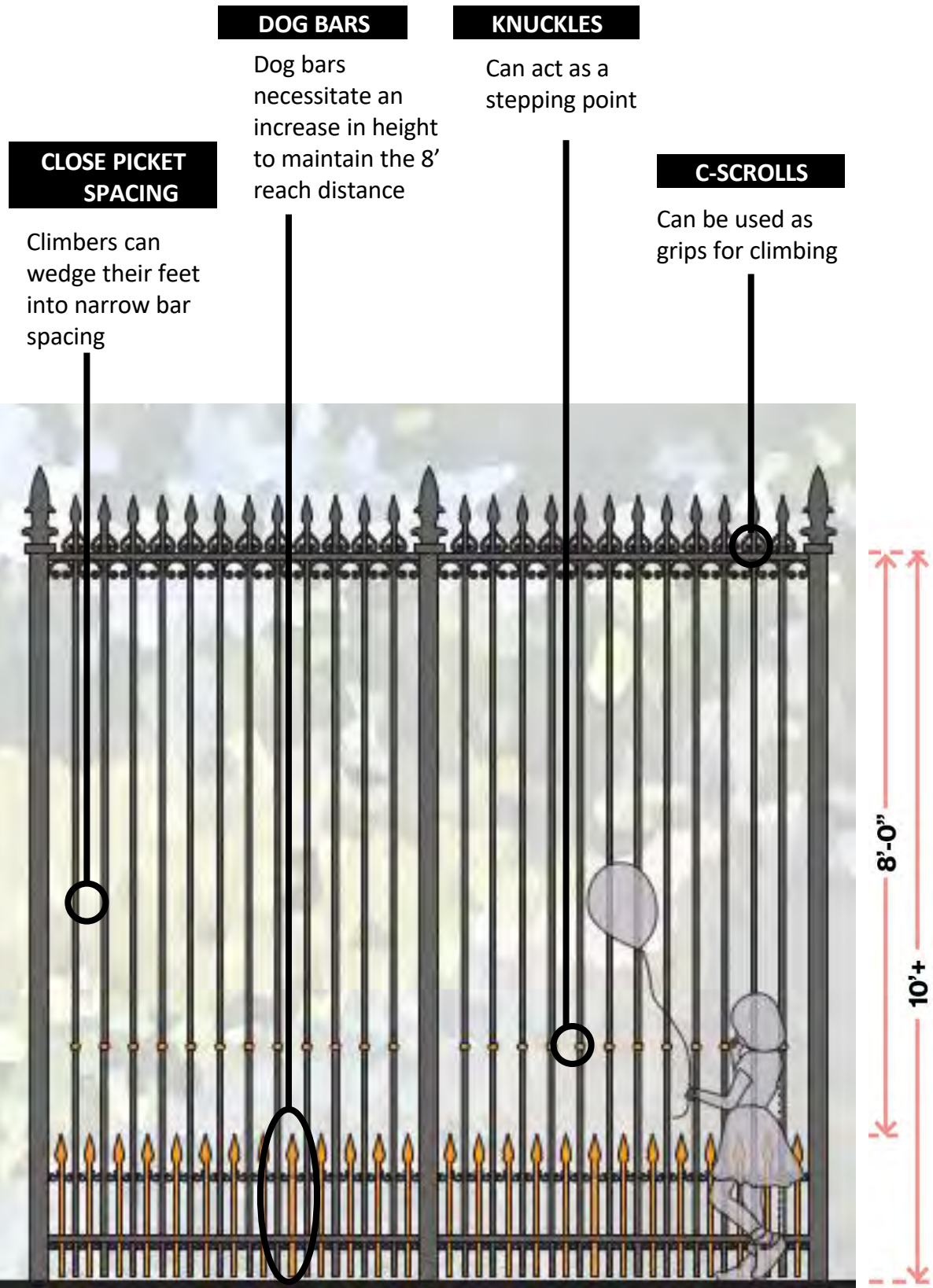
In the past, Lafayette Park had a 5'-6" fence enclosing the park. Below is an image of the original historical fence, currently located at Gettysburg National Cemetery. An illustration below that image shows the original dimensions of the historical fence. Due to present day security needs, the proposed Lafayette Park fence would need to be 8' to 10'. The graphic on the right-hand side shows the fence dimensions if the historic fence was raised to the fence height appropriate for present-day security concerns.



HISTORIC LAFAYETTE PARK FENCE
(Current location at Gettysburg National Cemetery)



Historic Fence



Historic Fence - At Required Height

Picket Spacing: Lafayette Park

The suggested approach to picket spacing would meet security requirements while still appearing porous and allowing views.

 Recommended Alternative



3" SPACING BETWEEN PICKETS

Narrow spacing
obstructs views



4" SPACING BETWEEN PICKETS

4" maximum to prevent
passing of a child through
opening



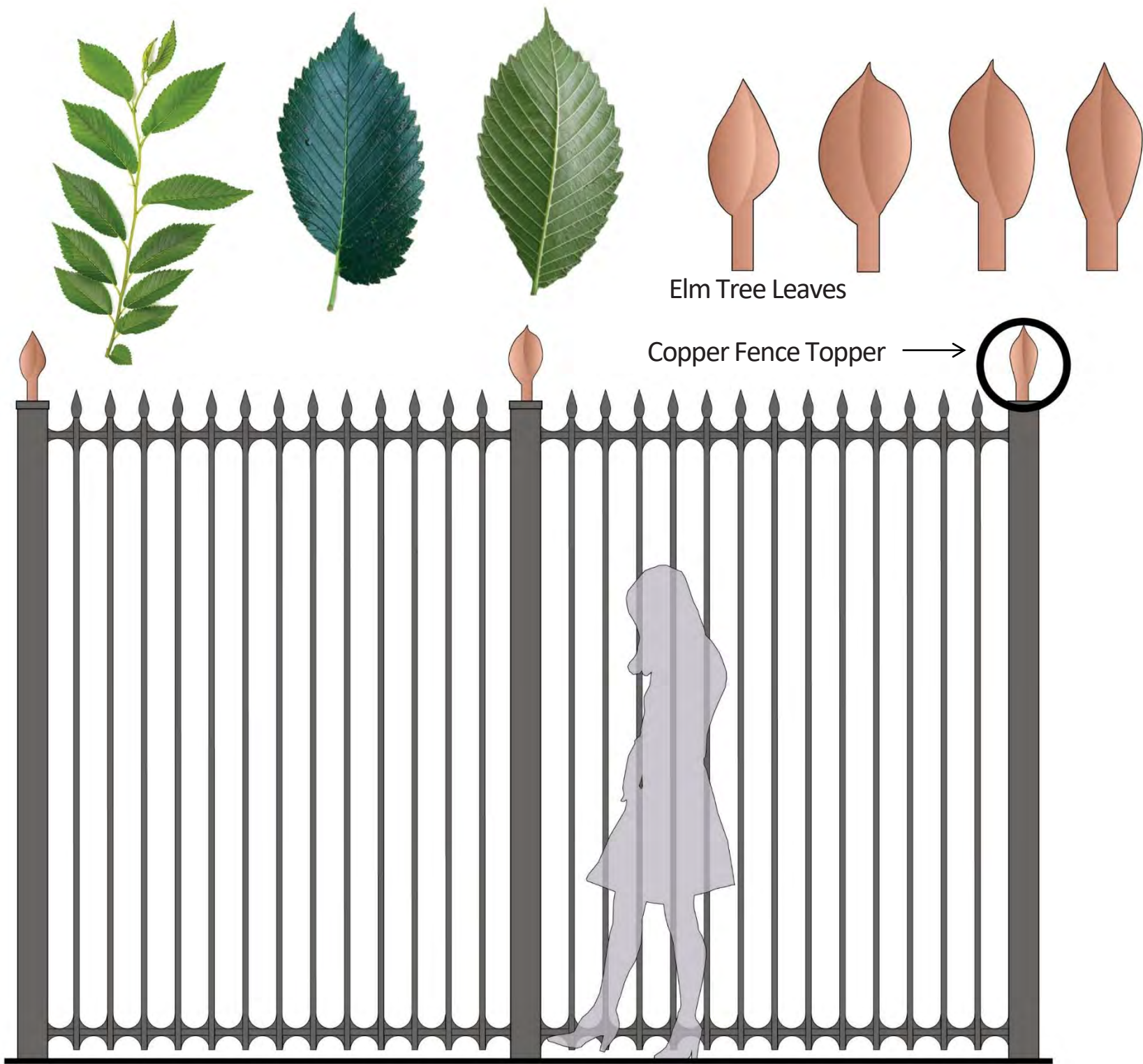
5" SPACING BETWEEN PICKETS

Spacing is too wide to
create a secure fence

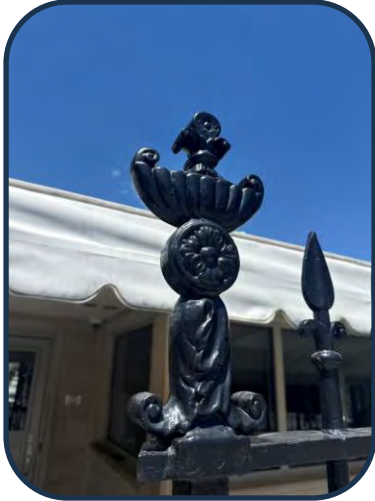
Character Exploration: Lafayette Park Post Finials

The historic Lafayette Square fence posts were capped with post finials which resembled corn cobs, expressing the importance of agriculture during its time of construction. Various post finials positioned throughout Lafayette Square and President's Park are displayed to the right.

The new post finials reference Elm leaves, a key landscape feature throughout Lafayette Square and Presidents Park. Elm leaves are always individually distinct and asymmetrical, referencing our collective American Heritage.

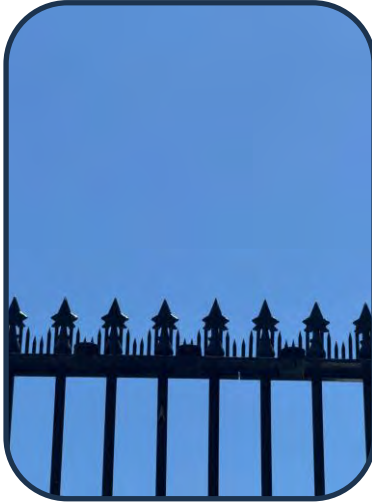
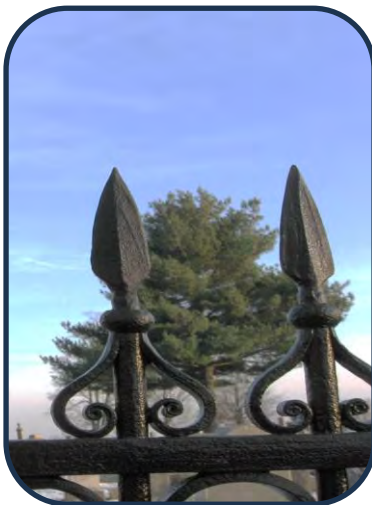
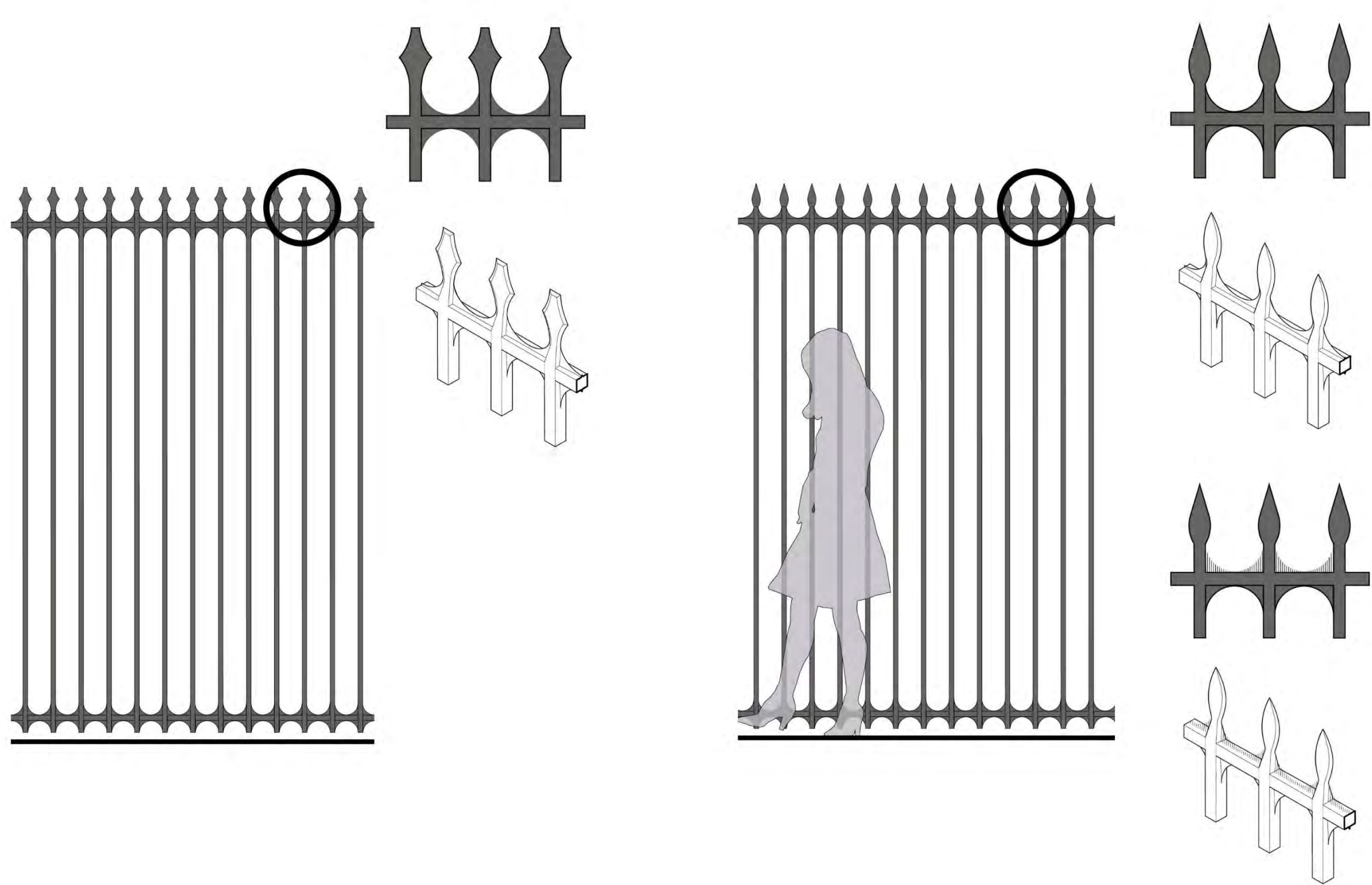


Historic Fence
"Corn Cob" Topper



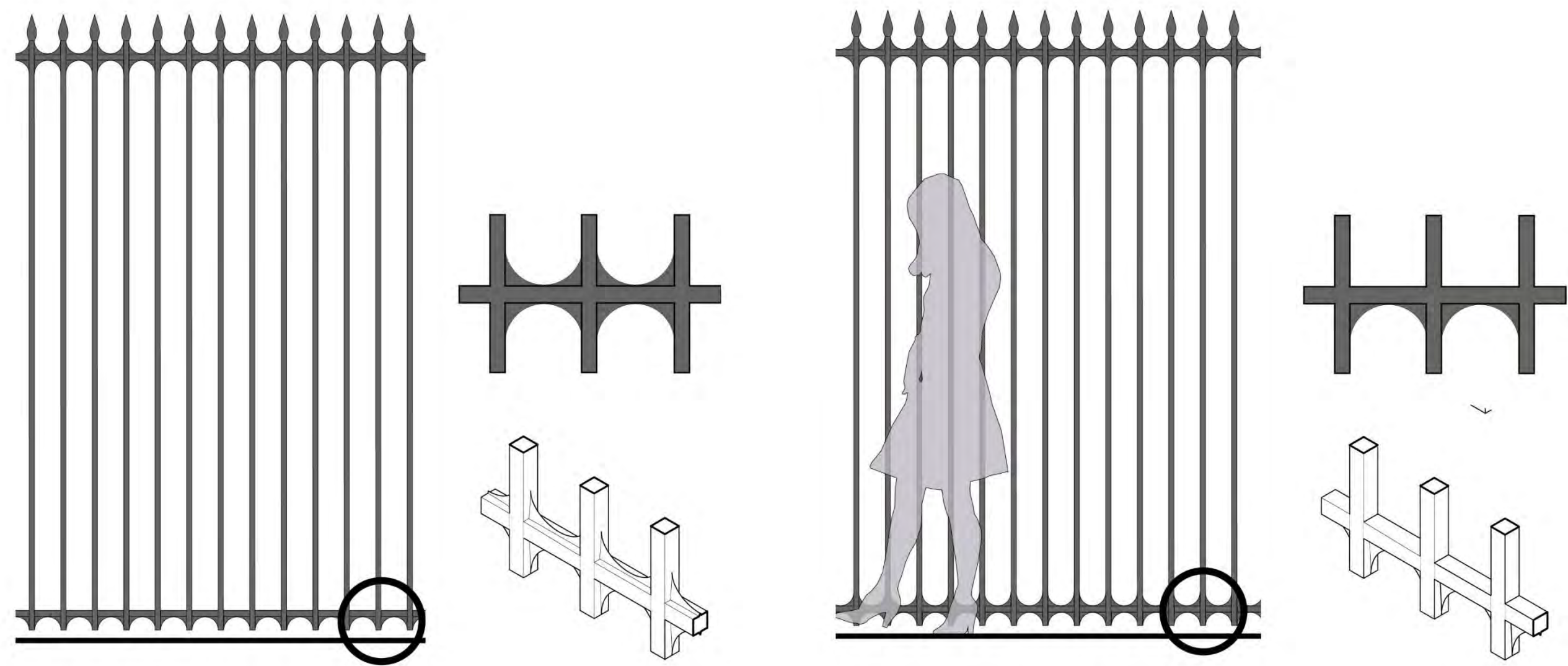
Character Exploration: Lafayette Park Picket Finials

Various picket finials positioned throughout Lafayette Square and President's Park are displayed to the right. Below are some potential options for finials which will align with the character of the park as well as security standards.



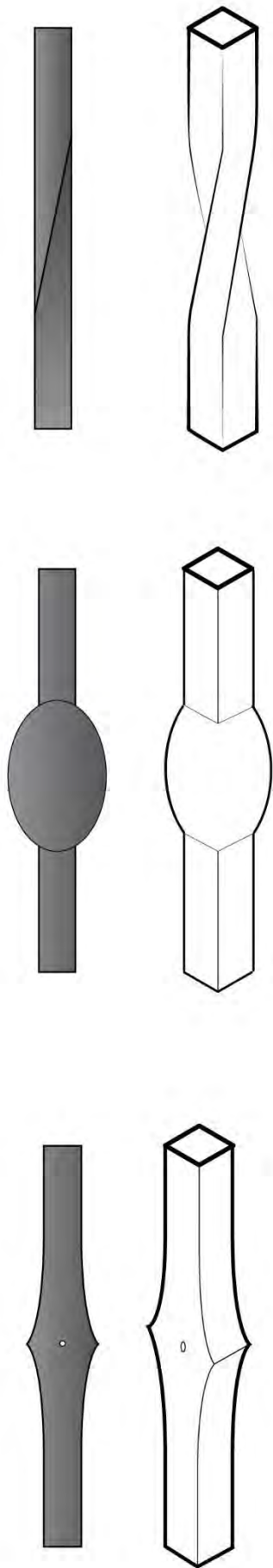
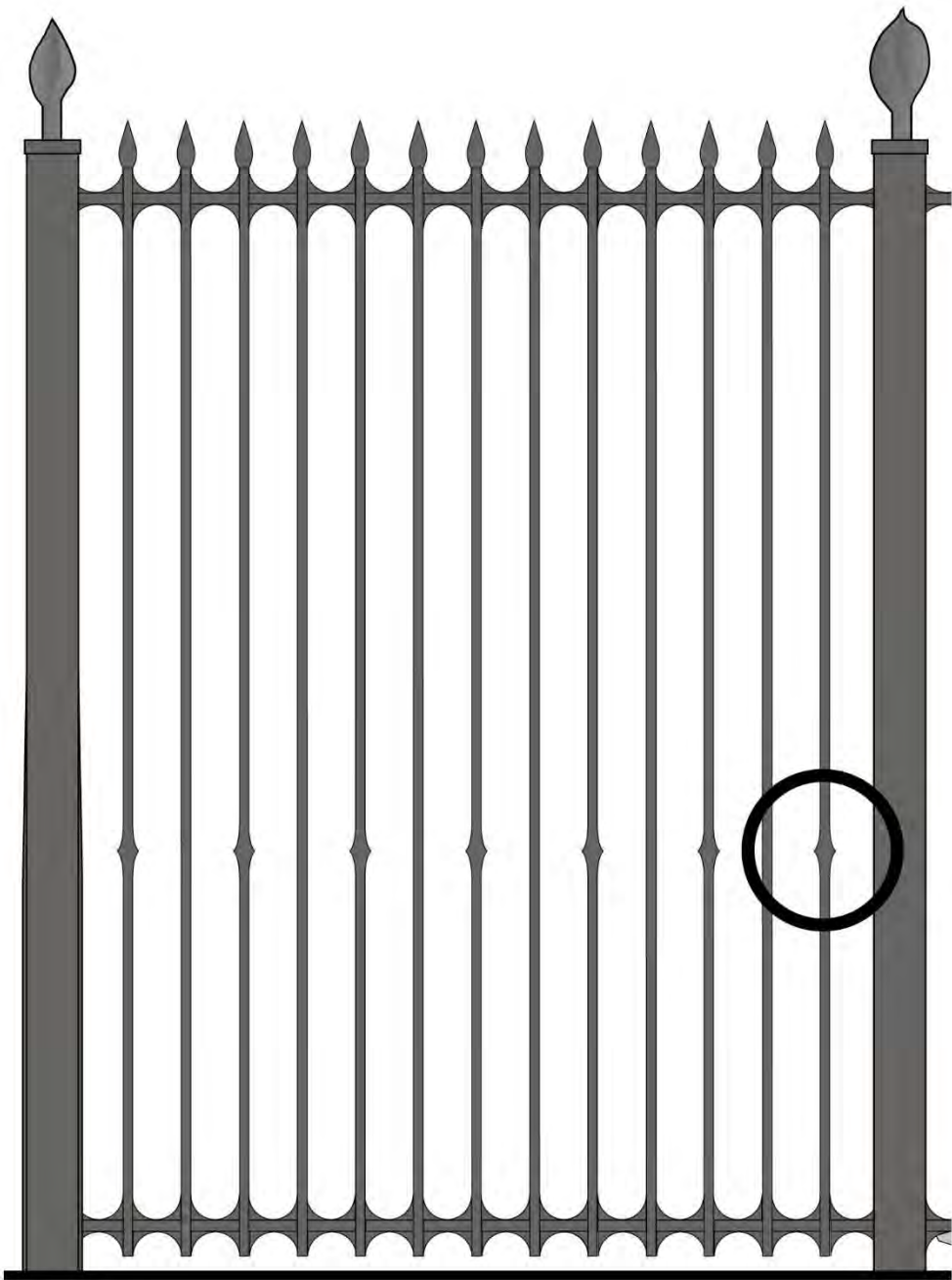
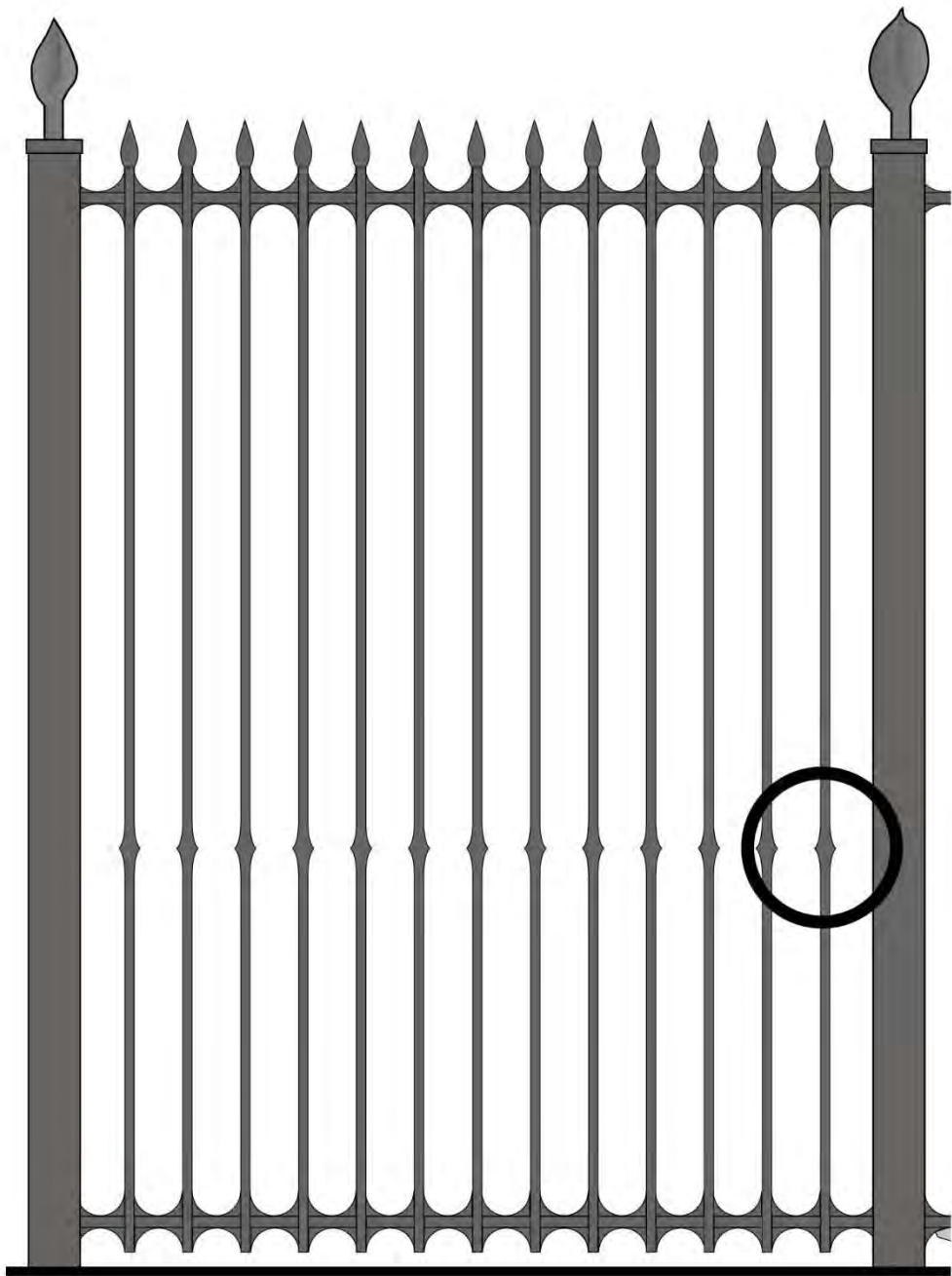
Character Exploration: Picket Elements

Various fence bases positioned throughout Lafayette Square and President's Park are displayed to the right Below are some potential options for fence bases which will align with the character of the park as well as security standards.



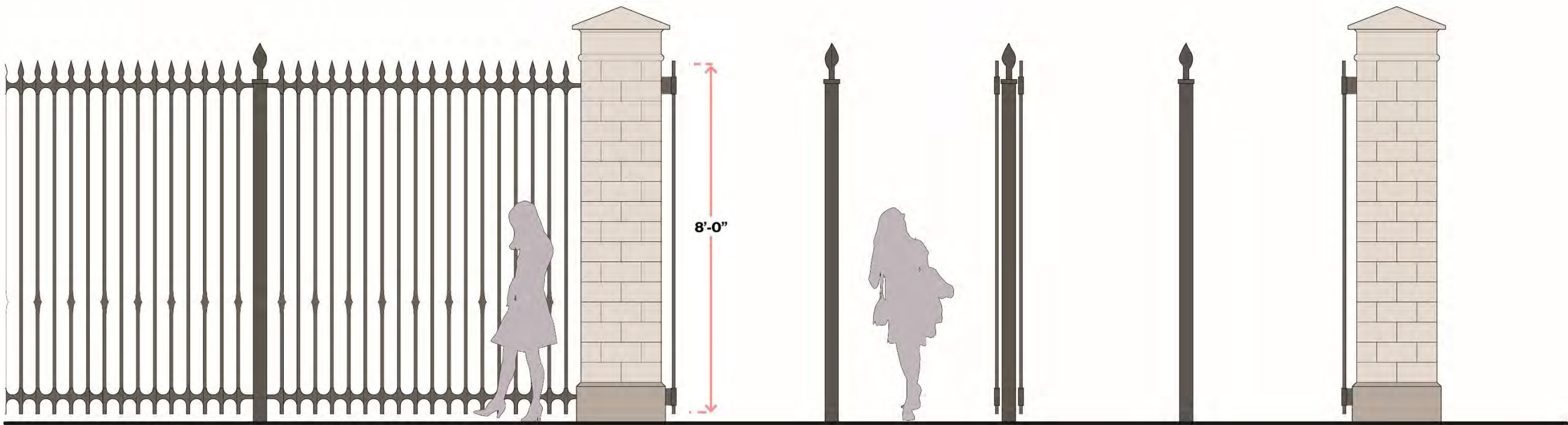
Character Exploration: Picket Elements

Various knuckles and c-scrolls positioned throughout Lafayette Square and President's Park are displayed to the right. Below are some potential options for fence knuckles which will align with the character of the park as well as security standards.

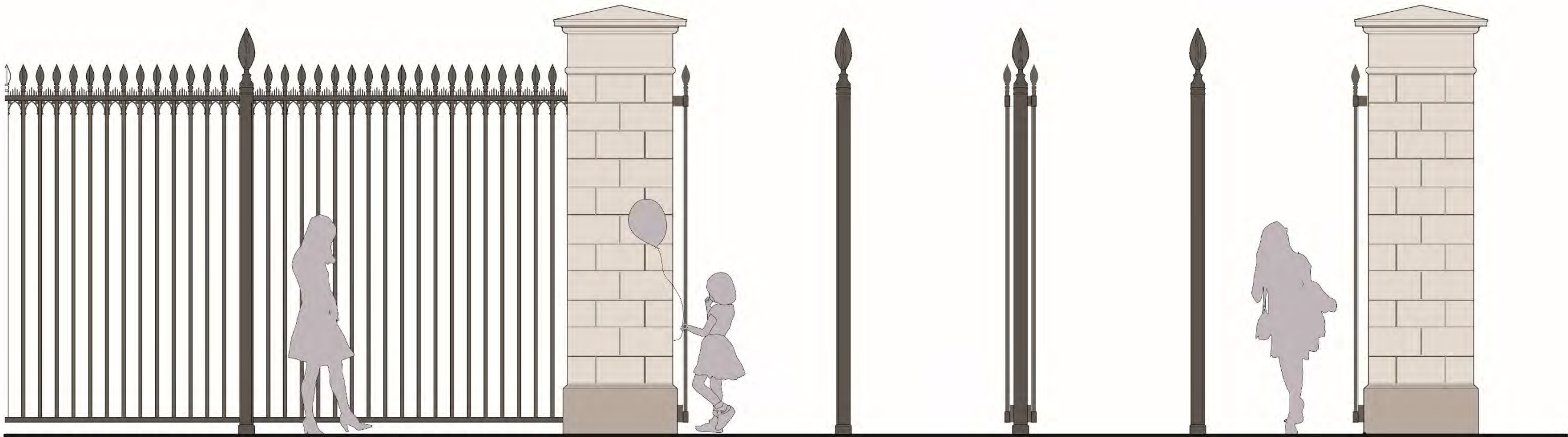


Character Exploration: Comparison to White House Fence

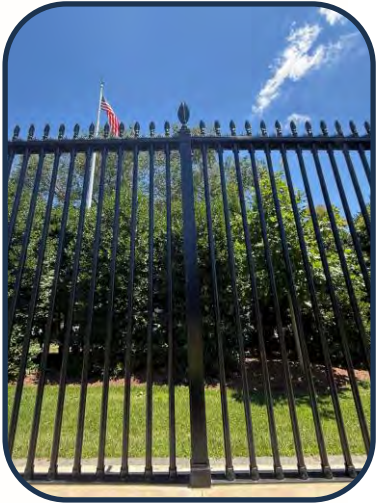
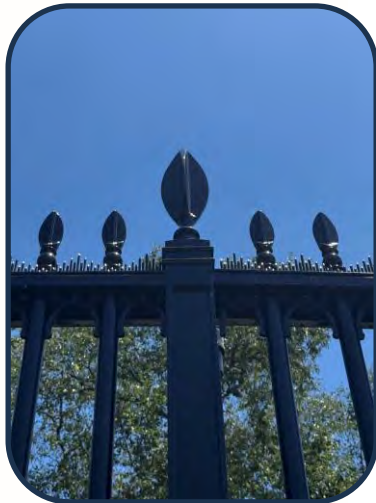
Various piers positioned throughout Lafayette Square and President's Park are displayed to the right. Below are some potential options for piers which will align with the character of the park as well as security standards. The top option is the proposed fencing character for Lafayette Park with added piers, and the bottom option is a scaled representation of the White House fence transposed into the dimensions and specifications of a potential Lafayette Park fence. To the right, images of the current White House piers and fence are shown.



Proposed Fencing Character with Piers

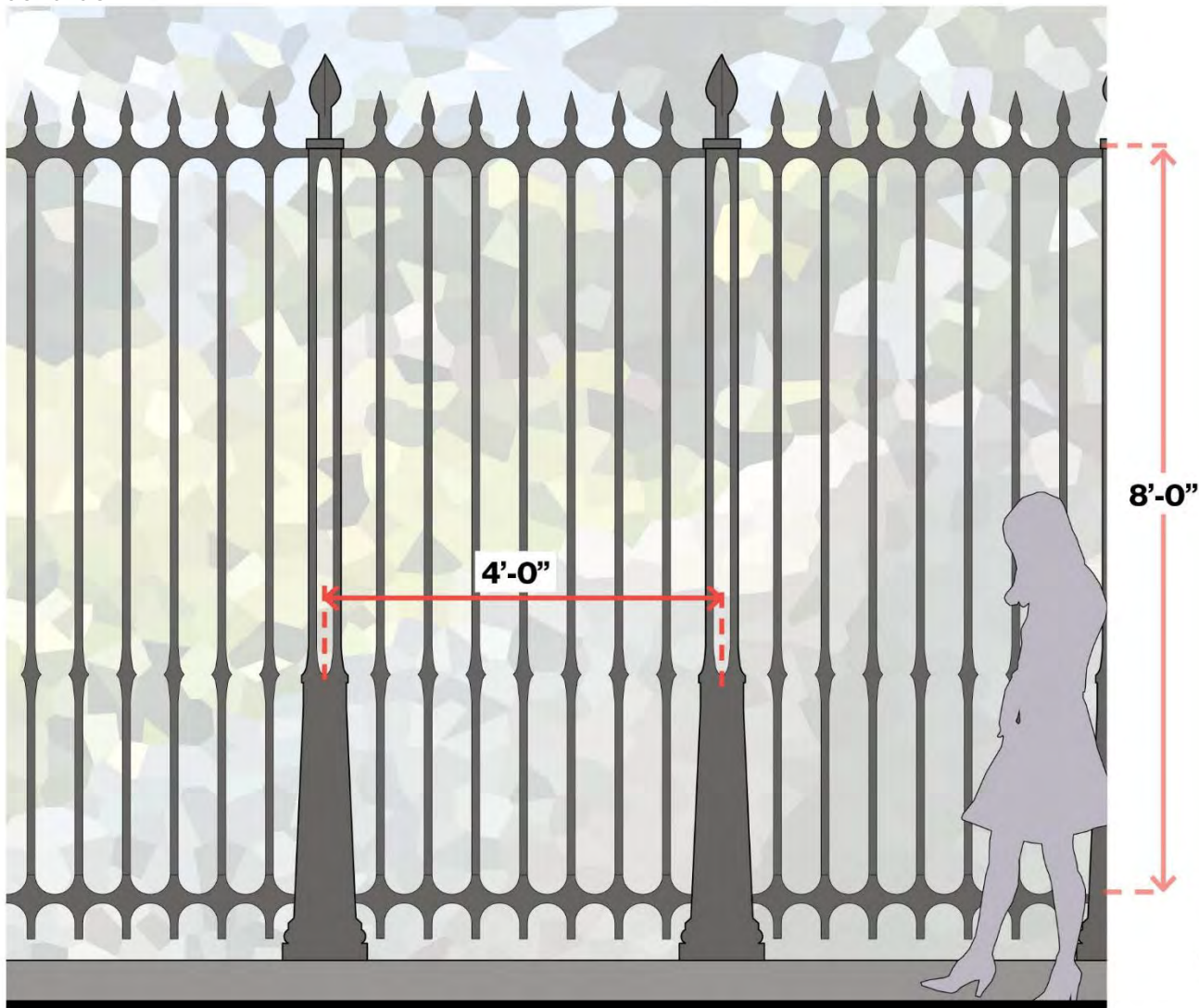


Adaptation White House Fence Scaled with Piers

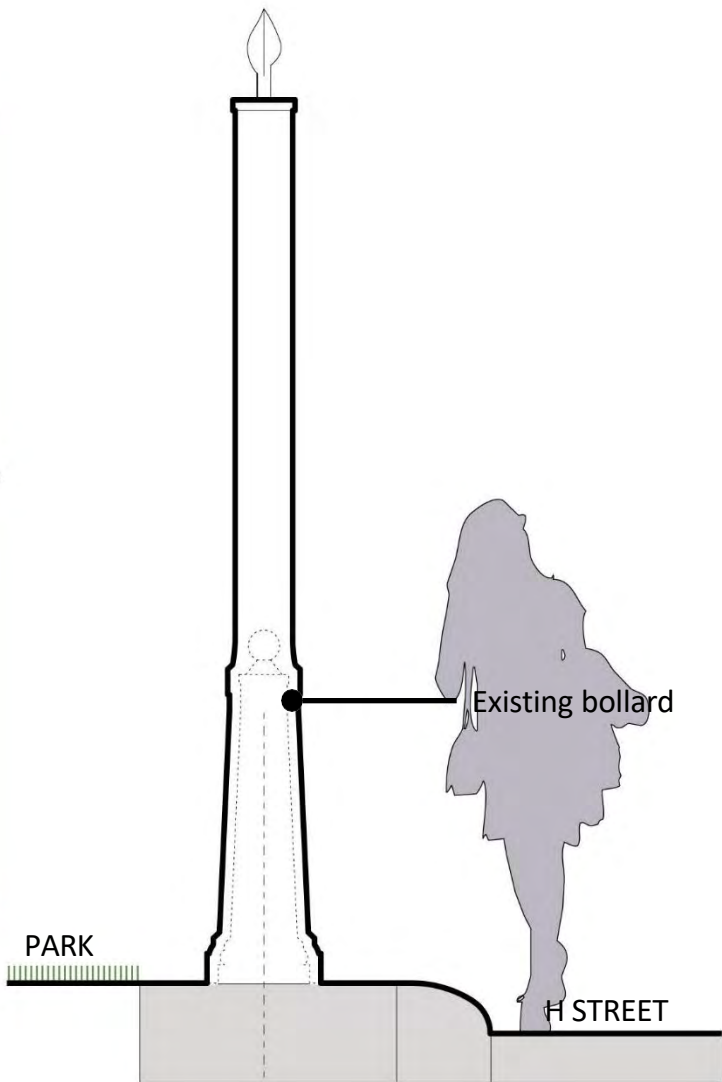


H Street NW: Integrated Bollard

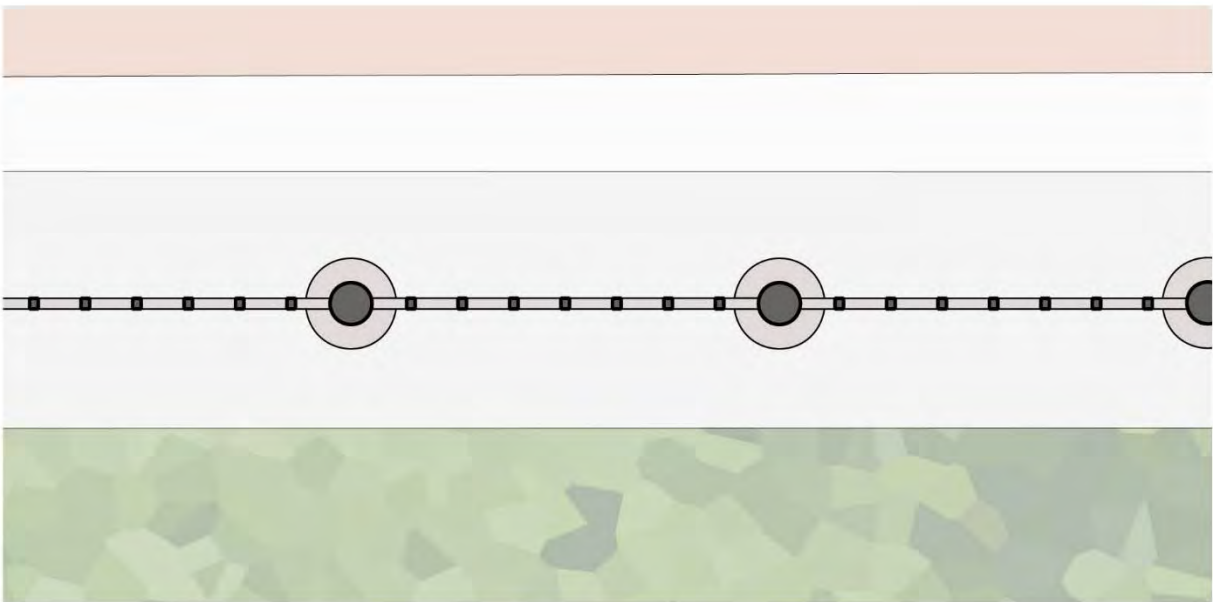
The recommended approach for Lafayette Park includes 4" spacing and incorporation of existing bollards, tapering towards the top of the fence. This option is the recommended alternative should the alignment follow the existing bollards.



FENCE ELEVATION AT H STREET



FENCE SECTION



FENCE PLAN



Painted steel

FENCE MATERIAL

Character Exploration: Bollard-Fence Integration

Below is a rendering of the Lafayette Park fence shown with different integrated bollard treatments. The top option features a rounded bollard cover, and the bottom option features a square bollard cover.



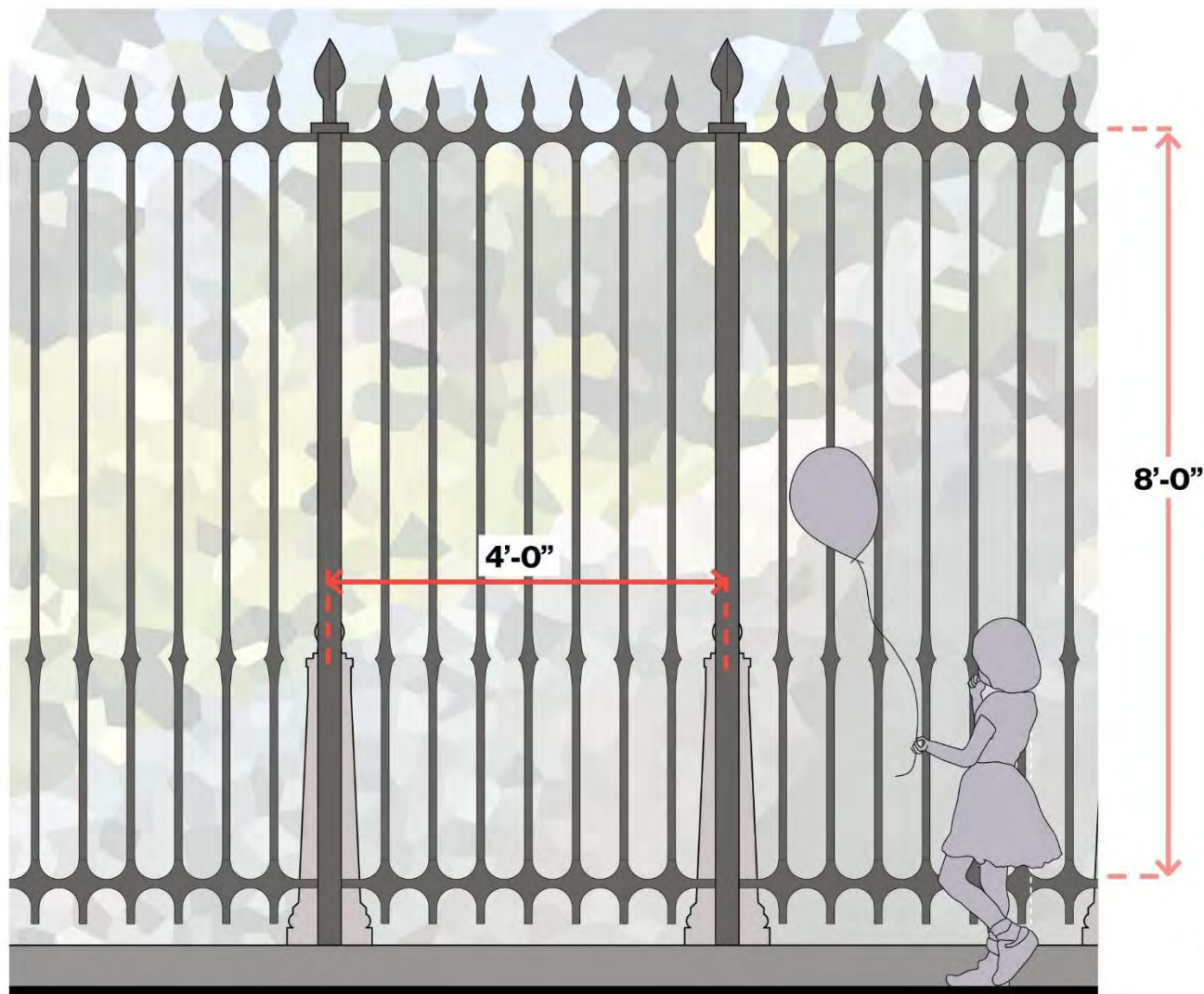
Rounded Bollard Cover



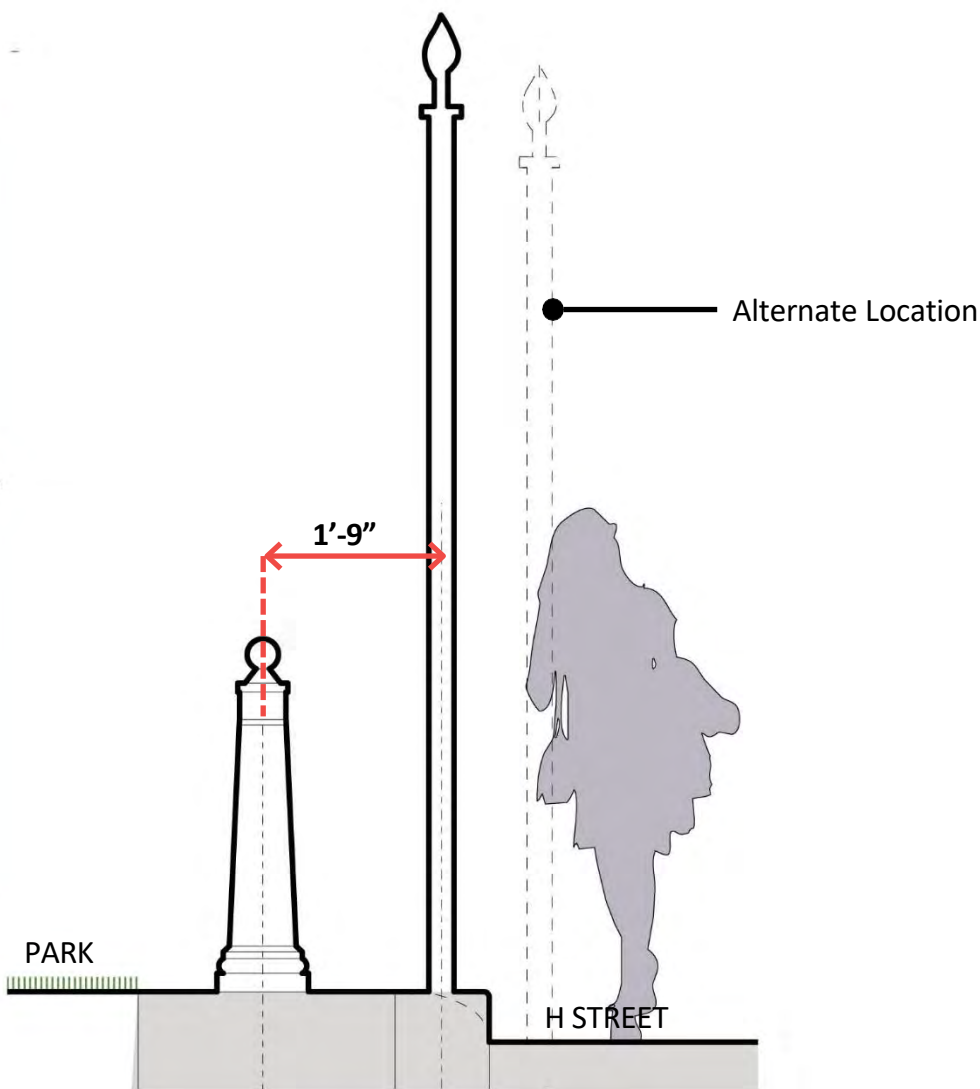
Squared Bollard Cover

H Street NW: Fence Separate from Bollard

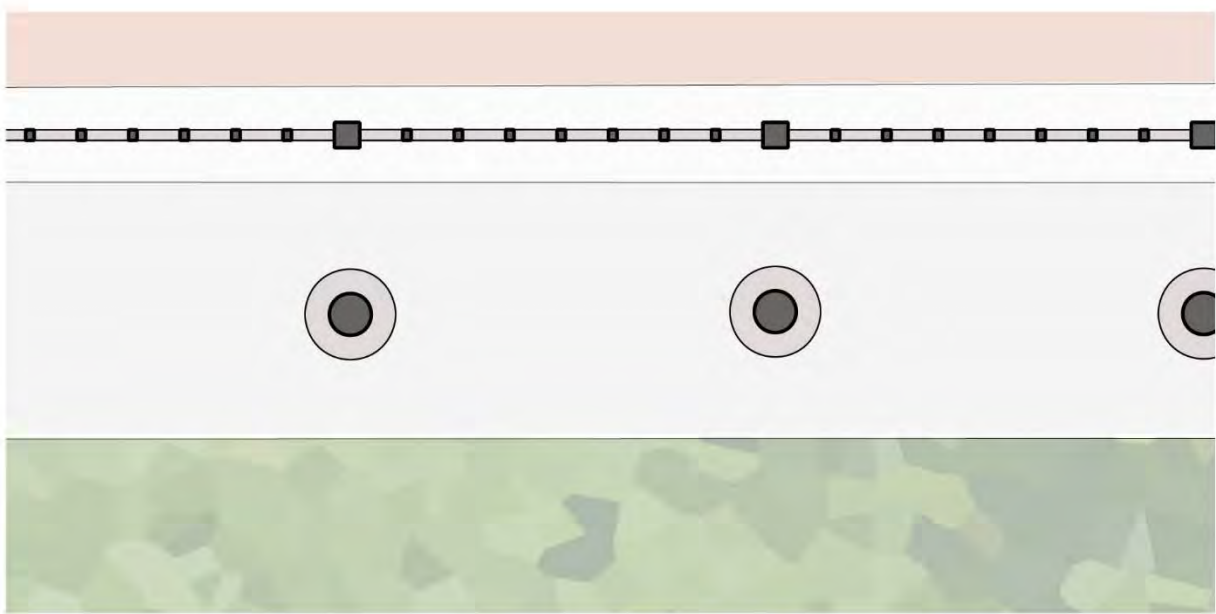
Other options for Lafayette Park included placing fencing in front of bollards.



FENCE ELEVATION AT H STREET



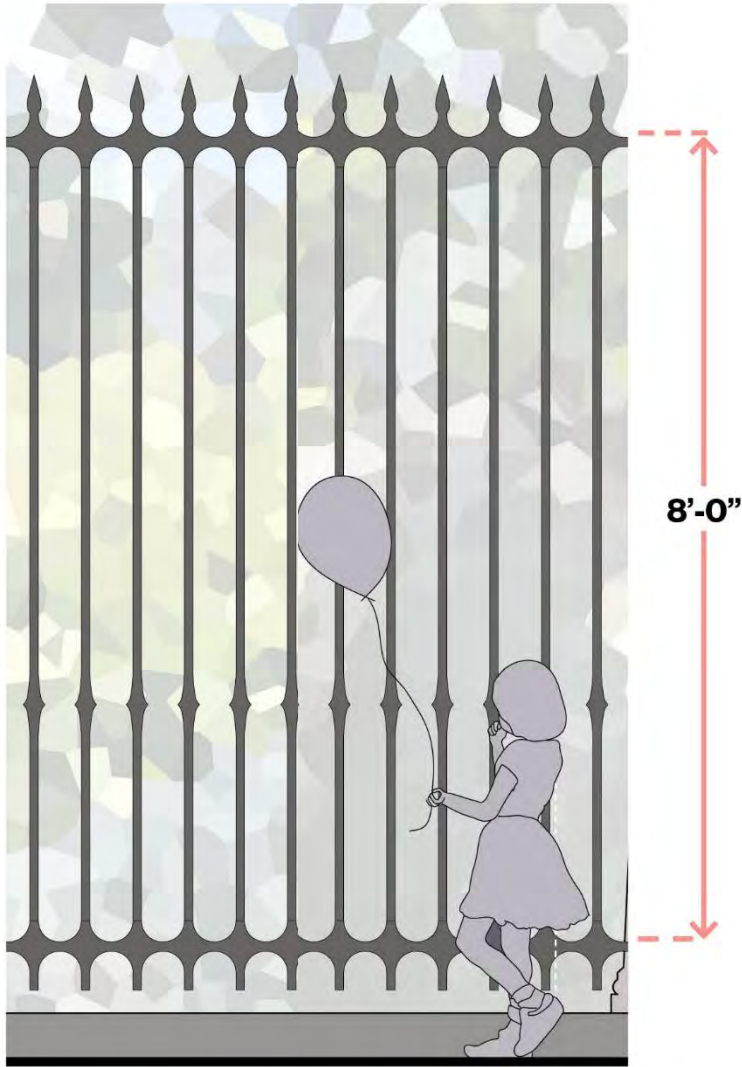
FENCE SECTION



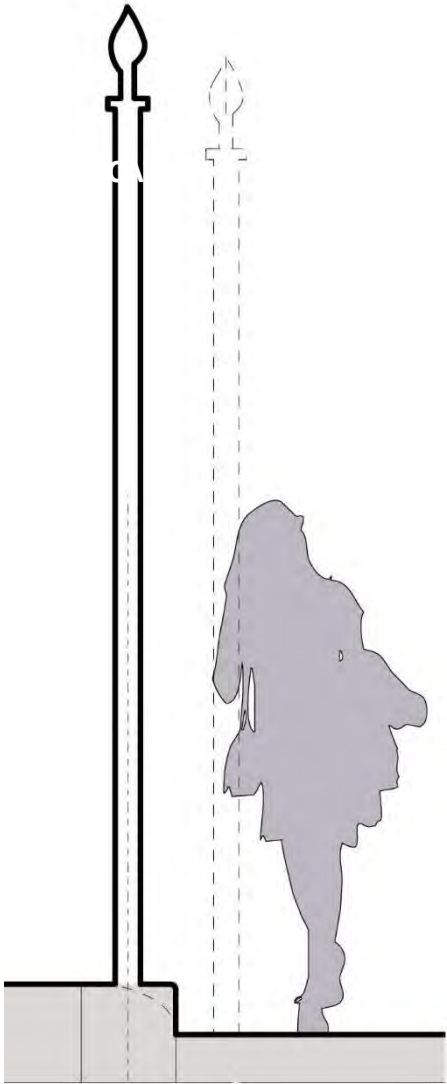
FENCE PLAN

Standard Fencing

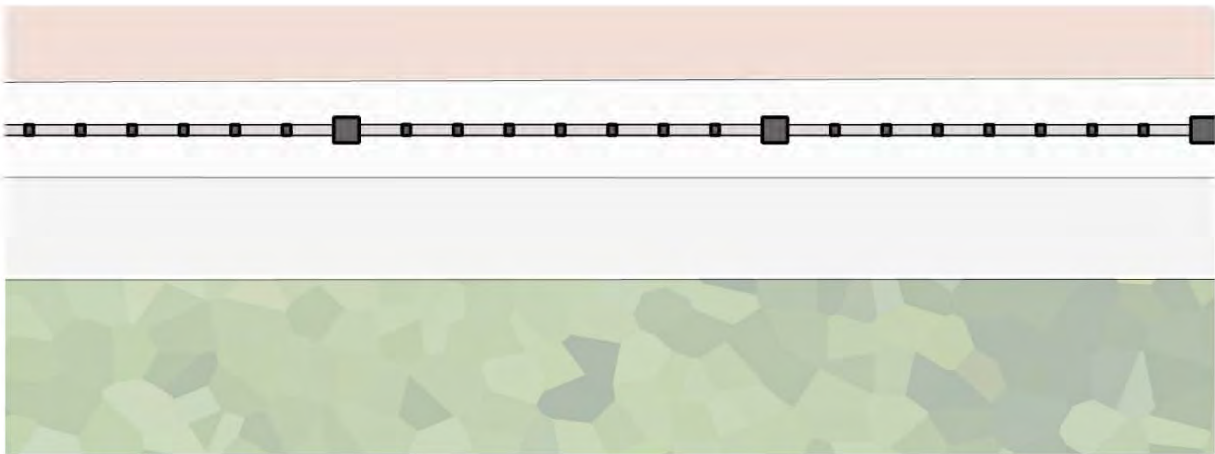
Standard fencing for Lafayette Park will apply to the east, west, and south sides of the park.



FENCE ELEVATION



FENCE SECTION



FENCE PLAN

6. Hardscape

HARDSCAPE

Overview

Lafayette Park has a variety of pavement types, leading to a visually disjointed aesthetic.

This section includes maps, diagrams, and photographs relating to pavement typologies. Key features in the section include:

- Map showing pavement types throughout the park, including brick pattern directions amongst the walkways
- Map showing the scope and jurisdiction of adjacent pavements
- Proposed hardscape material alternatives
- Proposed paving sizing and direction for the park



General Services Administration

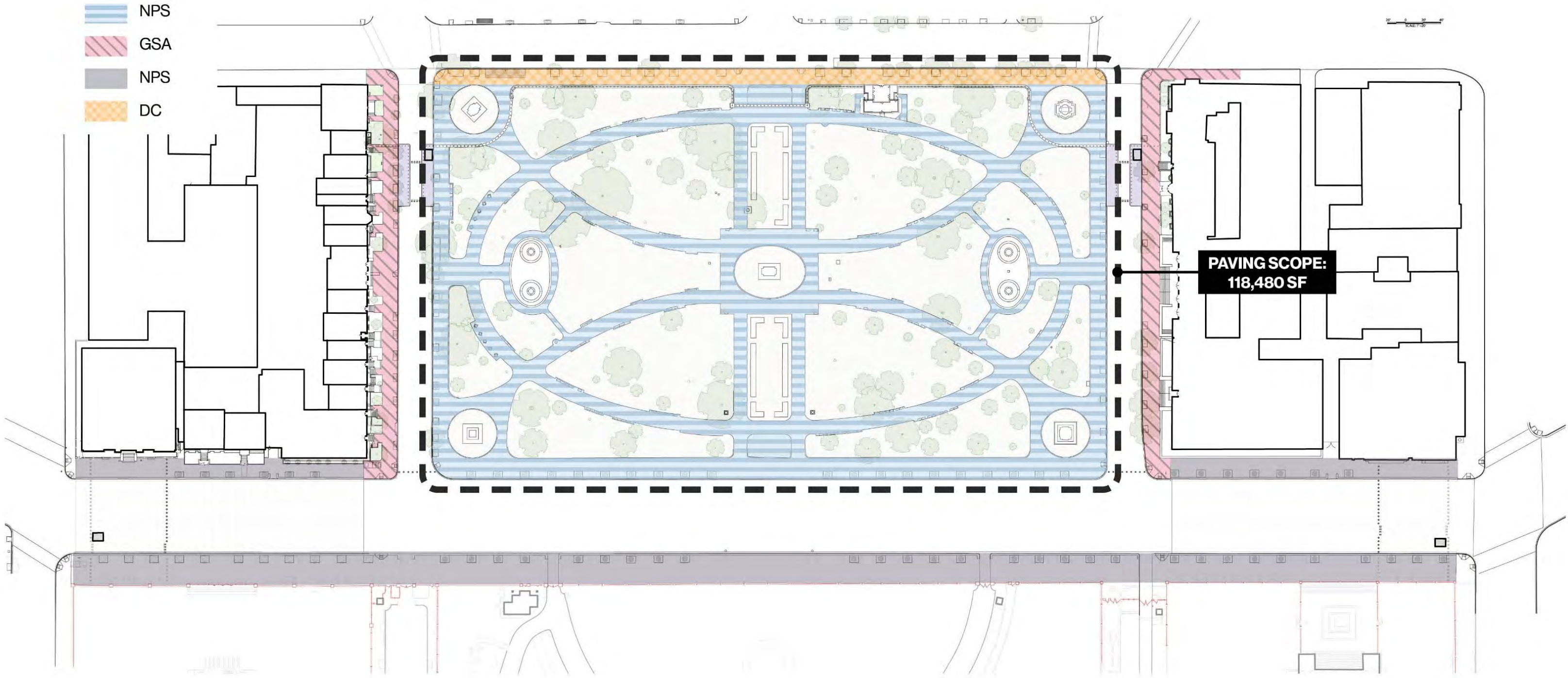
HARDSCAPE

Scope and Jurisdiction

Multiple agencies, including the District of Columbia, the NPS, and the U.S. General Services Administration have jurisdiction within the project area. The map below demonstrates which agencies lead in different portions of the park, and it further illustrates the complexities of maintaining and administering updates to the park.

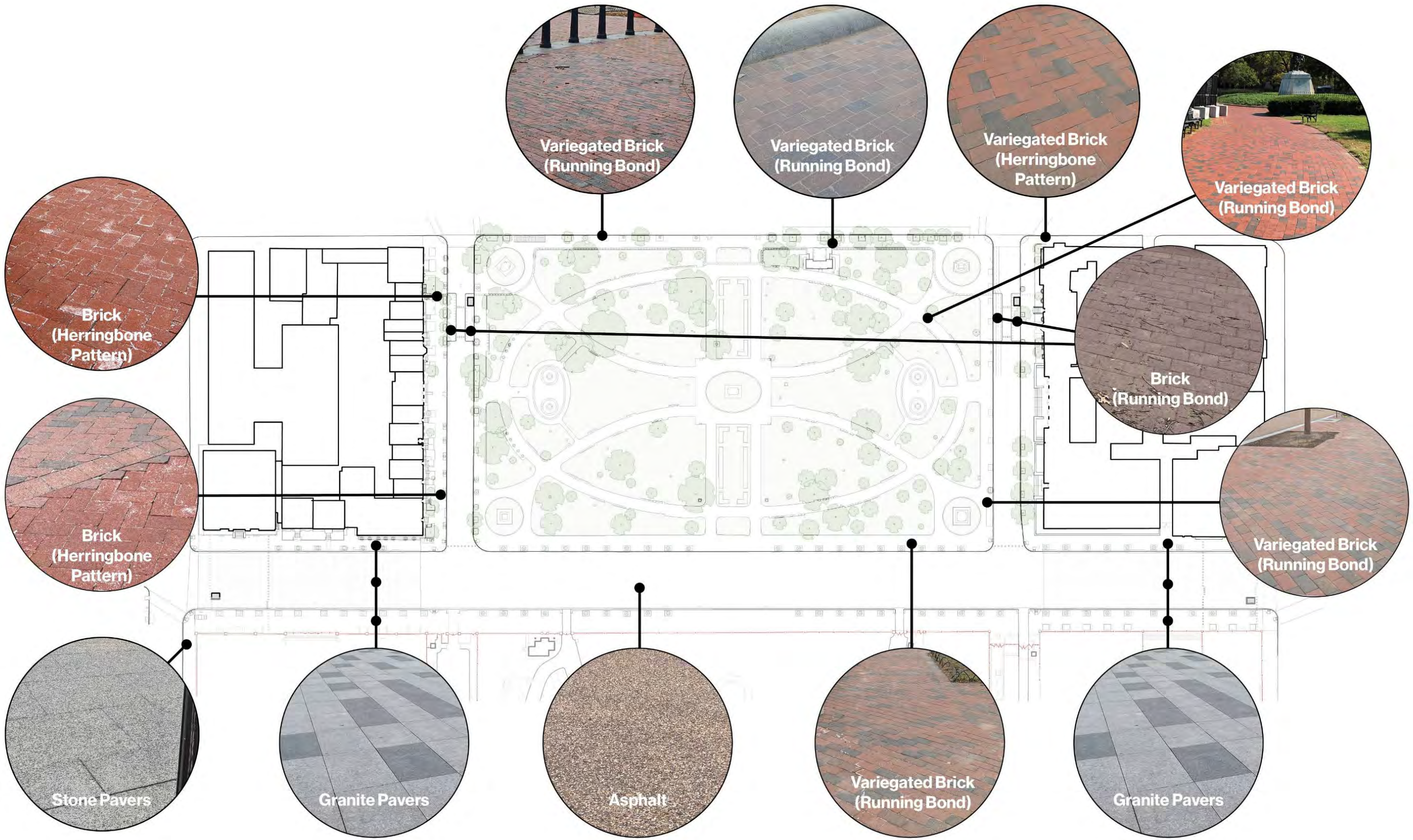
LEGEND

- NPS
- GSA
- NPS
- DC



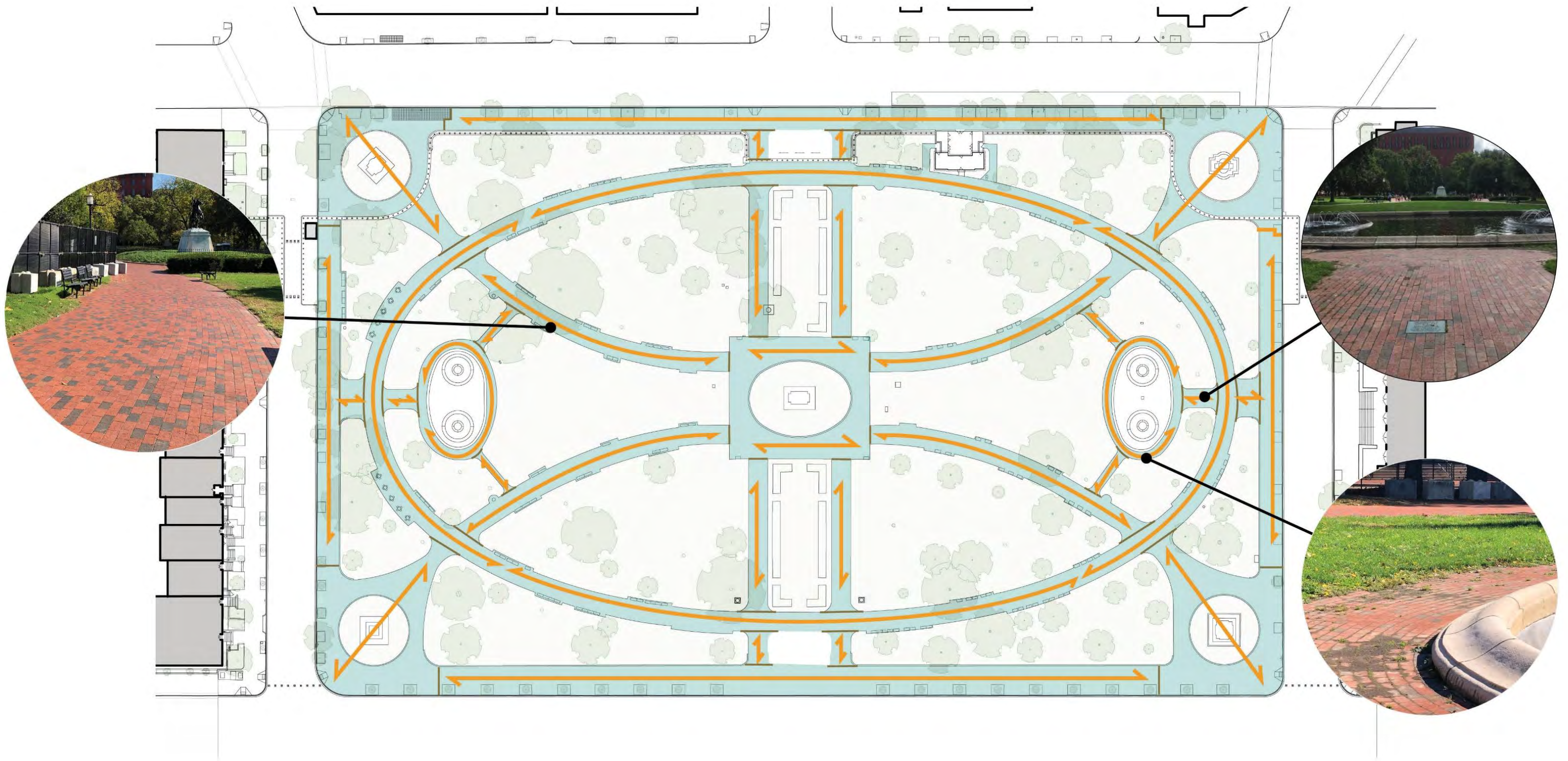
Existing Paving Types

Multiple paving types are located throughout the project area. This variety of paving types can result in a disjointed look throughout the park and work against a unified look for the park.



Existing Brick Pattern Direction

The direction of the brick pattern along walkways within Lafayette Park depends on its location. This variety of paving directions can result in a disjointed look throughout the park and work against a unified look for the park.

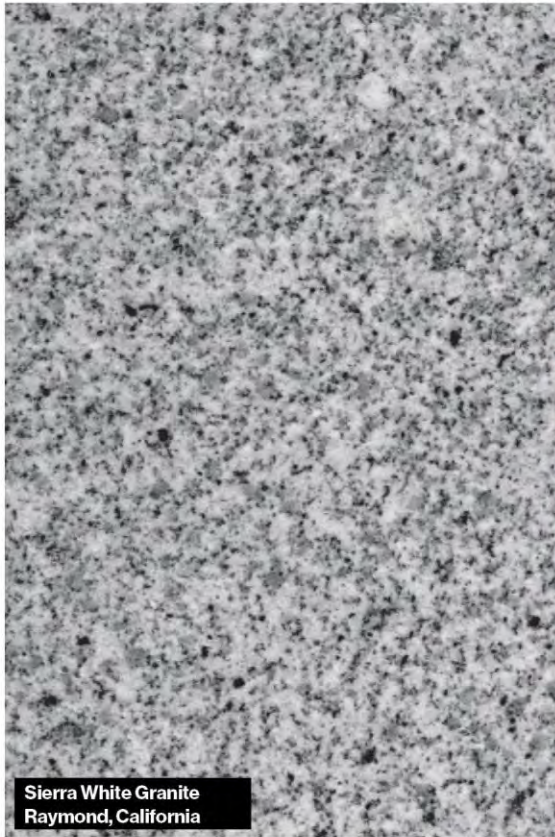


HARDSCAPE

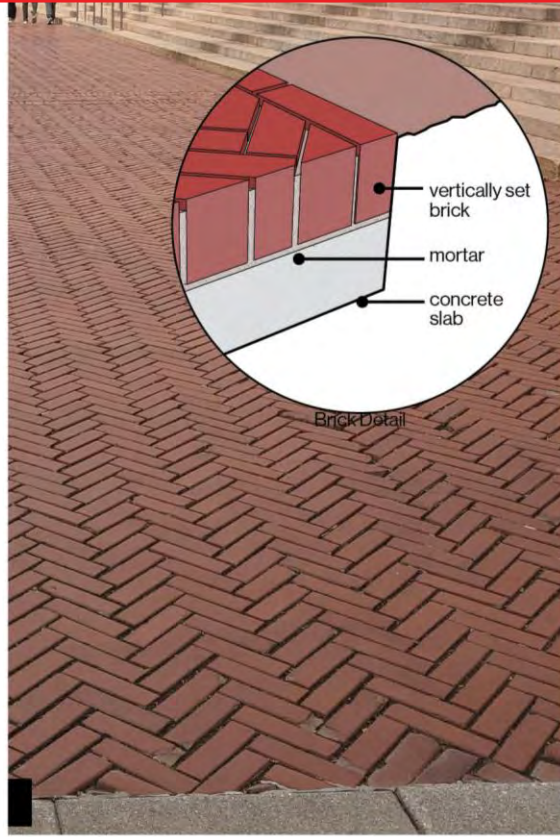
Options Considered

Multiple material options were considered for the walkways in Lafayette Park. The options below include the most considered types of granite that could be used for pavers within the park. Below are renderings of the material options, along with aerial views of the park with the applicable materials.

☐ Recommended Alternative



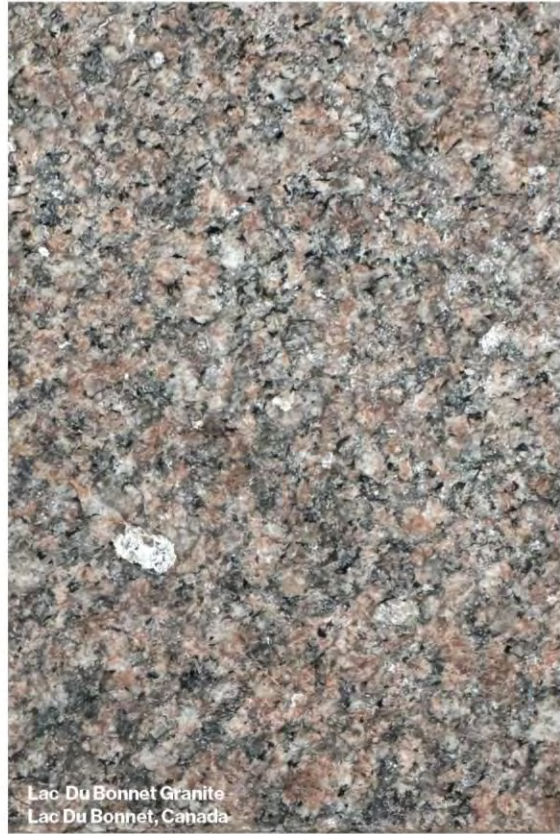
Sierra White Granite



Red Brick



Radiant Red Granite

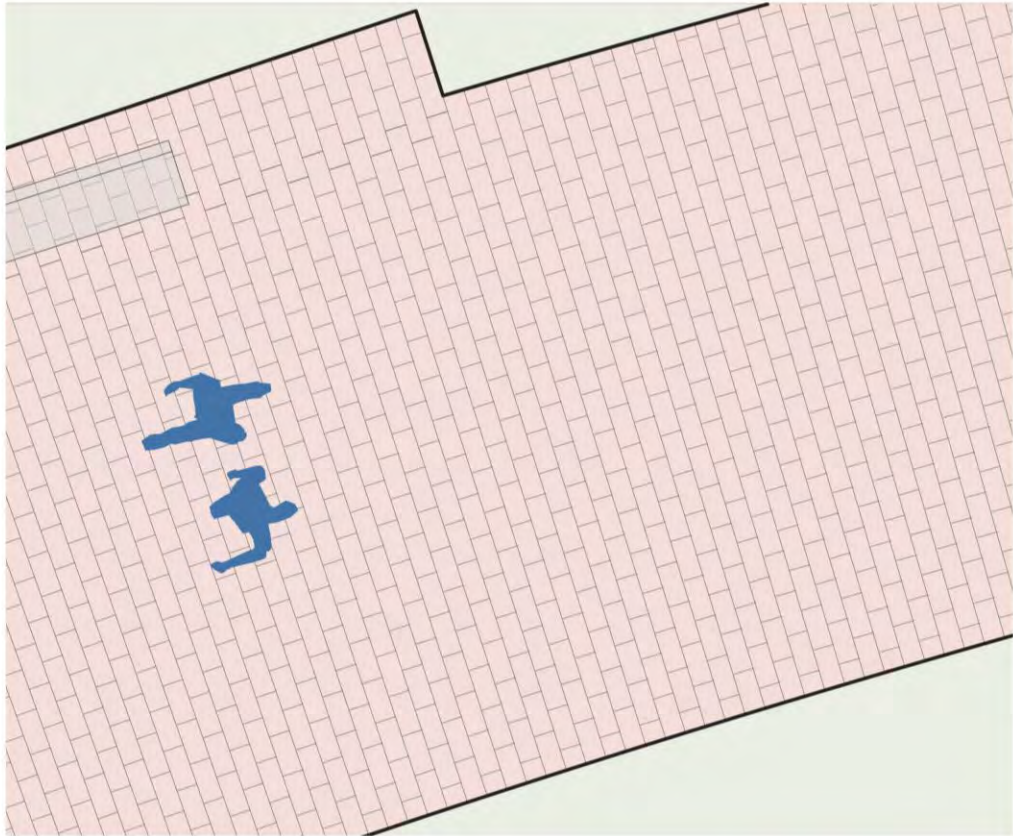


Lac Du Bonnet Granite

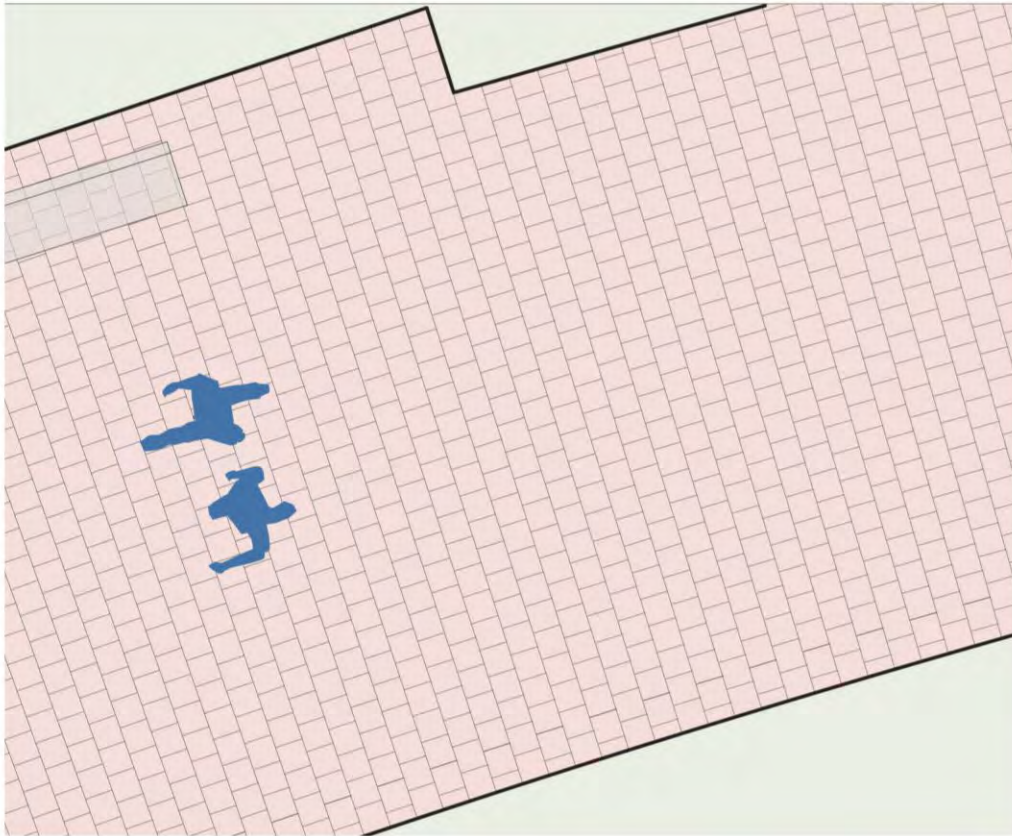


Options Considered: Paving Sizing and Direction

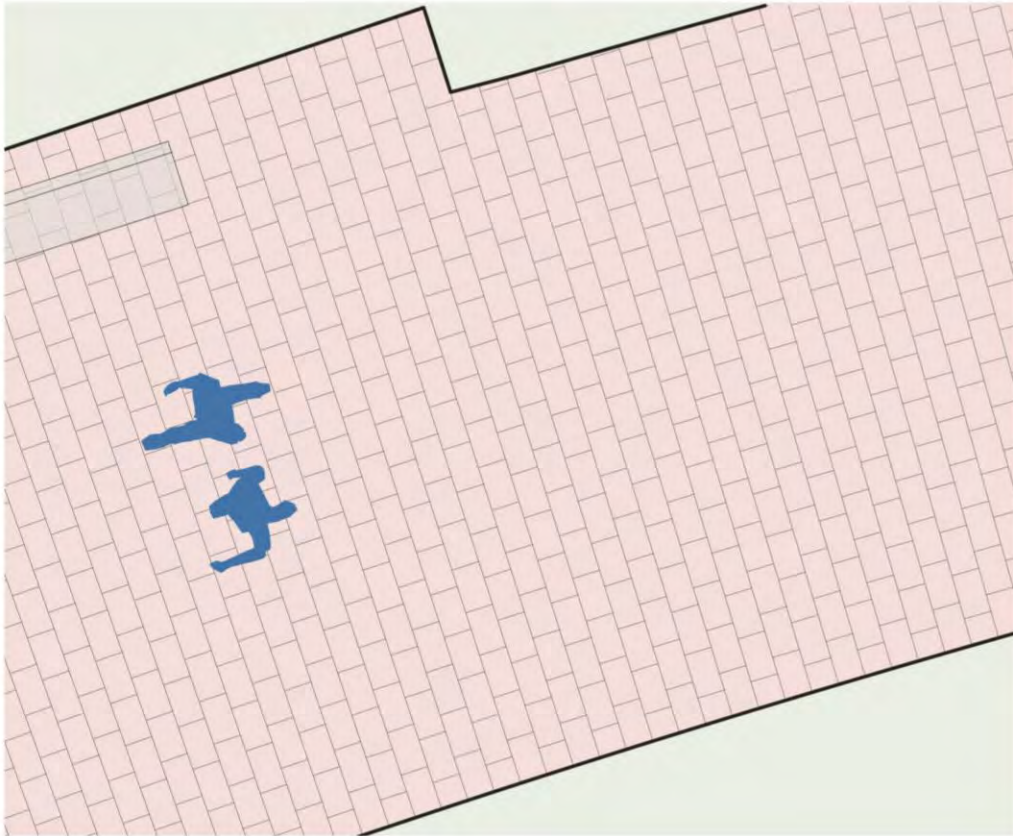
Multiple paving size and directions were evaluated. The material options on previous slides could be implemented in Lafayette Park in the below configurations. These uniform configurations will help institute a cohesiveness to the park’s walkways, regardless of the layout structure or material selected.



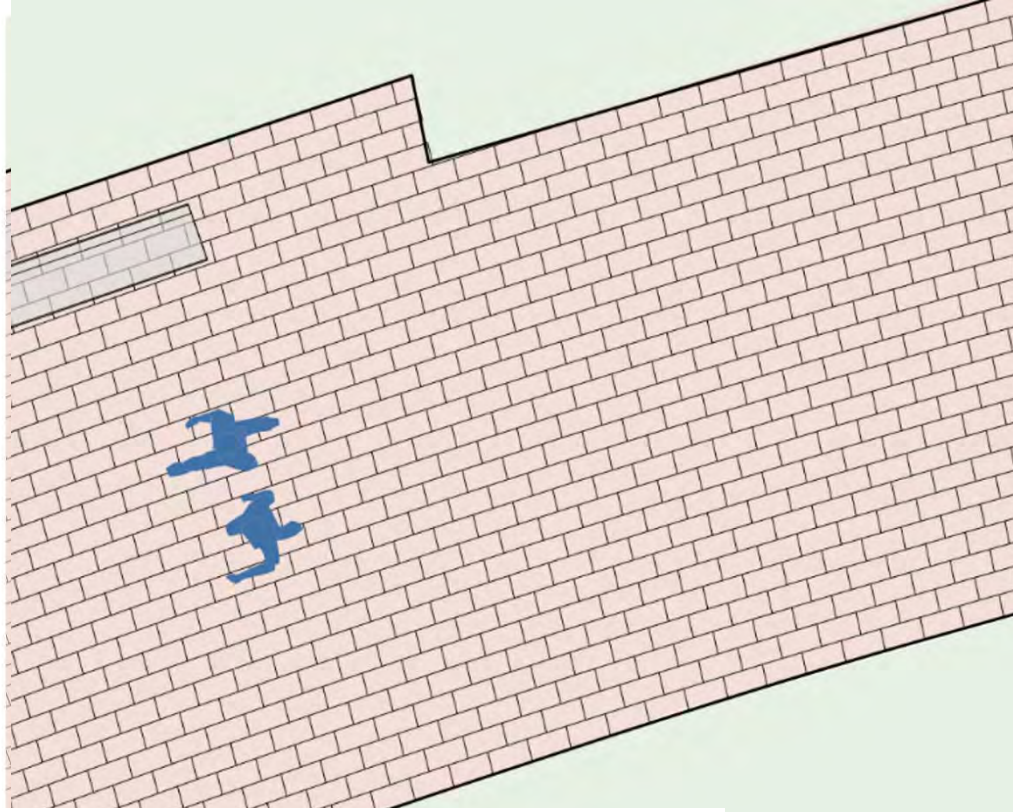
6x12 Pavers - Perpendicular to Path



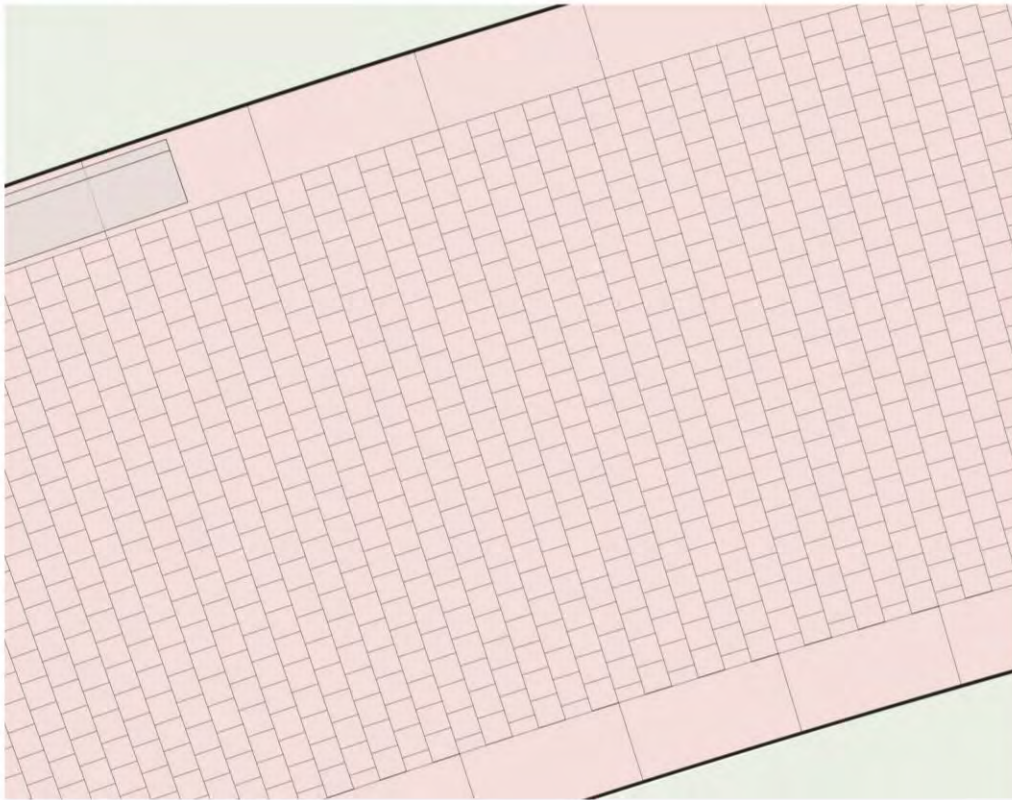
8x8 Pavers



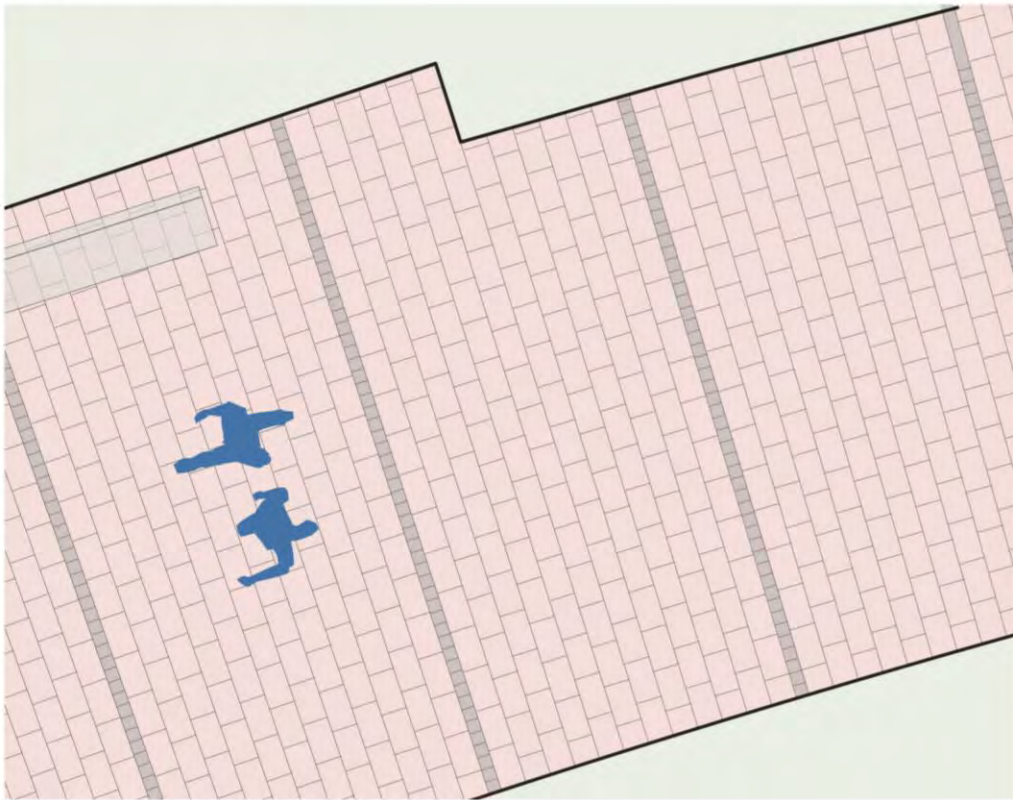
8x13 Pavers (golden ratio)



8x13 Pavers – Along Path



8x8 Pavers with Border



8x13 Pavers Alternate

7. Environmental and Historic Considerations

ENVIRONMENTAL AND HISTORIC CONSIDERATIONS

Foundation Document

Completed in September 2014, the *Foundation Document for The White House and President's Park* outlines the importance and purpose of this site. Below are excerpts from the document that illustrate key themes and ideas of the site:

- Preserve Lafayette Park as open public space in the foreground of the White House, as a setting for passive activities (reflecting, observing, making a personal connection with the presidency), First Amendment activities within legal limitations, and as a support area for presidential inaugural activities. (p 8)
- Provide a large open area associated with the White House for freedom of public expression and assembly activities, as well as for public use and enjoyment. (p 8)
- Protect and enhance views to and from the White House and provide a setting for viewing the White House. (p 8)
- The surrounding President's Park also allows for public access and assembly close to the White House, and it serves as a national and even international stage for the expression of First Amendment rights and for U.S. citizens to petition their government. (p 10)
- Although the White House and President's Park continue to evolve to meet the changing needs of the president, efforts made to maintain the symbolic stability of the site by perpetuating its architectural and landscape integrity. This integrity provides ever-present evidence of the continuity of our ideals and the enduring opportunity for all people to reach out to their leaders. (p 19)
- The stability of the design and architecture of the White House and President's Park is a product of continuing attempts at adaptation to changing needs and technology. (p 21)
- As the District of Columbia has grown around it, the continuity of the President's Park landscape, its relationship with the other federal government buildings, and its continued public access symbolize the stability of our government, the growth in prestige of the office of presidency, and the long heritage of all peoples of the country. (p 21)
- Stability through flexibility is the keynote of President's Park and the White House. (p 22)



NPS, *Foundation Document for The White House and President's Park*, September 2014

ENVIRONMENTAL AND HISTORIC CONSIDERATIONS

Policies and Visitor Experience

As a treasured cultural resource, the Security Enhancement Project for Lafayette Park is following applicable environmental and historic regulations and policies. This includes the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 Consultation.

National Environmental Policy Act

Consistent with NEPA procedures, the proposed changes to Lafayette Park are being evaluated with respect to natural resources, visitor experience, traffic and circulation, and cultural resources. It has been determined that the appropriate environmental document is an environmental assessment (EA).

Natural Resources

Lafayette Park's environmental conditions reflect a predominantly lawn-and-hardscape landscape punctuated by mature trees, with tree cover occurring intermittently across the site. The park totals 8 acres, consisting of approximately 2.7 acres of impervious surfaces (walks, plazas, brick paving) and 5.3 acres of pervious surfaces (lawns and planted areas). This makeup of surfaces drives stormwater behavior by promoting infiltration in landscaped zones while routing runoff from hardscape to collection points. Areas susceptible to water retention are graded and drained toward existing inlets to manage ponding and convey flows during storm events. No wetlands or mapped floodplain occur within the site boundary.

Visitor Experience

Lafayette Park is an open space respite in an urban setting that offers pathways, scenic views, statuary pathways, and seating benches. As the setting for the President's House, this park also has symbolic importance. Critically, it is a key location for First Amendment gatherings and demonstrations.

During construction, portions of Lafayette Park would remain open to visitor access while other areas would be temporarily closed. Pedestrian access would be maintained during construction and detours would be directed via signage. Advance notice of closures would be provided on the Park's website.

Transportation and Circulation

Walking paths are positioned throughout the park, and routes run east to west and north to south. Connecting paths allowing pedestrians to walk diagonally. Vehicular traffic is open on Pennsylvania Avenue and H Street. Traffic is closed within the park for security reasons, but vehicles cleared by USSS can drive on Jackson Place NW and Madison Place NW through entrances on H Street NW. Bicyclists and micromobility users are allowed to access the park when open to the public.



Families campaign for the release of political prisoners in front of the North Gates at the White House on April 19, 1922, during the Warren G. Harding administration. The group was called the "Children's Crusade" and called for the release of those convicted under the Espionage Act of 1917.

National Historic Preservation Act and Coordination

National Historic Preservation Act

As a federal undertaking, this project is required to comply with Section 106 of the NHPA, which mandates that federal agencies consider the effects of their actions on historic properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. For this project, the USSS and EOP, in coordination with the NPS, initiated Section 106 consultation with the DC State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on April 22, 2026, and they recognized tribal nations, as documented in official correspondences. The process involves identifying and evaluating historic buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts within the Area of Potential Effect (APE), with all work conducted by professionals meeting the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualification Standards. This compliance ensures that any potential effects to the historic character and resources of Lafayette Park are carefully considered and addressed as part of the project’s planning and implementation. The USSS, EOP, and NPS will continue to consult appropriate agencies through the entirety of the Section 106 process.

Engagement and Coordination with Federal, State, Local Jurisdictions, and the Public

The NPS is developing an initial concept for security features. The Section 106 was initiated on April 22, 2026, and the NPS anticipates meeting with Section 106 consulting parties and the subsequent submittal of an Assessment of Effects for the undertaking. In addition, the NPS is seeking ways to avoid and minimize the potential for adverse effects of the security enhancements on historic properties. Coordination with the USSS and EOP will occur throughout this project lifecycle. A Section 106 consulting parties meeting is scheduled for August 12, 2026.

Coordination with Agencies and Property Owners

The Milken Institute and The Renwick Gallery are both adjacent property owners to Lafayette Park, and their proximity makes their input especially important in the planning and implementation of the project. The USSS and EOP, along with the NPS, will ensure ongoing coordination and consultation with these institutions, as well as with the DC State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA). Additionally, the project team is committed to engaging in discussions with any other adjacent property owners to address concerns, share information, and incorporate feedback, ensuring that all neighboring stakeholders are considered throughout the project’s development.

The following properties are included in the Area of Potential Effects (APE):

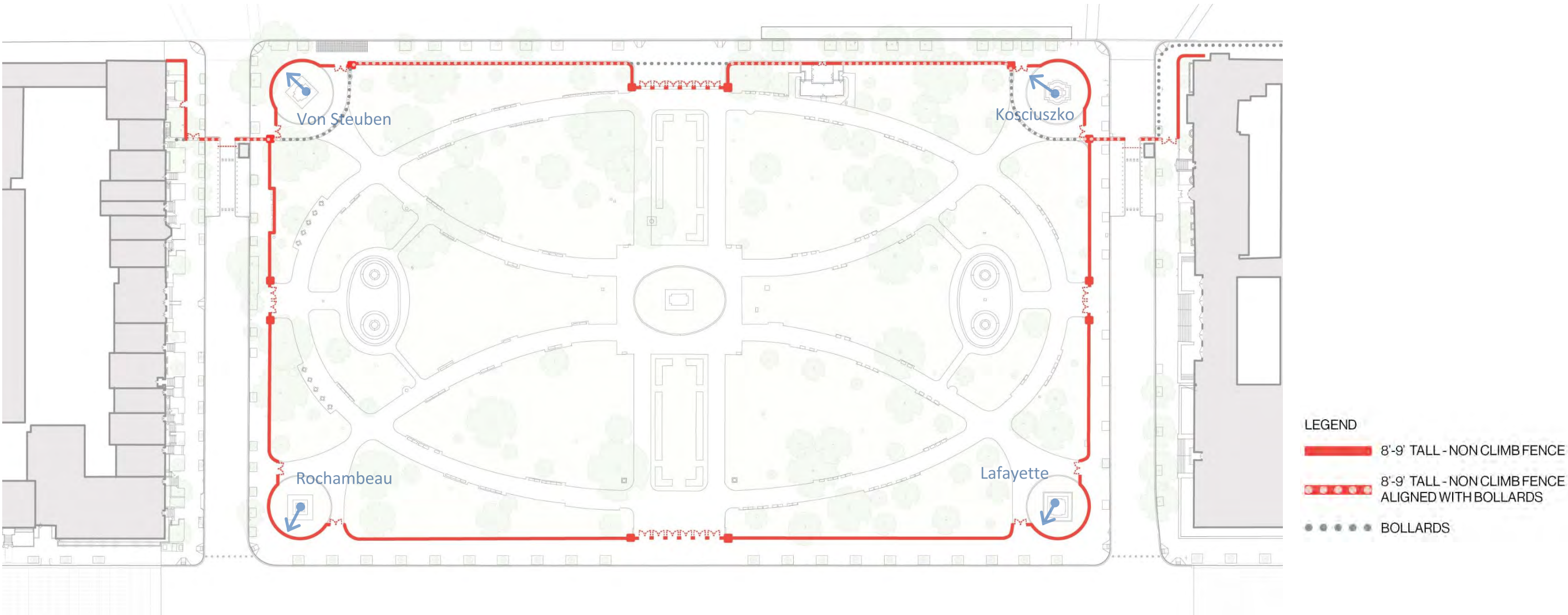
1. Hill Building
2. US Chamber of Commerce
3. St. John’s Church
4. Ashburton House (St. John’s Parish House)
5. Bureau of War Risk Insurance
6. Lafayette Building
7. Southern Building
8. Union Trust Company
9. Cutts-Madison House
10. Benjamin Ogle Tayloe House
11. Treasury Annex
12. Riggs National Bank
13. American Security and Trust Building
14. Swartzell, Rheem & Hensey Building
15. Hibbs Building (Folger Building)
16. National Savings Trust Building
17. Riggs Building (Albee Building)
18. National Metropolitan Bank
19. US Department of the Treasury
20. State, War and Navy Building (Eisenhower Executive Office Building)
21. Winder Building
22. Fede Loan Bank
23. Renwick Galley
24. Blair House
25. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
26. American Peace Society (Charles Glover House)
27. Metropolitan Club
28. Stephen Decatur House
29. Lafayette Square
30. The White House

Applicable Historic Districts and Cultural Landscapes

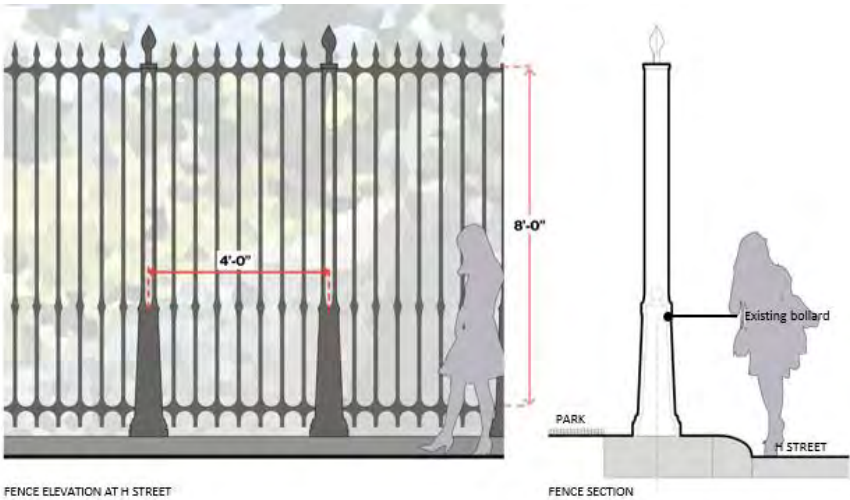
- Lafayette Square Historic District (HD)
- East and West Potomac Parks HD
- National Mall
- Seventeenth Street HD
- Pennsylvania Avenue HD
- White House and President’s Park Cultural Landscape (CL)

8. Appendix

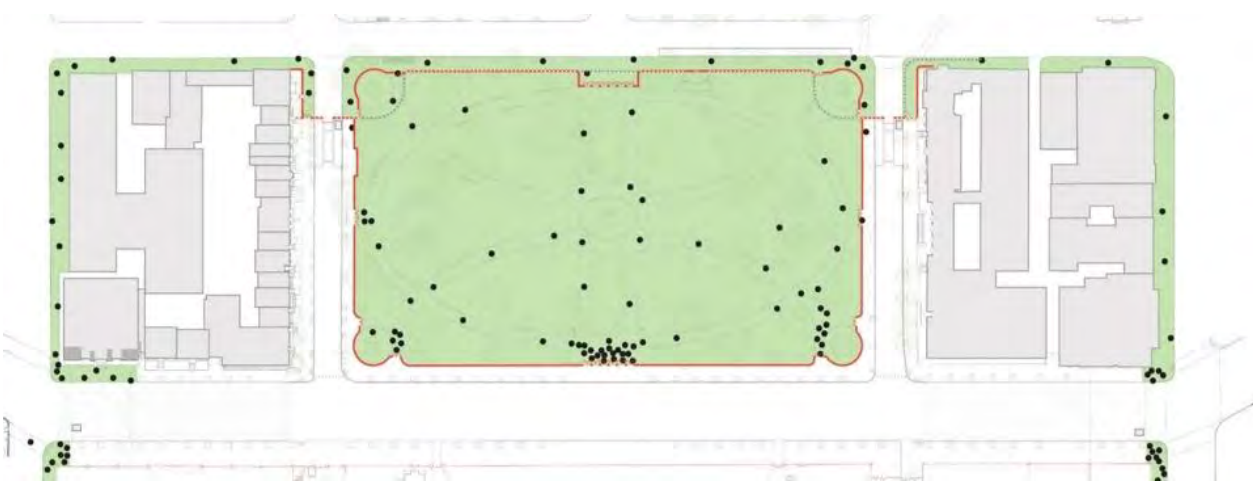
Composite: Alignment 1



Entrance at 16th and H Streets NW

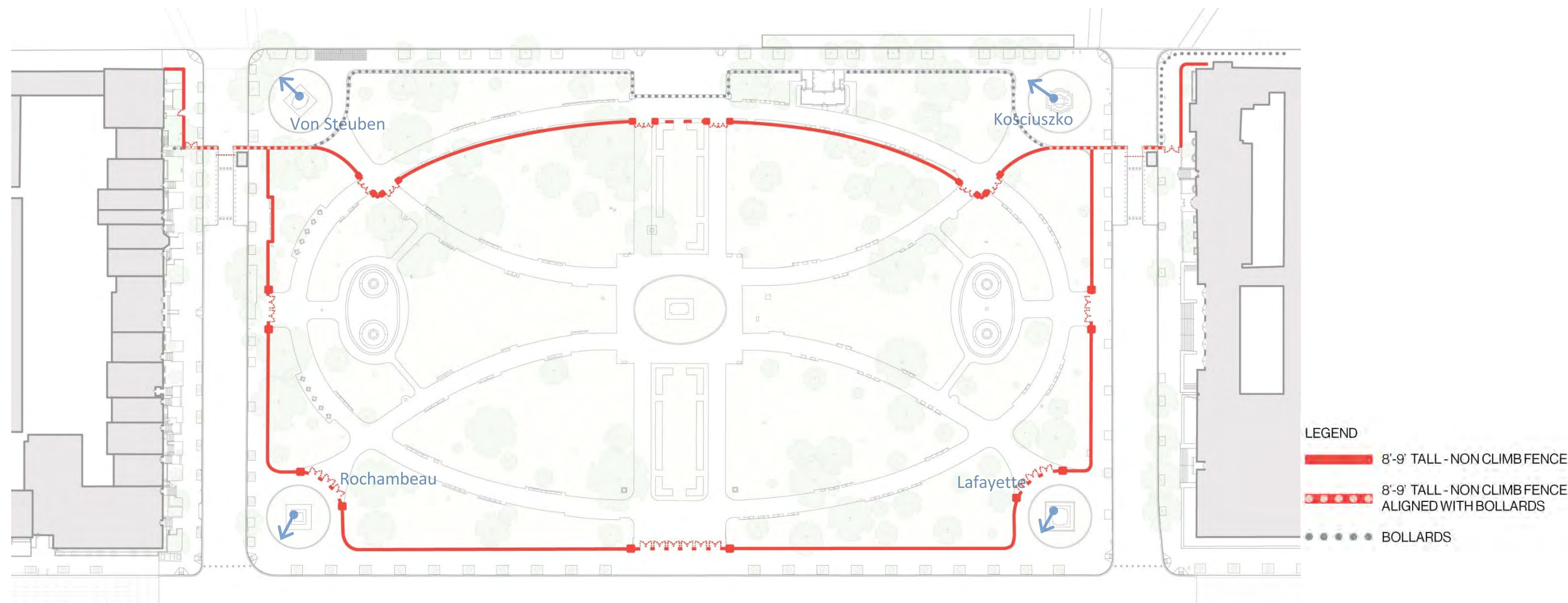


Fence alignment with bollards requires narrower picket spacing at those locations

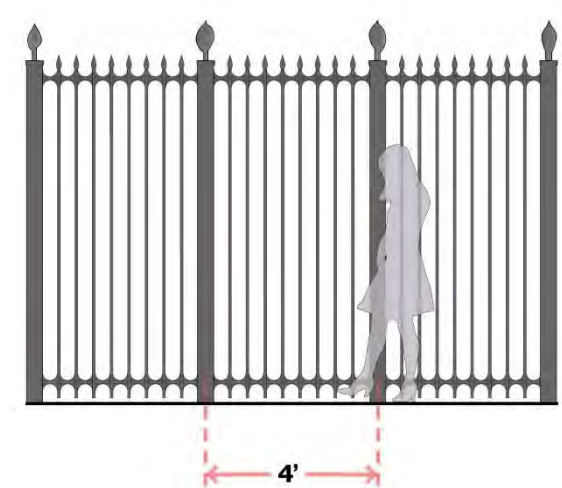


Access to park when south gates are closed

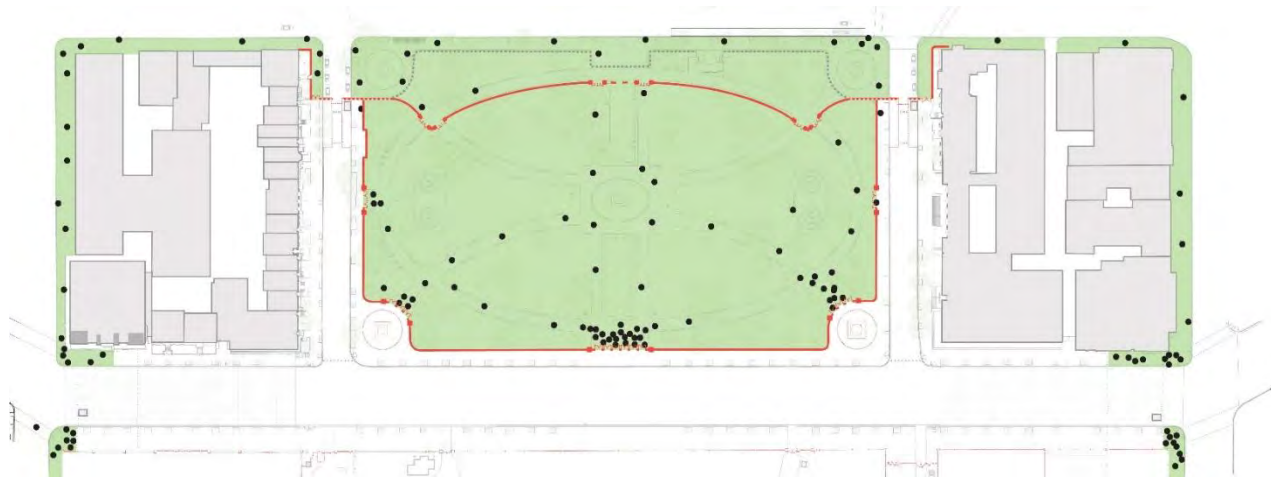
Composite: Alignment 2



Entrance at 16th and H Streets NW



Fence alignment falls behind bollards; post spacing can be wider and consistent throughout the fence



Access to park when south gates are closed

Local Barrier Precedents

LAFAYETTE PARK BARRIERS - TEMPORARY



Anti-Climb Fence

- 8' tall
- Temporary
- Visual Porosity: Low
- Visual Aesthetic: Not appropriate
- Operations: Requires significant staff numbers, assembly time and machinery to deploy



Bike Barrier

- 42" tall, 6 - 8' wide
- Temporary
- Visual Porosity: High
- Visual Aesthetic: Not appropriate - associated with police security, No historic reference
- Operations: requires significant staff numbers to deploy

PARK BARRIERS - PERMANENT



Jackson Statue

- 5' tall
- Permanent
- Visual Porosity: Medium
- Visual Aesthetic: Historically appropriate
- Operations: Minimal



McPherson Square Post and Chain

- ~3.5' tall
- Permanent
- Visual Porosity: High
- Visual Aesthetic: Historically appropriate
- Operations: Minimal

Local Barrier Precedents

ADJACENT BARRIERS - PERMANENT



White House Fence

- 13' tall
- Permanent
- Visual Porosity: Medium
- Visual Aesthetic: Historically appropriate
- Operations: Minimal



Treasury Department Fence

- 5' tall
- Permanent
- Visual Porosity: Medium
- Visual Aesthetic: Historically appropriate
- Operations: Minimal



Renwick Fence

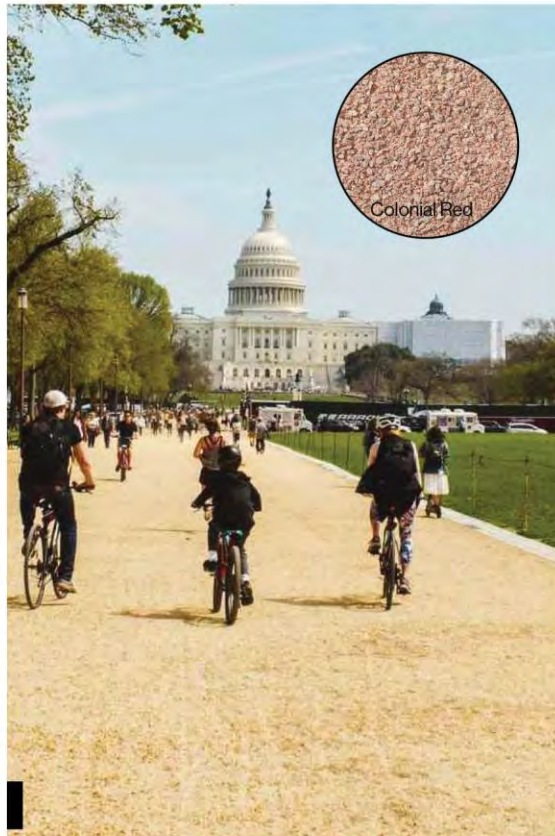
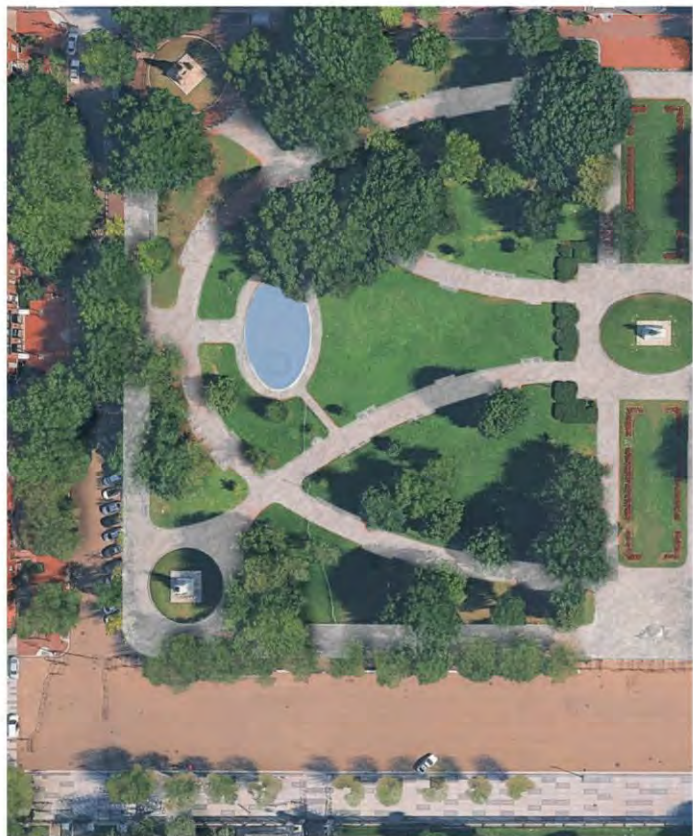
- 4' tall
- Permanent
- Visual Porosity: High
- Visual Aesthetic: Historically appropriate
- Operations: Minimal

Paving Options Considered

Multiple material options were considered for the walkways in Lafayette Park. Bricks can present potential security concerns because they can be removed and thrown, while crushed granite is more difficult to maintain. Below are renderings of the material options, along with aerial views of the park with the applicable materials.



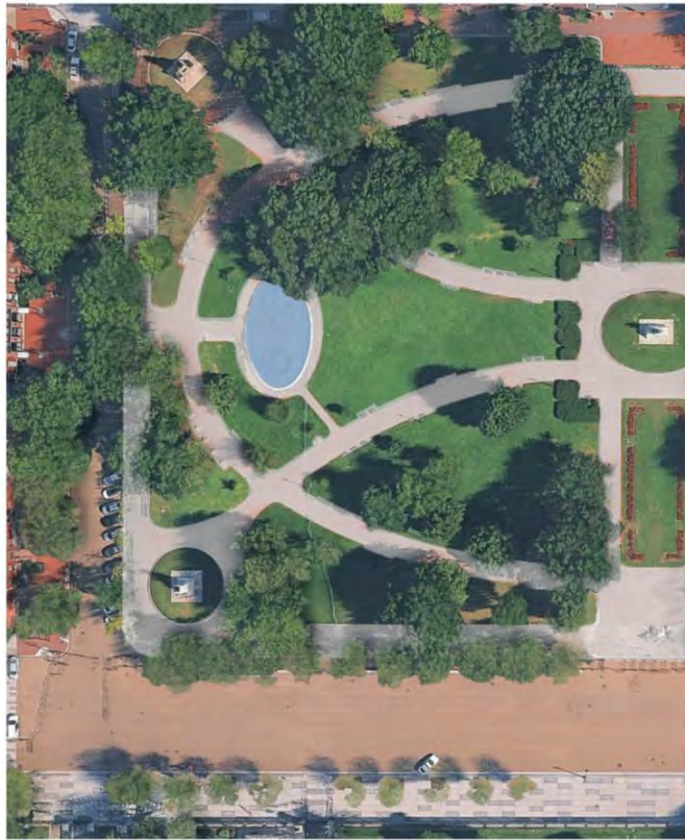
Rockville Beige Granite



Crushed Granite



Chelmsford Grey Granite

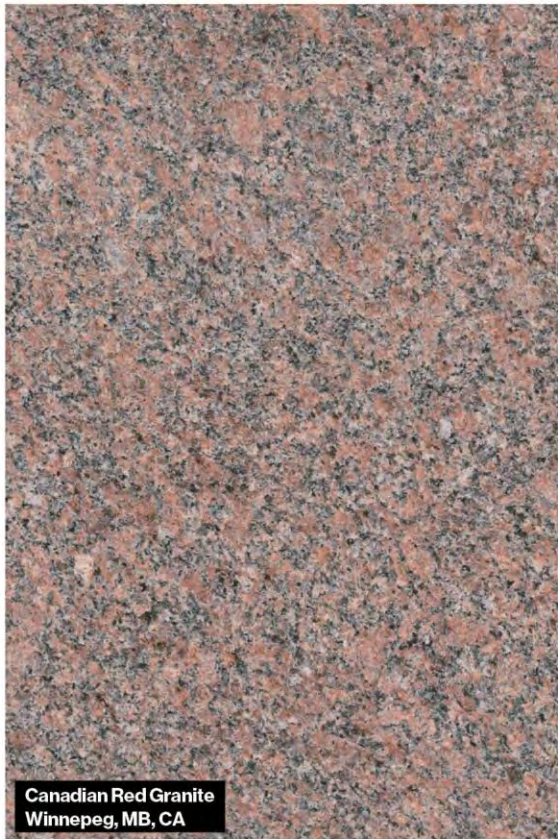


Texas Pearl Granite



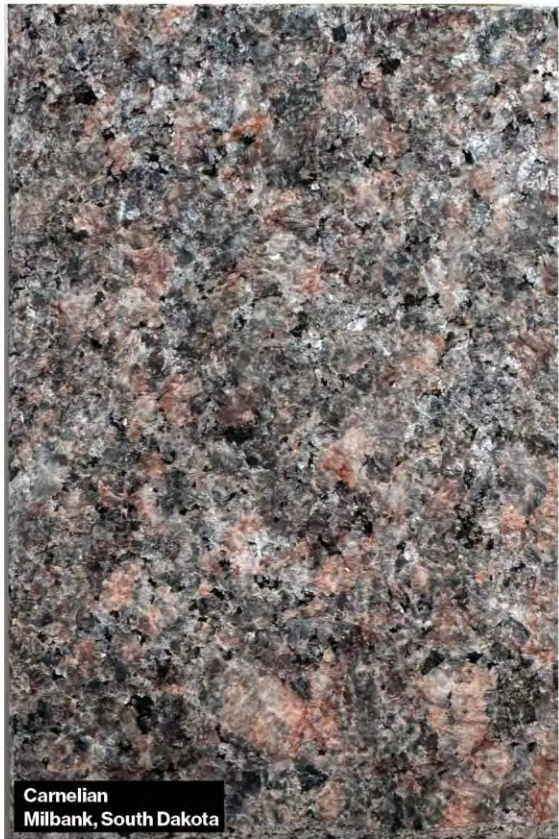
Paving Options Considered

Multiple material options were considered for the walkways in Lafayette Park. The options below include types of granite that could be used for pavers within the park. Below are renderings of the material options, along with aerial views of the park with the applicable materials.



Canadian Red Granite
Winnipeg, MB, CA

Canadian Red Granite



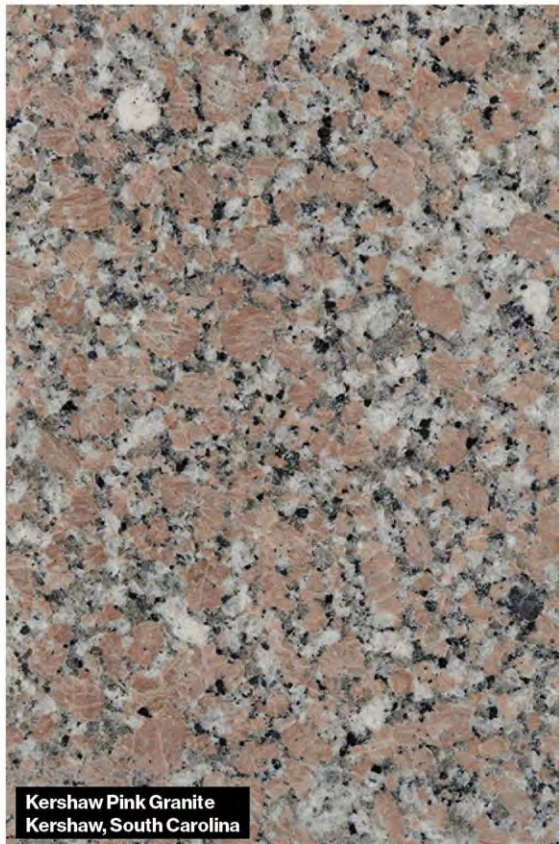
Carnelian
Milbank, South Dakota

Carnelian Granite



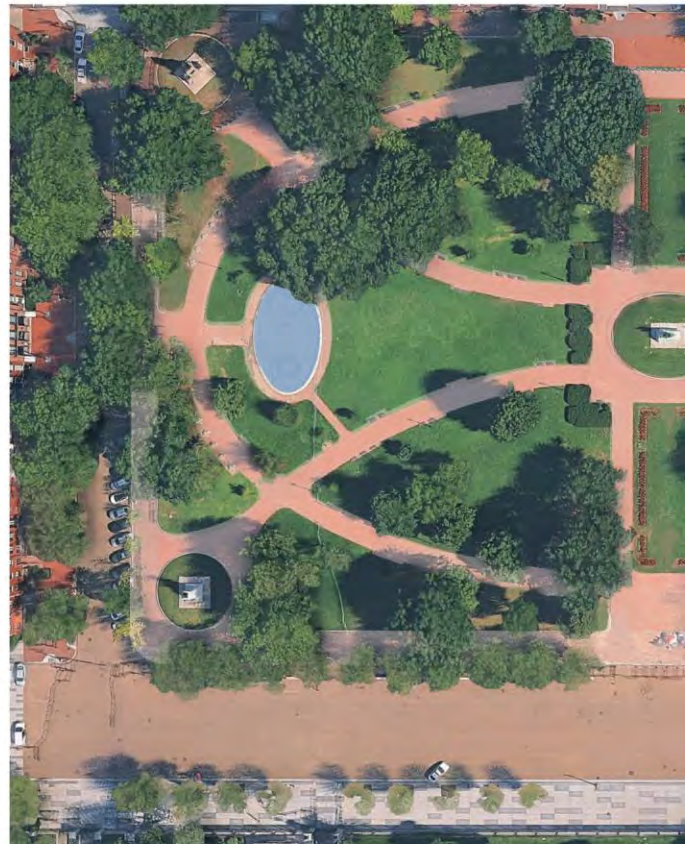
Sunset Red Granite
Marble Falls, Texas

Sunset Red Granite



Kershaw Pink Granite
Kershaw, South Carolina

Kershaw Pink Granite



Visualization- Sierra White



Visualization- Lac Du Bonnet



Visualization- Red Granite

