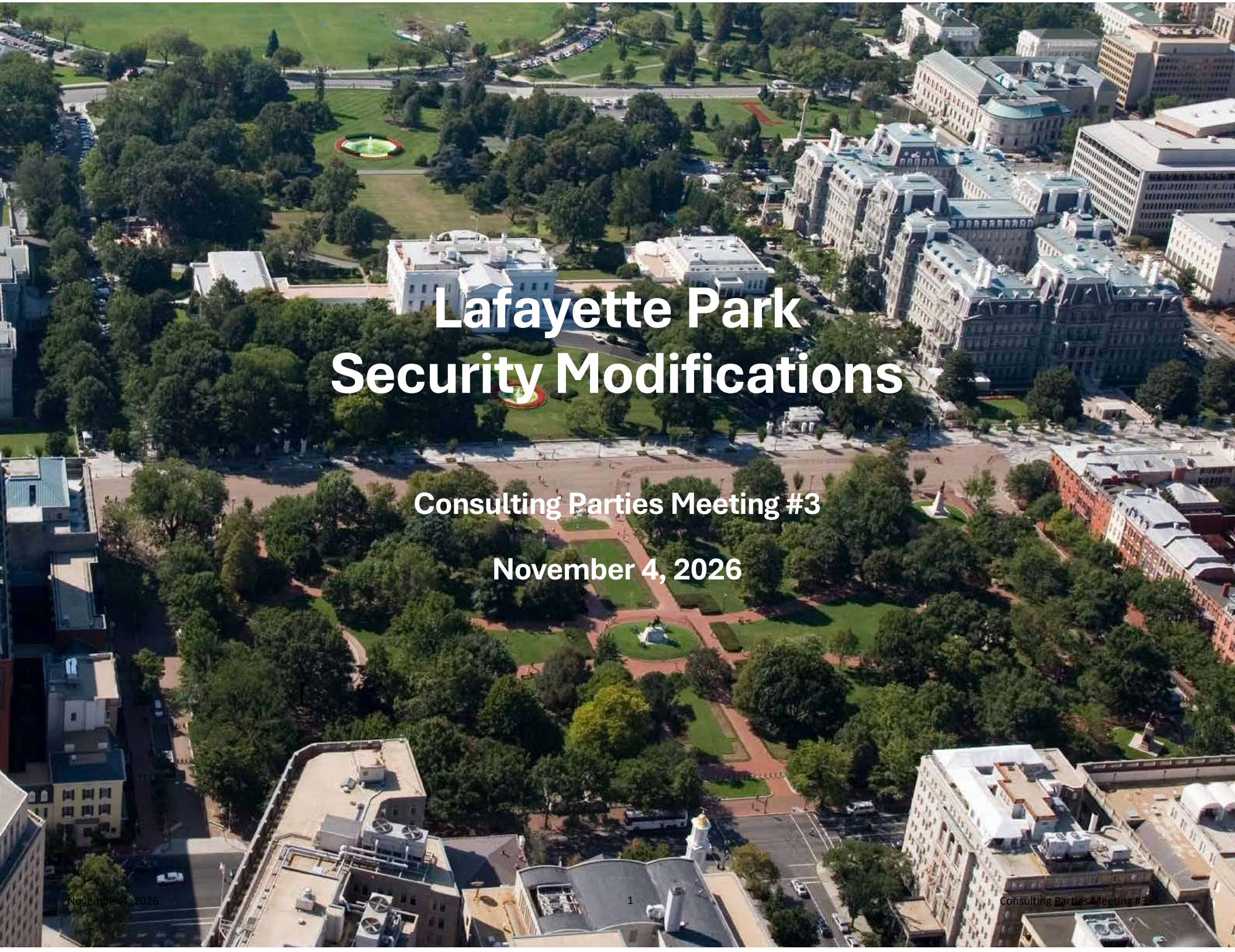


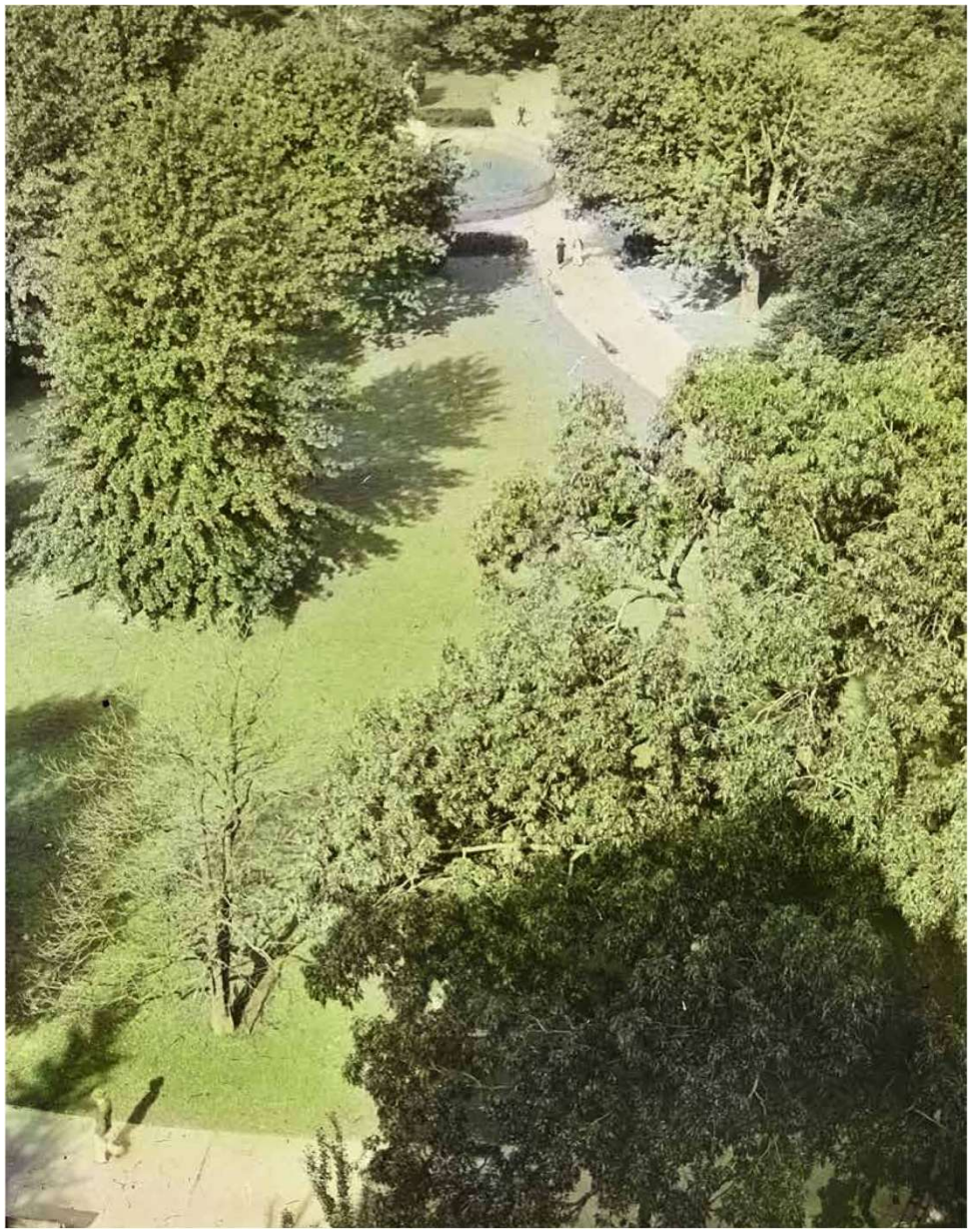
Lafayette Park Security Modifications

Consulting Parties Meeting #3

November 4, 2026

Agenda

1. Introduction and Background (5 minutes)
2. Representative Conditions (5 minutes)
3. Alternatives (10 minutes)
4. Initial Assessment of Effects (5 minutes)
5. Discussion (20 minutes)
6. Next Steps (5 minutes)



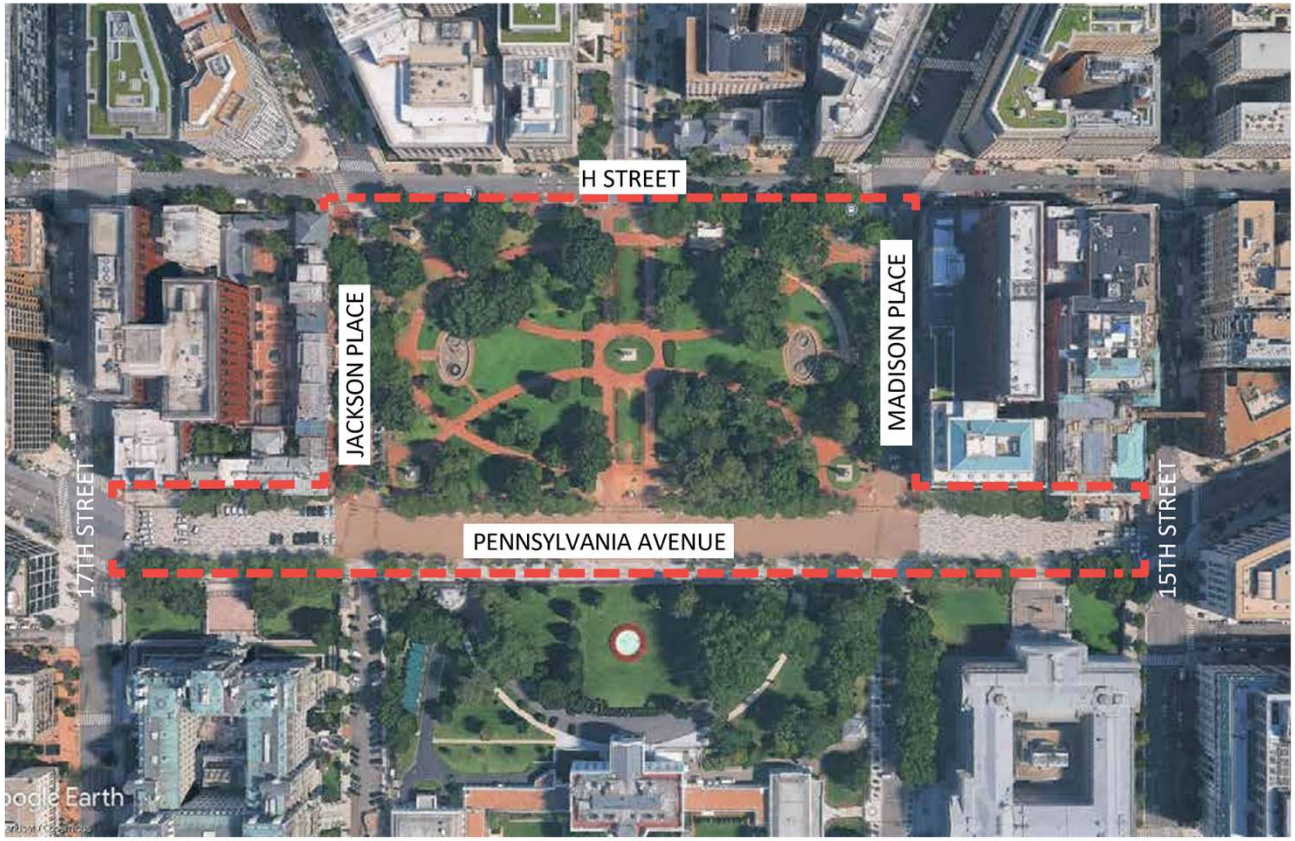
1. Introduction and Background

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 an 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 preserve the park's openness while providing the flexibility to implement temporary closures when required for situational security needs.



Site Map, Google Earth

Legend

Project Area

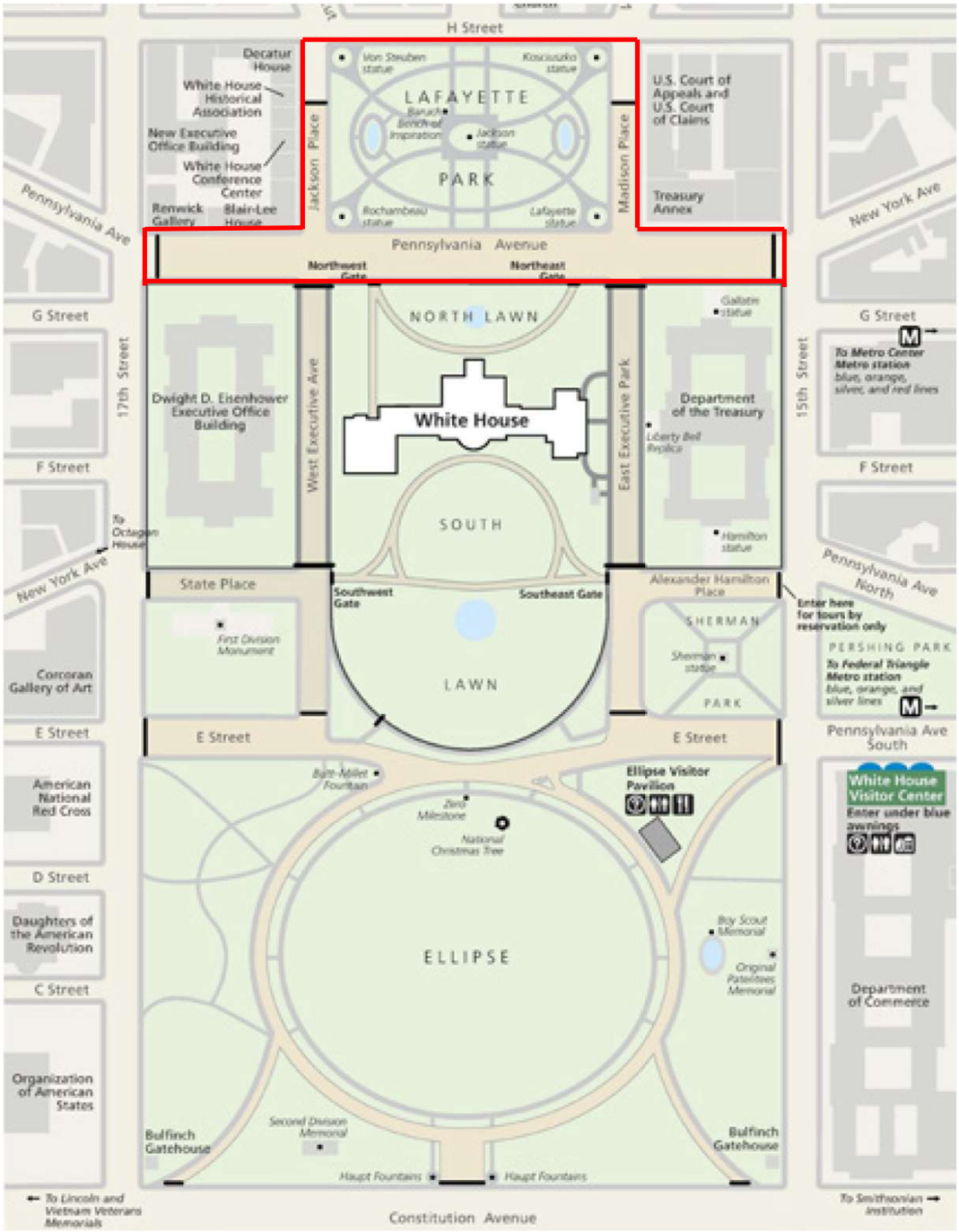
Purpose of Meeting

- Review comments received
- Provide project update and additional information
- Receive input for proposed alternatives



Lafayette Park, 2026

Project Area



Legend

Project Area

What We Heard: Part 1

Fence Line Location / Security Alternatives

- Consider a phased fencing approach with permanent fencing on the south, east, and west sides and temporary or rapidly deployable fencing along the north side to assess the need for full enclosure and maintain First Amendment access.
- Explore use of existing bollard lines as temporary fencing locations to maintain openness and porosity at park corners.
- Explore fencing not aligned with bollards.
- Further evaluate a north-only fencing alternative and clearly document why interior fencing alignments may or may not be feasible.
- Continue evaluating Alignment 2 and curved fence alignments that better preserve the historic form and character of the park.
- Consider whether a southern-only fencing solution could meet security objectives.
- Address concerns that fencing could alter the park's purpose, accessibility, and role as a public gathering space.
- Explore using fencing of different heights.

Adjacent Properties and Continued Operations

- Assess how fencing and security measures may affect adjacent institutions and properties that do not receive the same level of protection as Lafayette Park.
- Coordinate with adjacent property owners regarding security planning, operational access, and jurisdictional responsibilities. Consider how security measures may shift demonstrations and public activities onto adjacent properties.
- Maintain public access and opportunities for First Amendment activities within Lafayette Park.



Lafayette Park, 2026

What We Heard: Part 2

Historic Resources and Adverse Effects

- Recognize the historic significance of Lafayette Park as a location for assembly, demonstrations, and civic expression.
- Better define the historic resources being protected and evaluate how proposed security measures affect the park's openness, accessibility, and historic character.
- Consider impacts to historic views and cultural landscape.
- Explore mitigation measures that address broader cultural landscape and public-use concerns in addition to physical resources. Explore ways to avoid adverse effects.
    - Note the introduction of fencing along the oval path would result in an adverse effect.
- Consider options to minimize adverse effects to Decatur House.
- Prioritize reversible solutions.

Safety and Emergency Management

- Ensure security designs provide sufficient porosity and emergency exit opportunities.
- Clarify crowd management strategies, including any potential limits on crowd size within the park.
- Continue coordination with adjacent property owners and stakeholders regarding security operations and emergency response procedures.
- Incorporate more access points to the park.



Lafayette Park, 2026

What We Heard: Part 3

Pennsylvania Avenue Operations

- Evaluate how Pennsylvania Avenue closures relate to the proposed security measures and include operational impacts in project planning.
- Consider opportunities for permanent security improvements that could reduce the duration and frequency of park closures.

No Action Alternative

- Clarify assumptions associated with the No Action Alternative and the role of temporary security fencing if permanent measures are not implemented.
- Provide compelling justification for a permanent fence.

Communication and Coordination

- Continue sharing project materials, recordings, and opportunities for stakeholder input throughout the Section 106 process.
- Ensure consulting parties and stakeholders are included in future project communication.

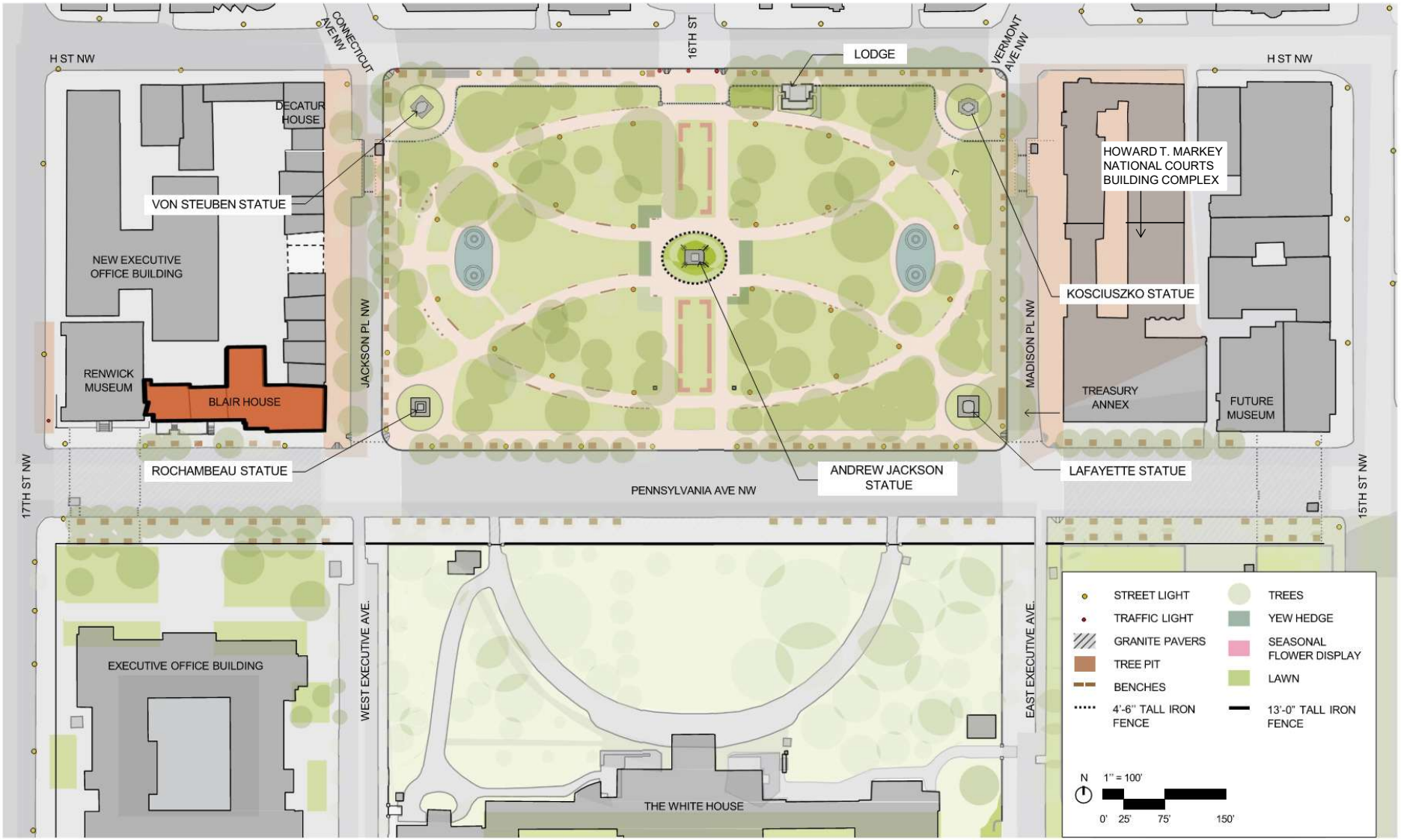


Lafayette Park, 2026

2. Representative Conditions

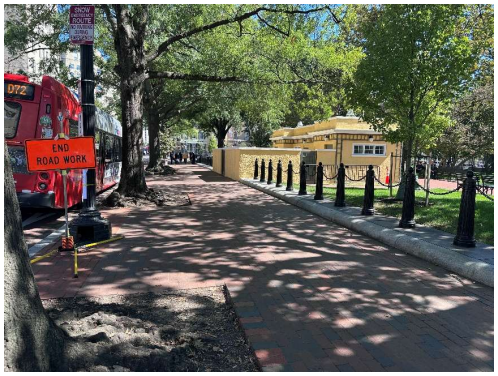
Site Plan

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.

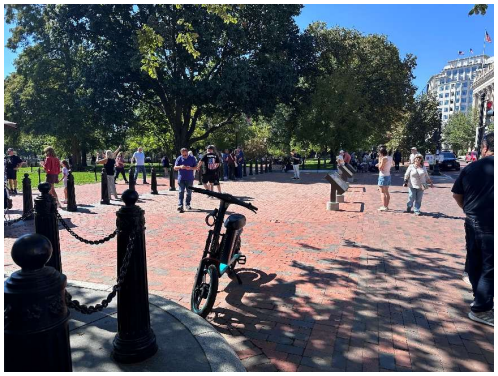


Existing Conditions: Temporary Barriers – October 2026

Currently, Lafayette Park has temporary fencing enclosing the ellipse of the park. Pictures below show temporary fencing surrounding the park, with fence heights ranging from 4' steel barriers and concrete barriers to 8' temporary fencing. 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.





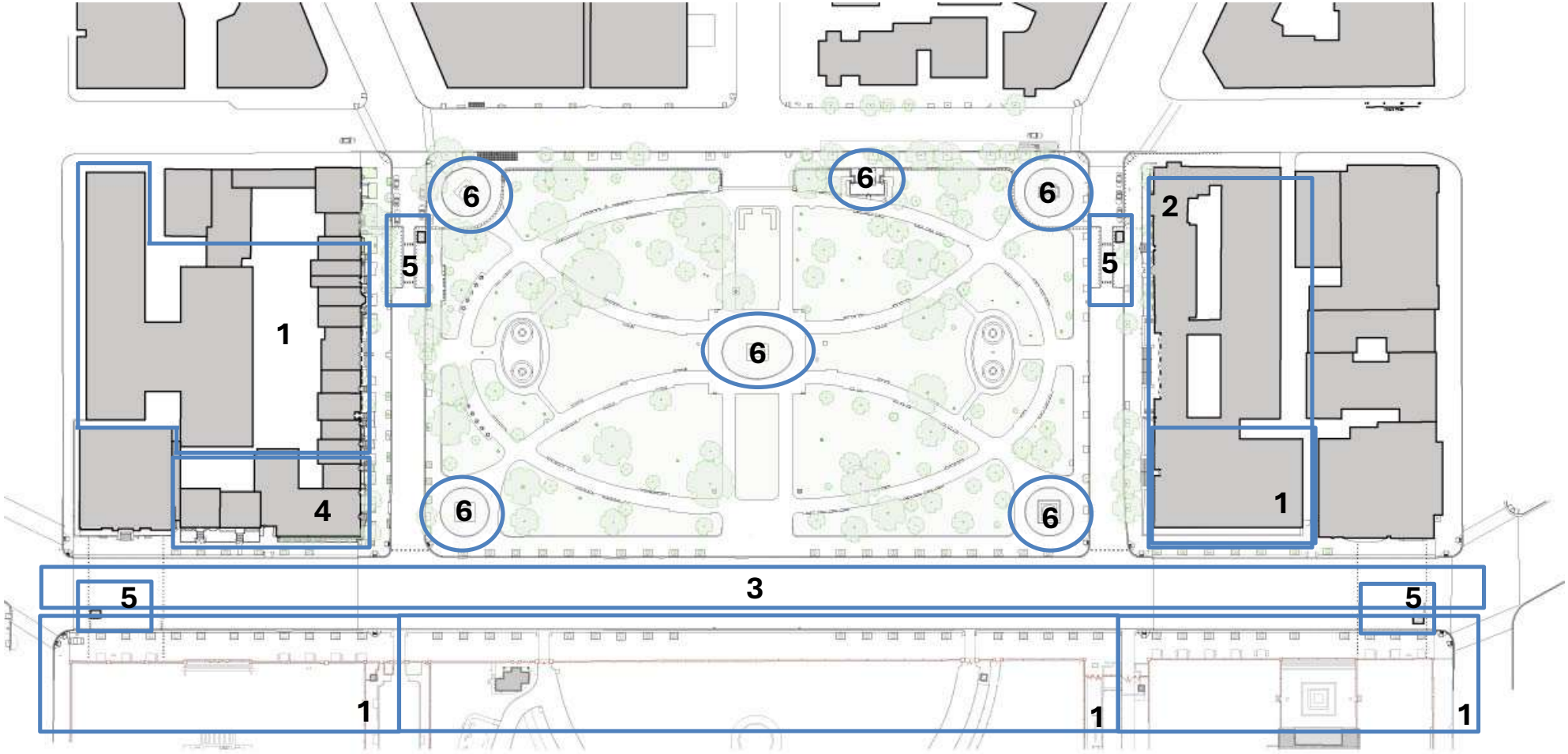







Areas for Protection

The following areas on the Lafayette Park project site will be considered in terms of protection during the alignment selection process.



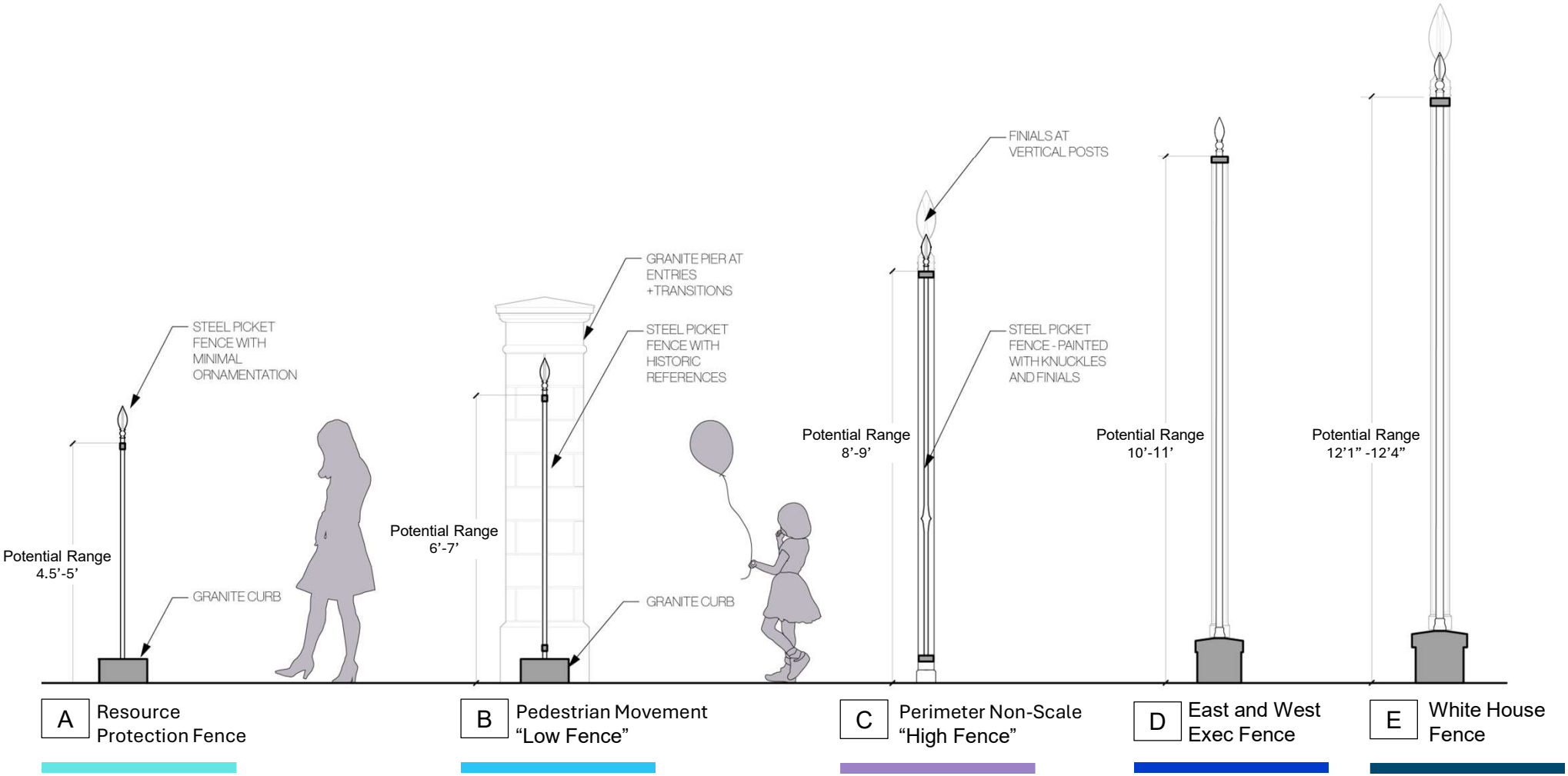
Legend

1. Executive Branch
2. Judicial Branch
3. Pennsylvania Avenue NW Movements
4. Blair House guests
5. Sensitive Facilities
   - Officer Posts
6. Park Resources
   - Statues, trees, Lafayette Lodge, etc.
7. Visitor Safety (site-wide)

REPRESENTATIVE CONDITIONS

Fence Types

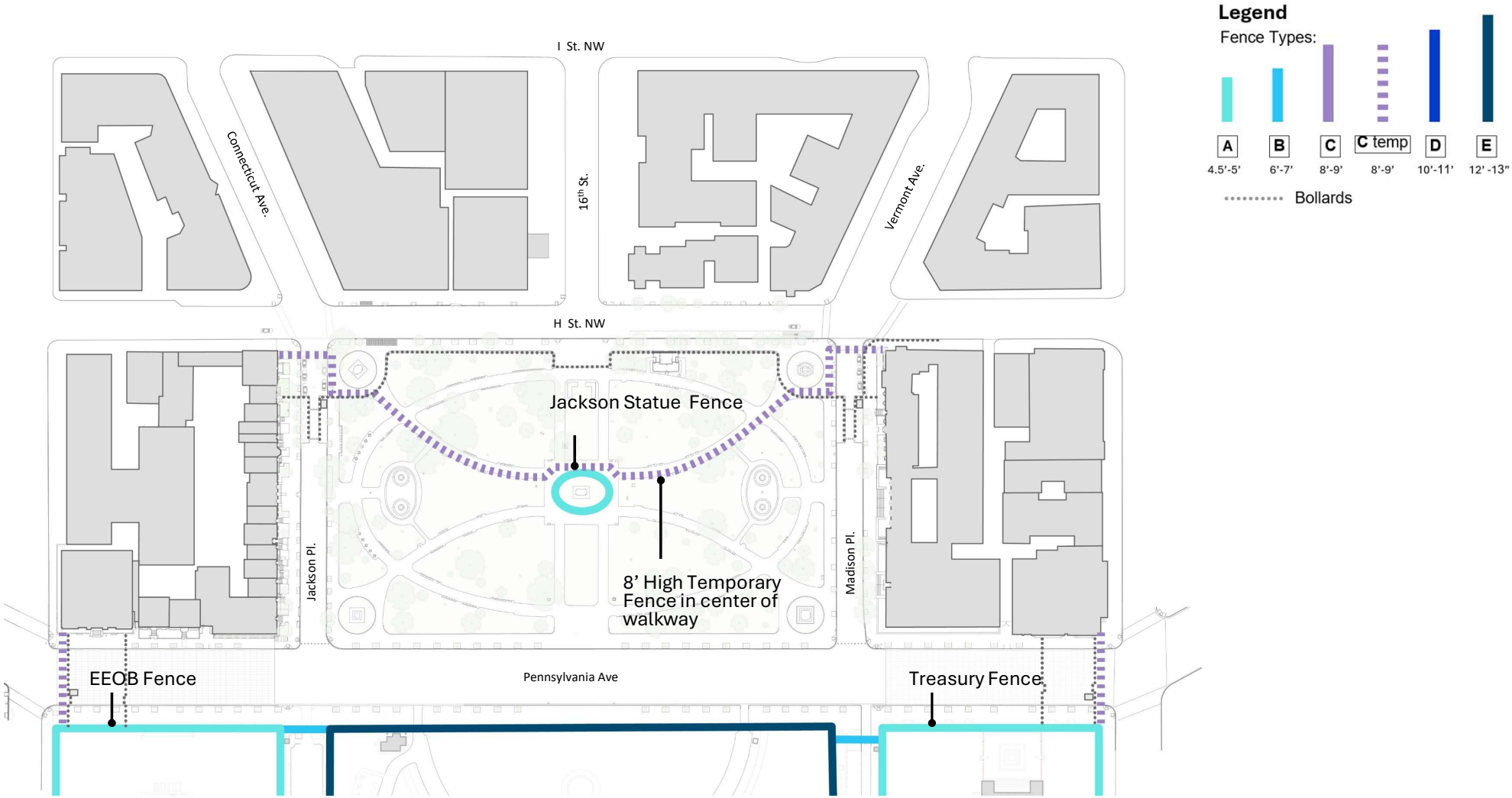
The following fencing types are being considered on the Lafayette Park project site.



REPRESENTATIVE CONDITIONS

Existing Fences 10.01.2026

The following fencing types are being considered on the Lafayette Park project site.



Existing Nearby Fencing

The following fencing types currently exist near the Lafayette Park project site.



Eisenhower Executive Office Building (EEOB) Fence



Foreground: West Executive Avenue Fence and Gate
Background: White House Fence



U.S. Department of Treasury Fence

3. Alternatives

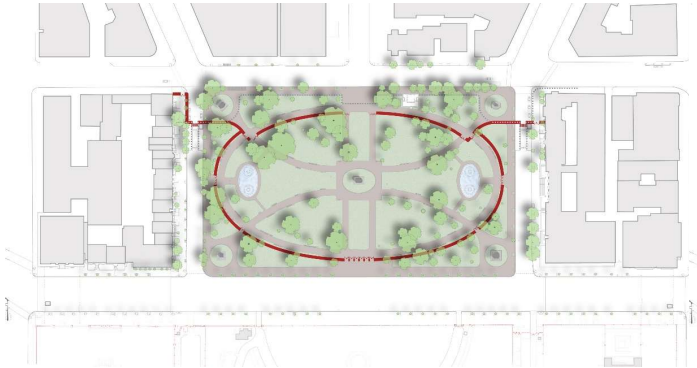
Alignments Shown at Consulting Parties Meeting #2



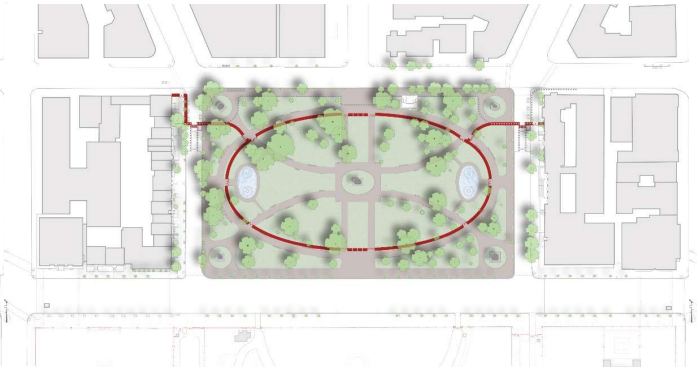
Alignment 1A



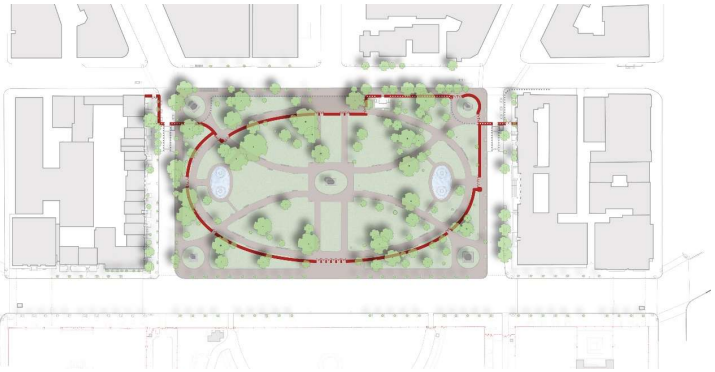
Alignment 1B



Alignment 2



Alignment 3

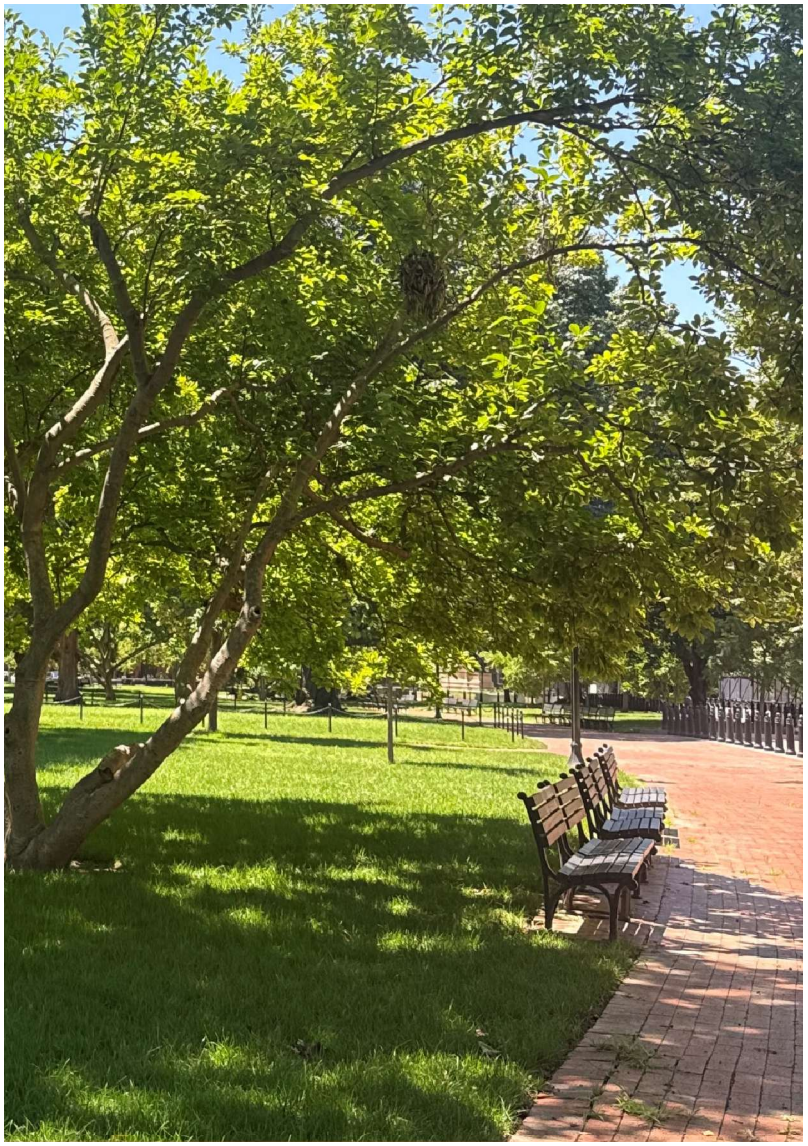


Alignment 4

Design Considerations

The following design considerations are being considered on the Lafayette Park project site.

- Fence Location
- Fence Height
- Entry Treatments
  - The Cutts-Madison House (Howard T. Markey National Court Building)
  - The Bengamin Ogle Tayloe House
- Resource Protection
  - Lafayette Lodge Treatment
    - Protection by fence
    - Building hardening
  - Statues



Site Visit, 2026

16th Street NW at H Street NW looking South - Sept. 2026



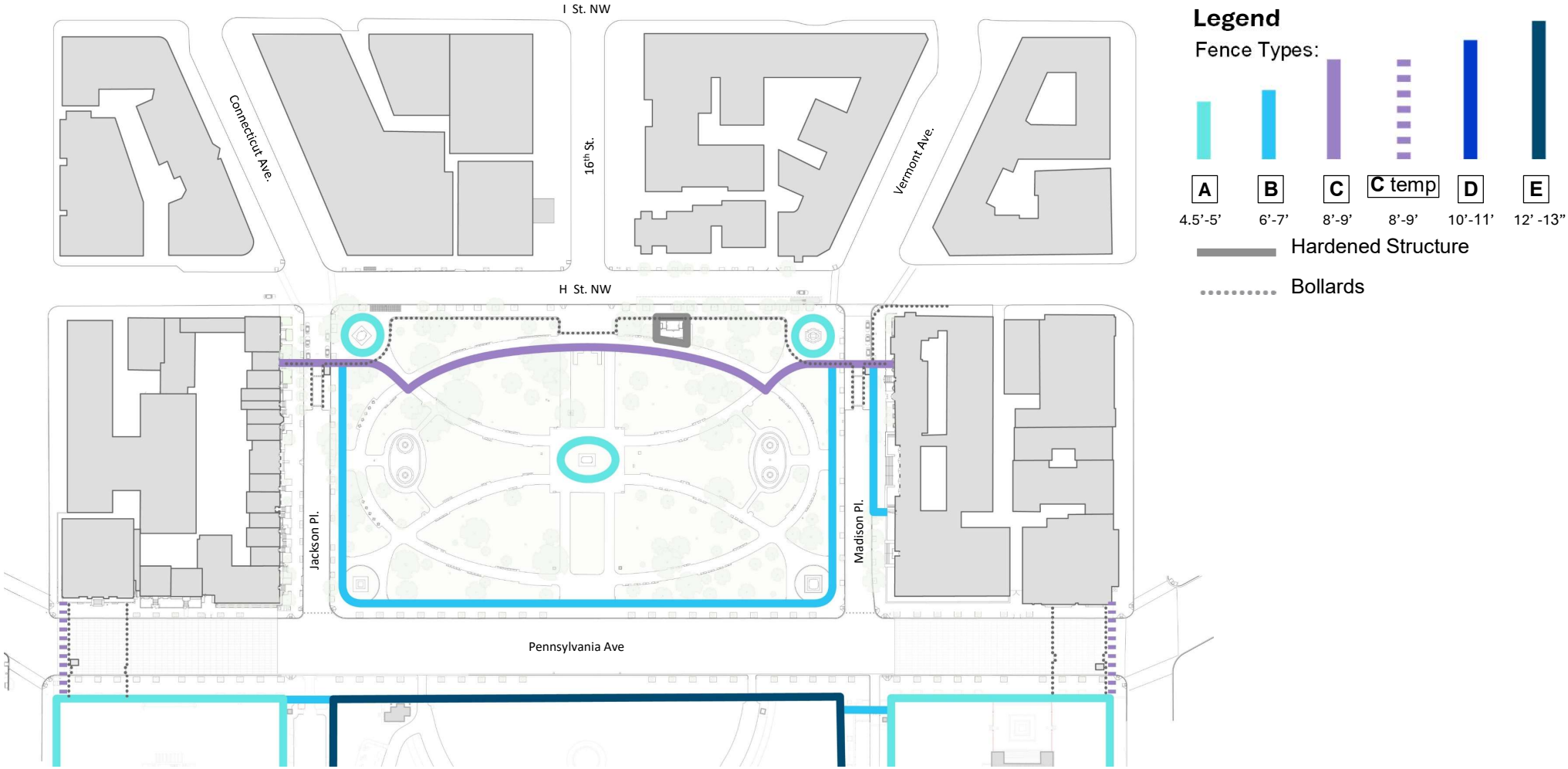
16th Street NW at H Street NW looking South - Oct. 2026



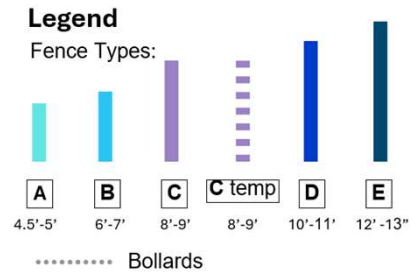
16th Street NW Corridor at Pennsylvania Avenue looking North

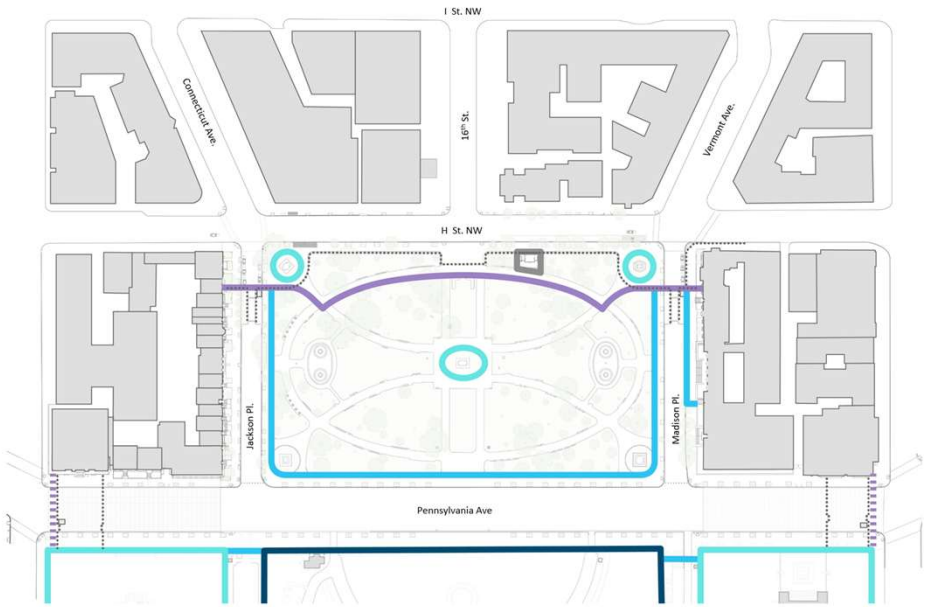


NEW Recommended Alternative 2C: North Crescent

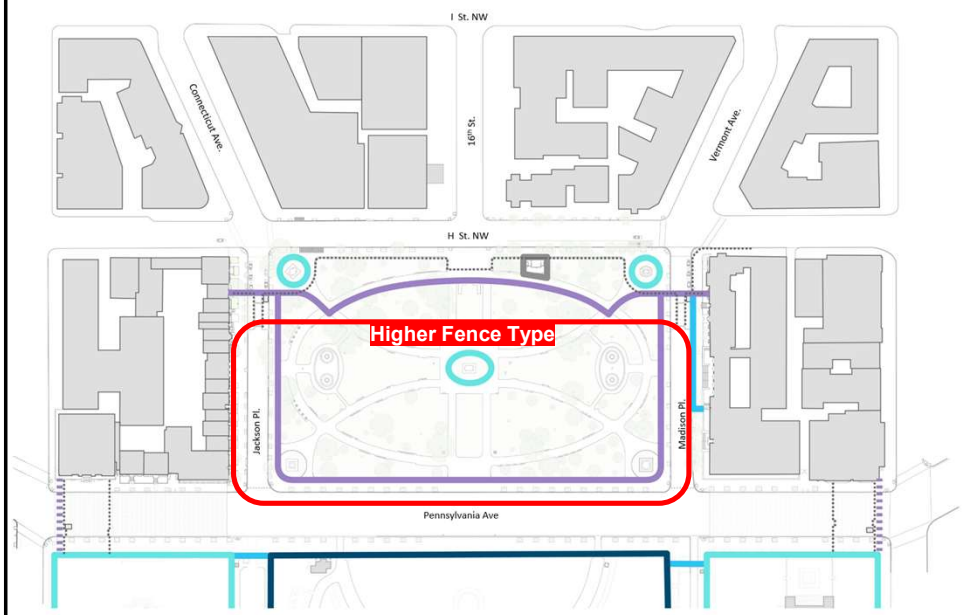


Alternative 2C: Crescent Alignment Options





NEW Recommended Alignment 2C: North Crescent



Alternate 2D: Crescent with Higher Fence

Alternative 2C: North Crescent Alignment Draft Renderings



H Street Looking East
North Crescent



Internal North Side Walk
North Crescent

Alternative 2C: North Crescent Alignment Draft Renderings



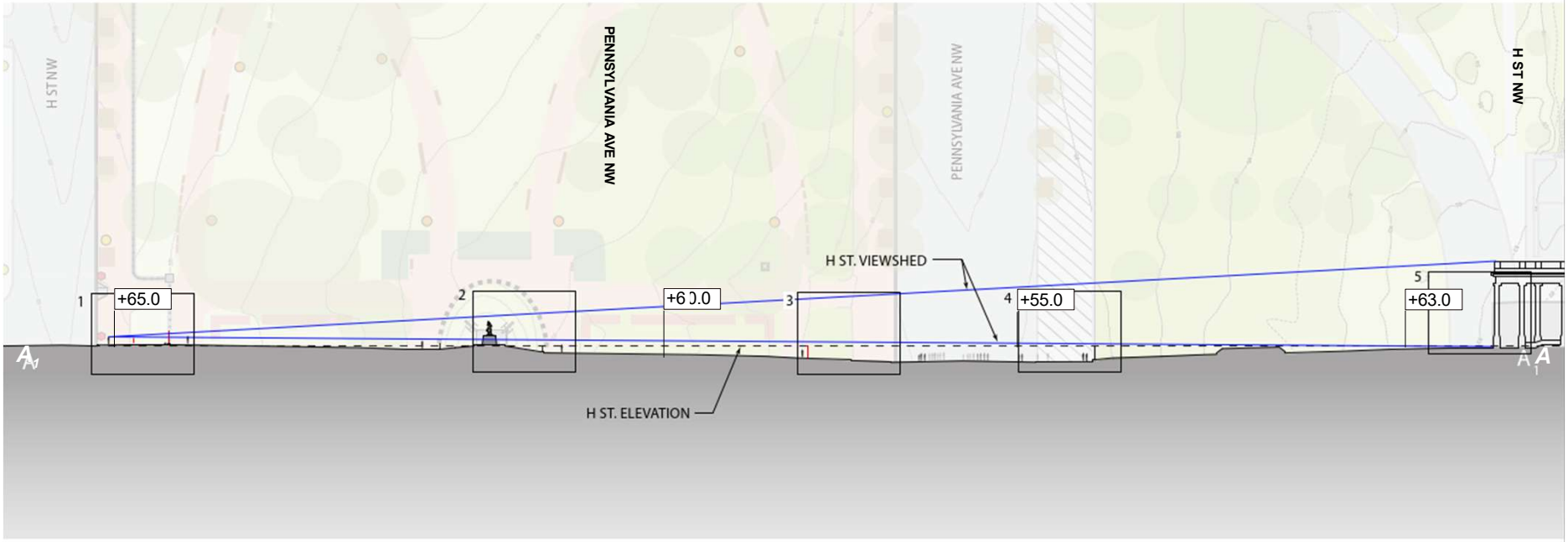
Jackson Statue Looking South
North Crescent

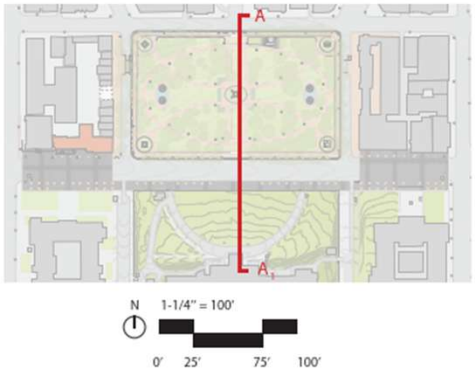


Pennsylvania Ave Looking North
North Crescent

North/South Axis Section

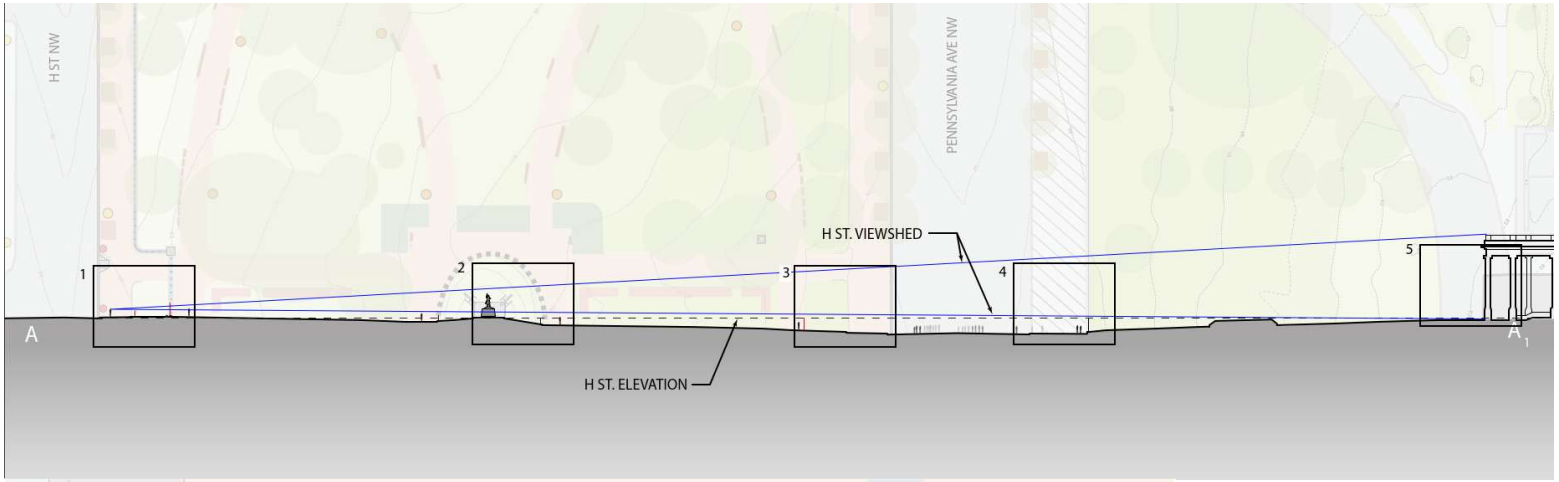
Elevation of the park is highest at the White House and H Street NW at 63 feet and 65 feet respectively, with a decline to 55 feet of elevation at Pennsylvania Avenue NW.

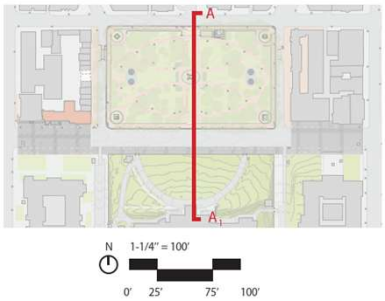


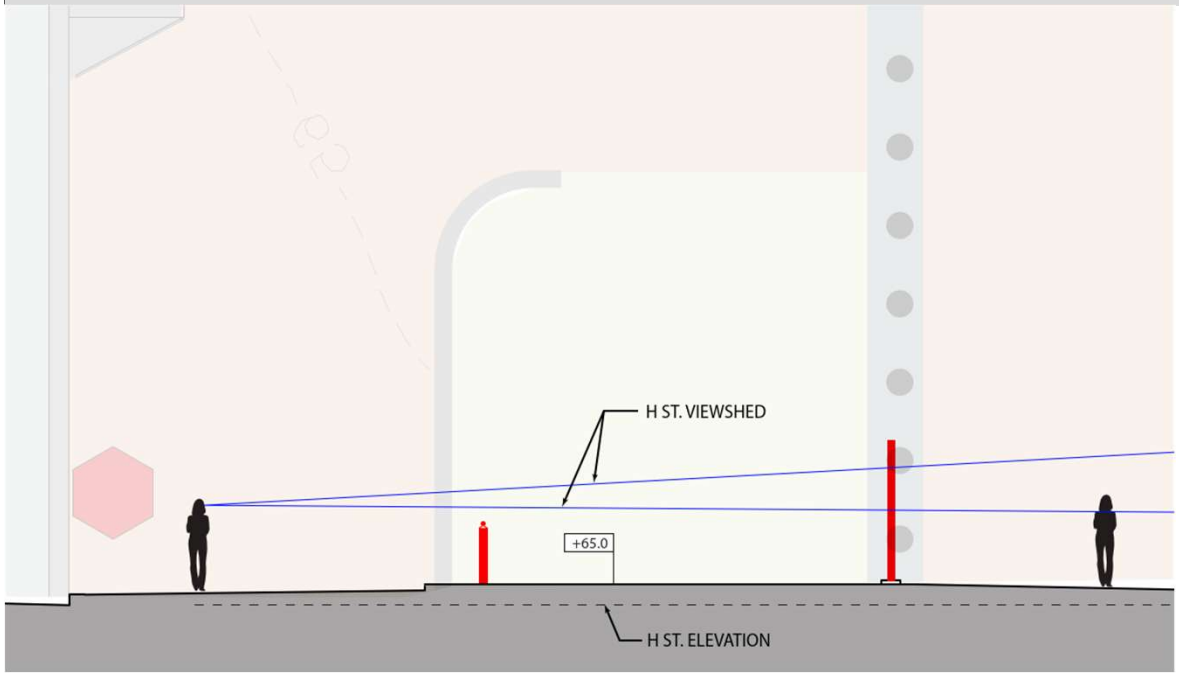


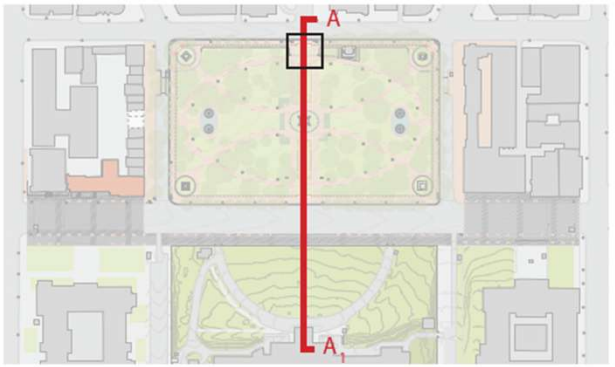
North/South Axis Overview & Section 1

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.







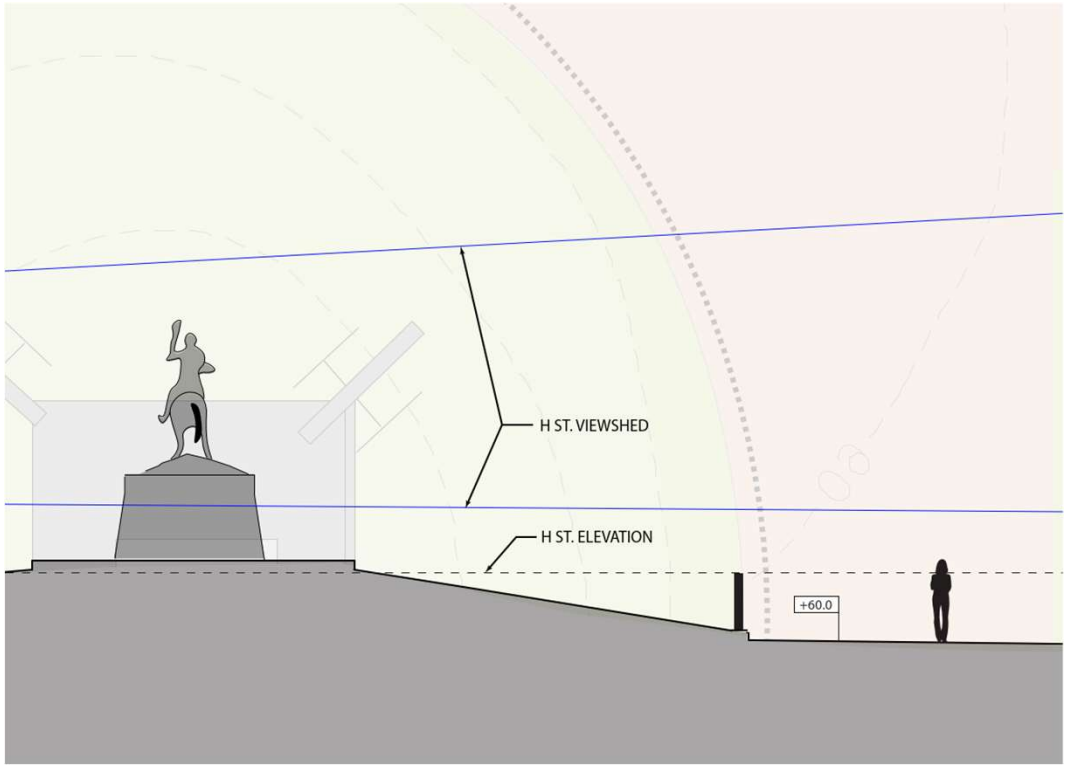


Section 1

REPRESENTATIVE CONDITIONS

North/South Axis Sections 2 & 3

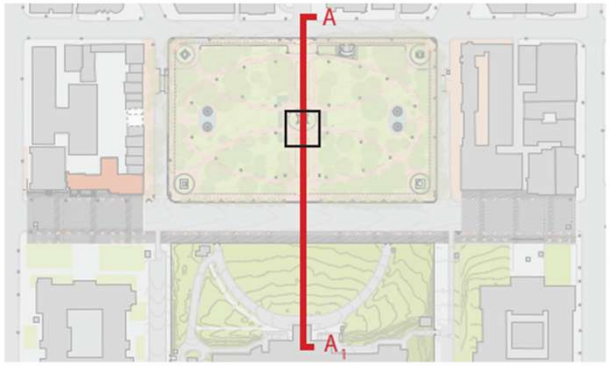
Section 2 and 3 of the site's North and South Axis section show the elevation and lines of sight from the middle of the park. Once past the proposed fencing or looking through a gate, the historic Andrew Jackson statue is visible and views are minimally interrupted. Based on the blue sight lines, a visitor 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.

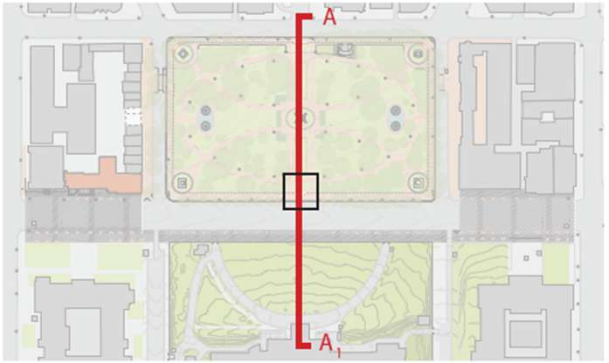


Section 2



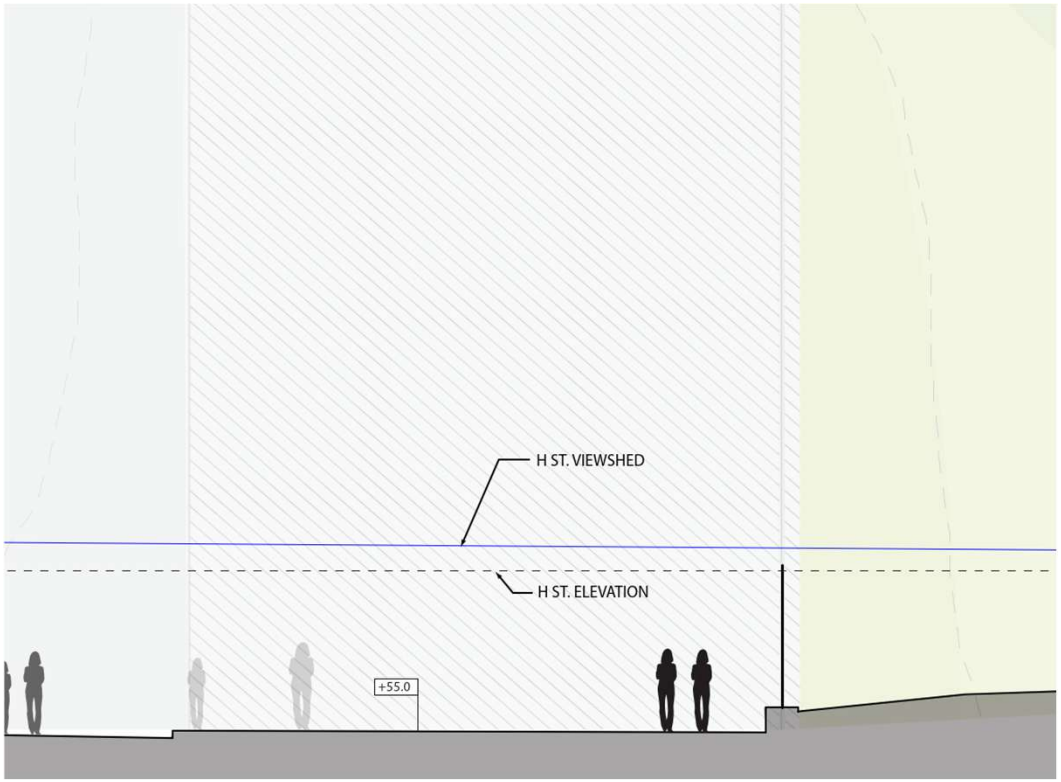
Section 3



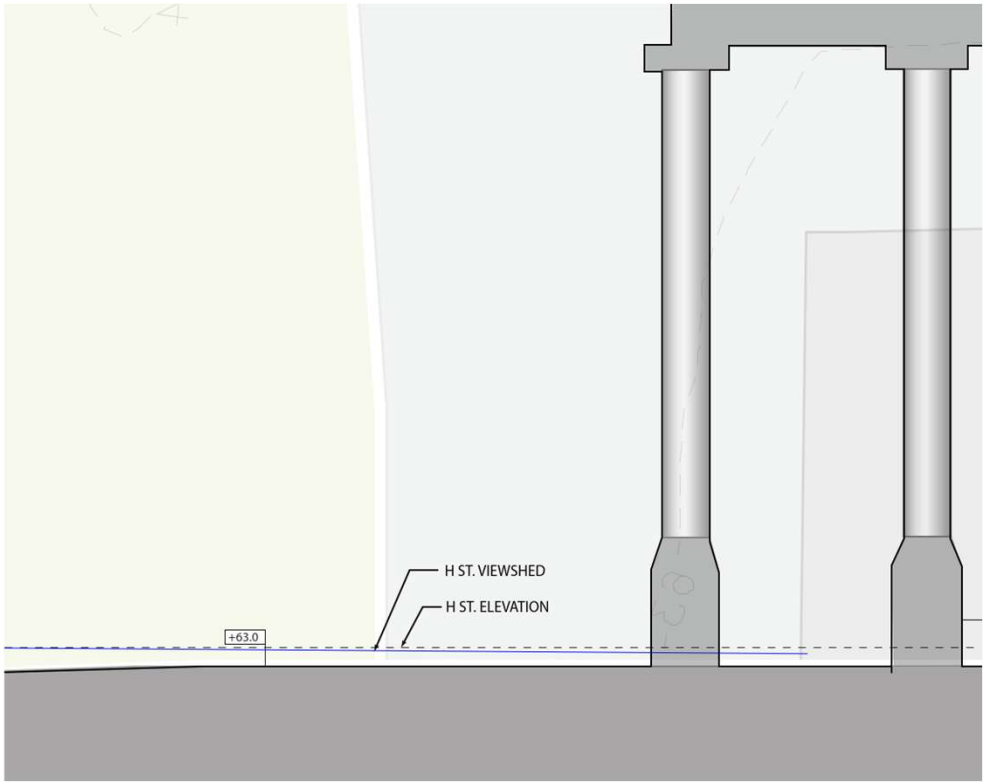


North/South Axis Sections 4 & 5

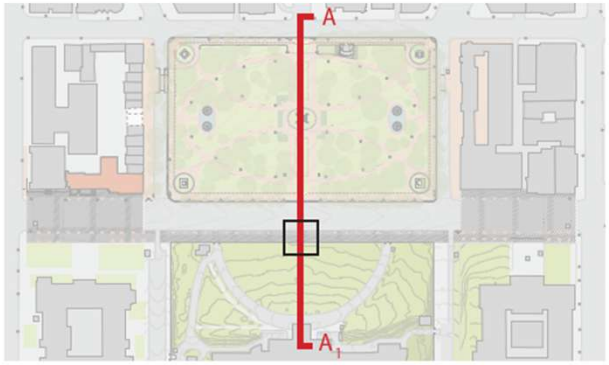
Sections 4 and 5 of the site's North and South Axis section show the elevation and lines of sight from the southern edge of Pennsylvania Avenue NW. Based on the blue sight lines, a visitor standing at the northern side of Lafayette Park would be able to see over the White House fence and be able to view 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.

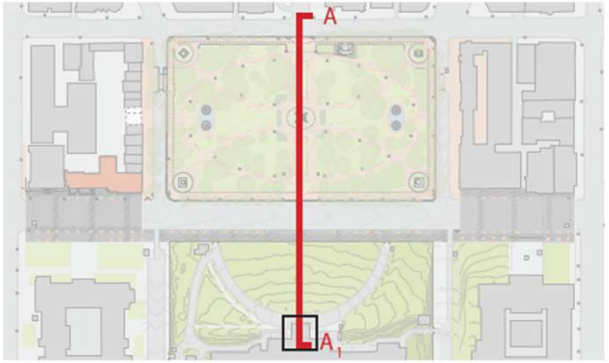


Section 4

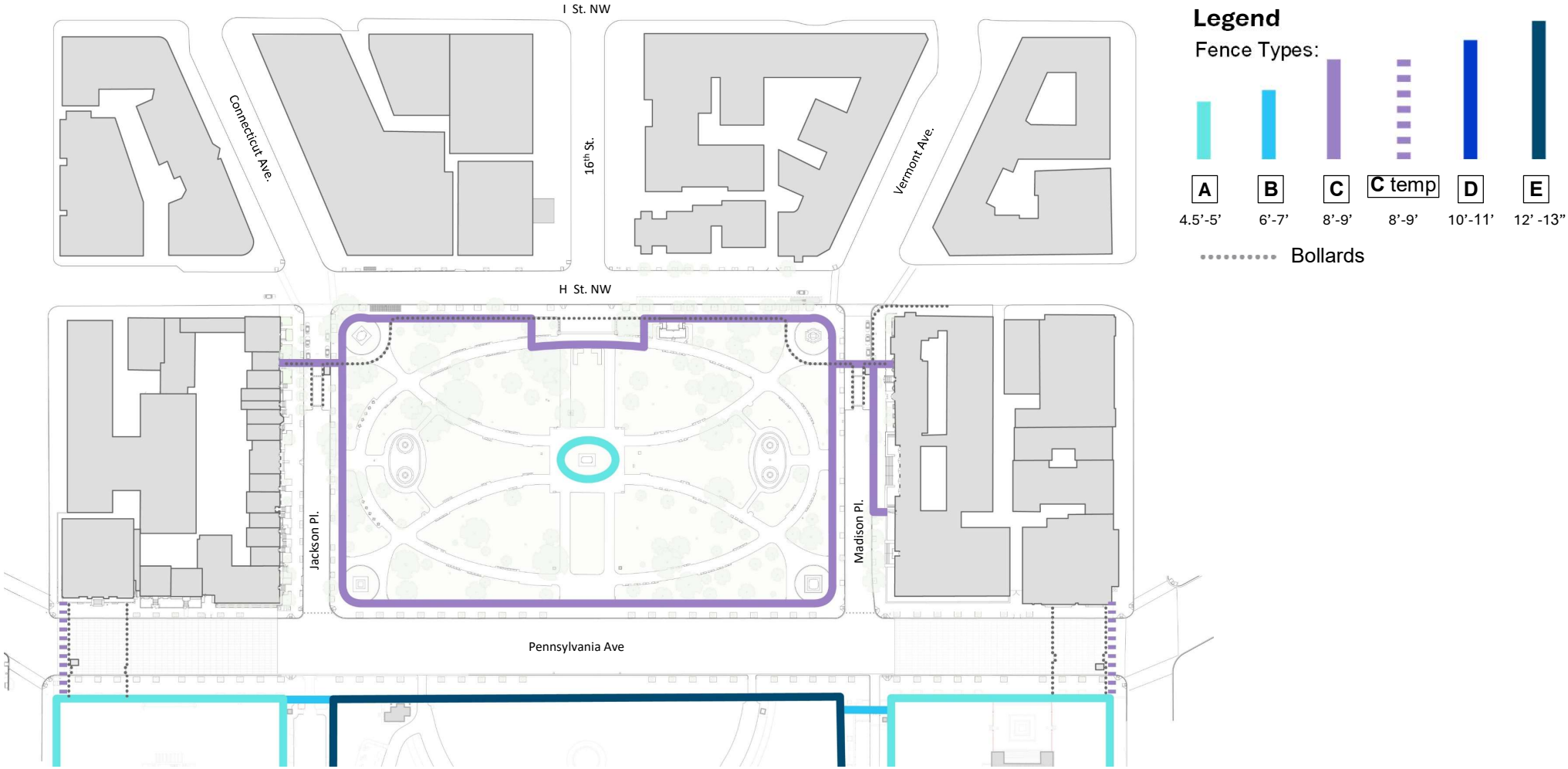


Section 5

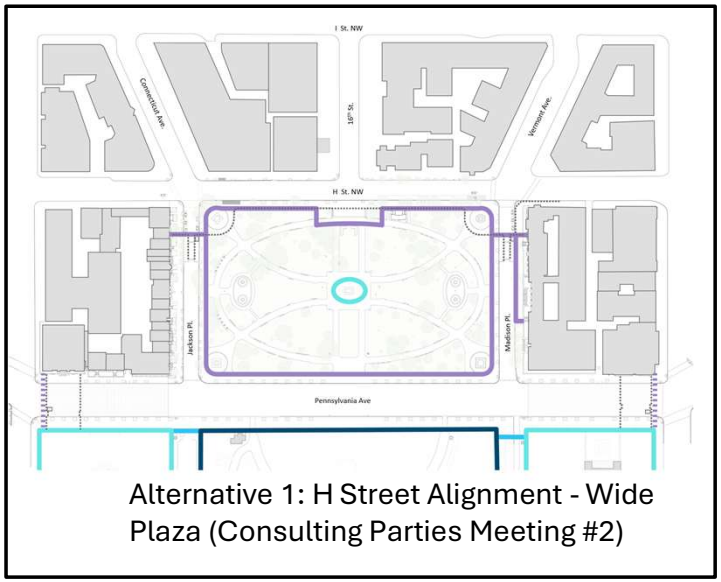




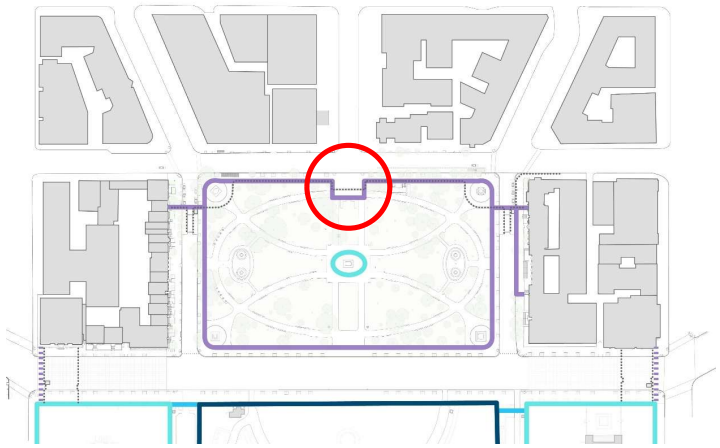
Alternative 1: H Street Alignment with Wide Plaza (shown at Consulting Parties Meeting #2)



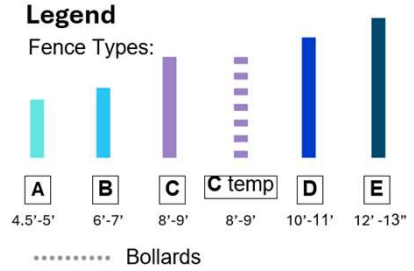
Alternative 1: H Street Alignment Options

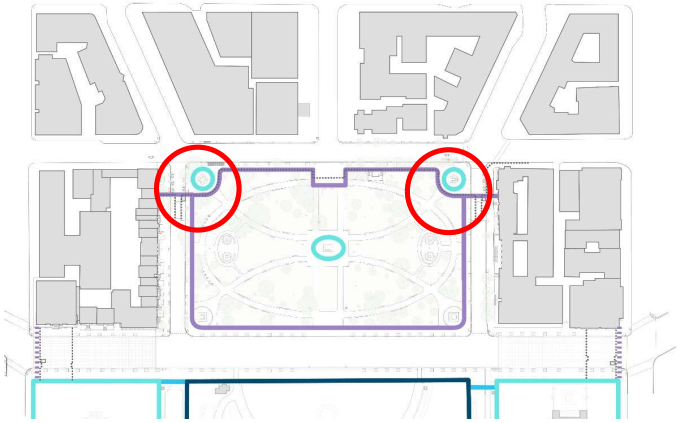


Alternative 1: H Street Alignment - Wide Plaza (Consulting Parties Meeting #2)

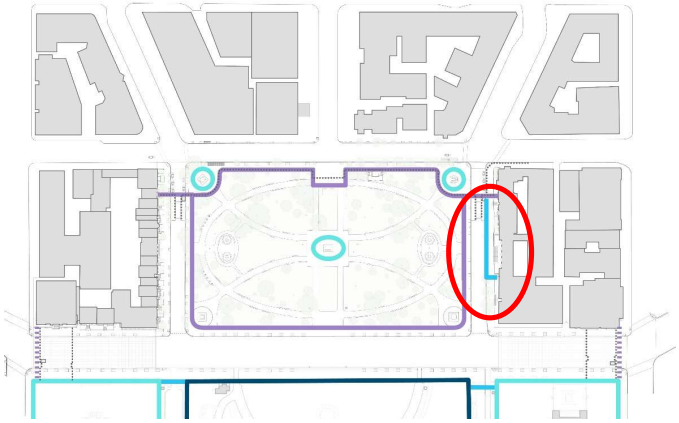


Alternative 1: H Street Alignment (Consulting Parties Meeting #1)

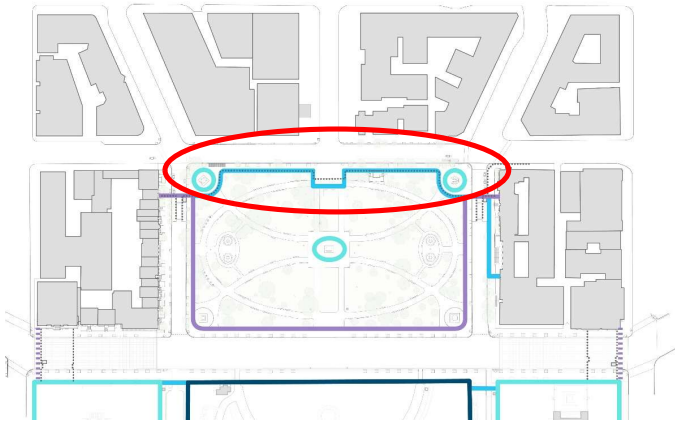




Alternative1A: Open NW and NE Corners Option



Alternative 1A: Open NW and NE Corners Option with Court Access Option



Option 4: Lower H Street Fence

Fence Type B on the north side does not meet the project's purpose.

Alternative 1: H Street Alignment Renderings



H Street Looking East
Alignment 1



Internal North Side Walk
Alignment 1

Alternative 1: H Street Alignment Renderings

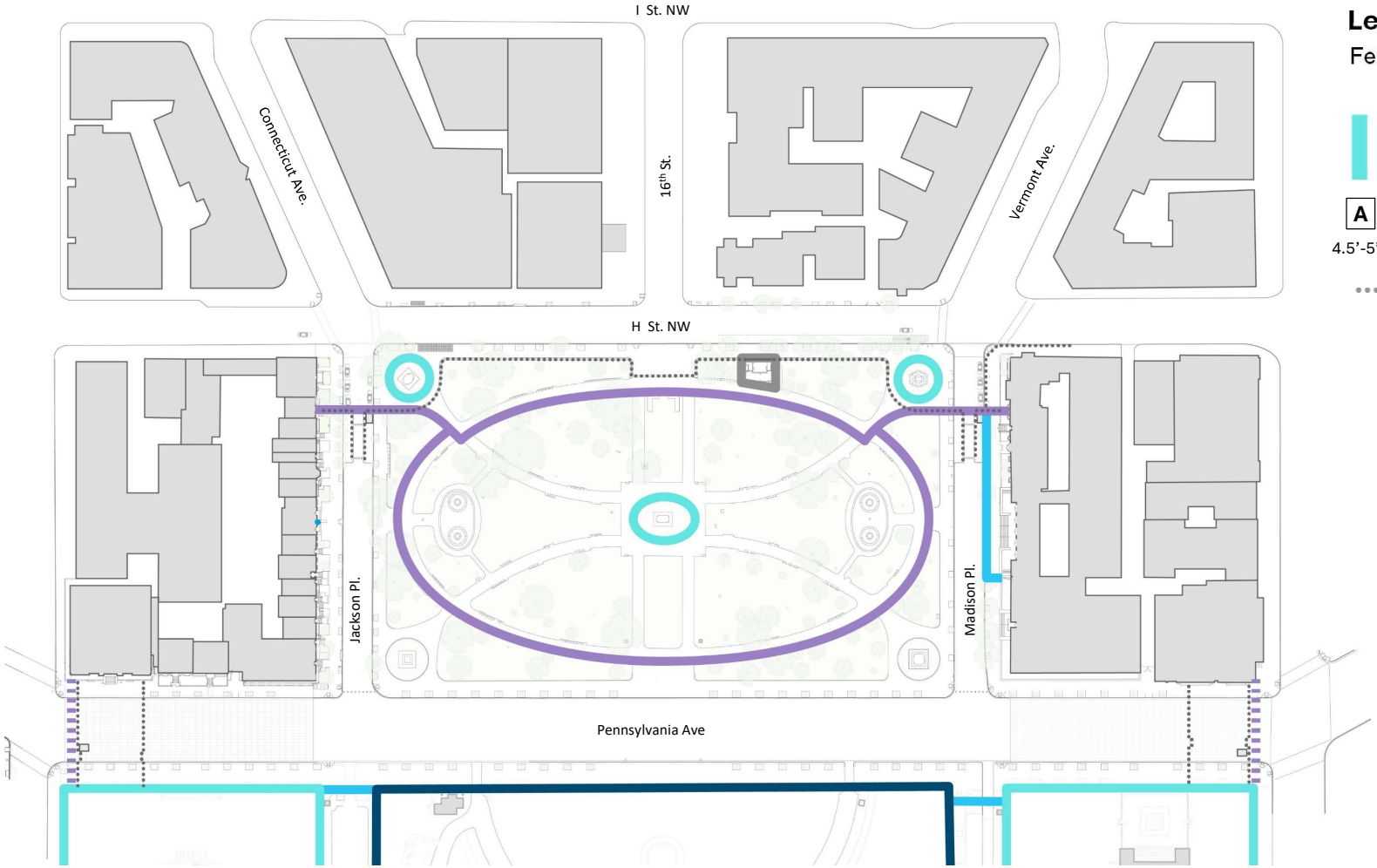


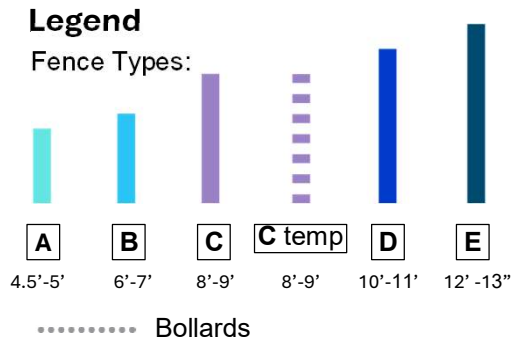
Jackson Statue Looking South
Alignment 1



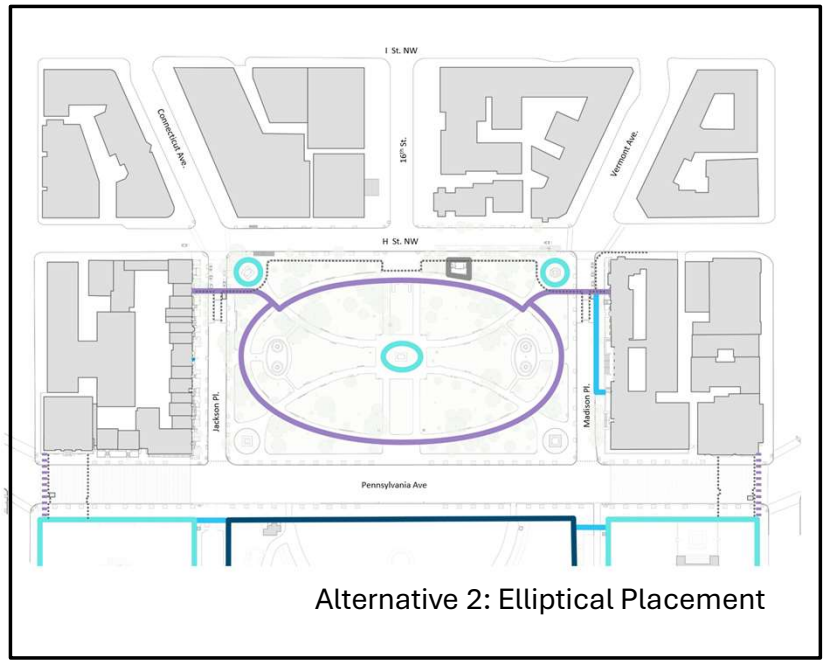
Pennsylvania Ave Looking North
Alignment 1

Alternative 2: Elliptical Alignment

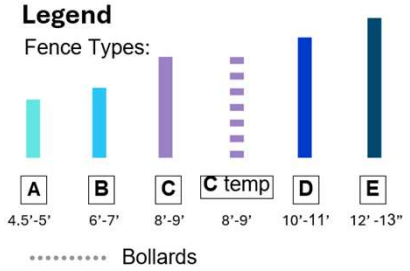


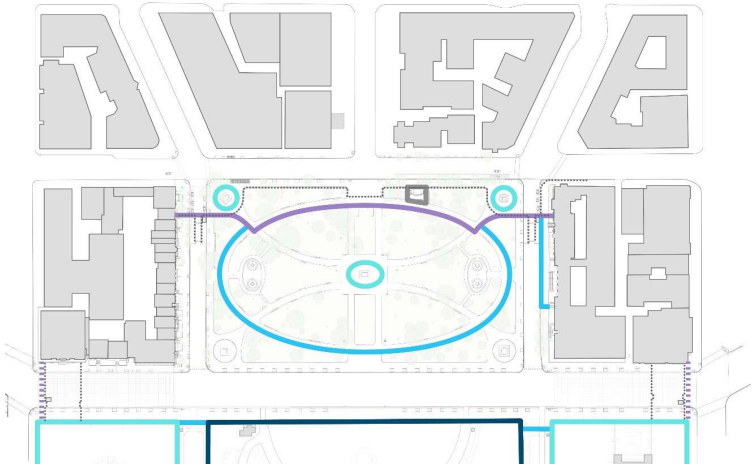


Alternative 2: Elliptical Alignment Options

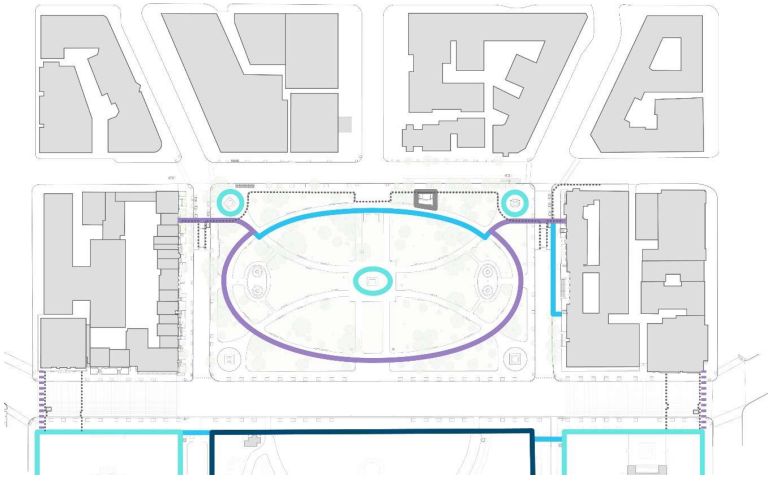


Alternative 2: Elliptical Placement





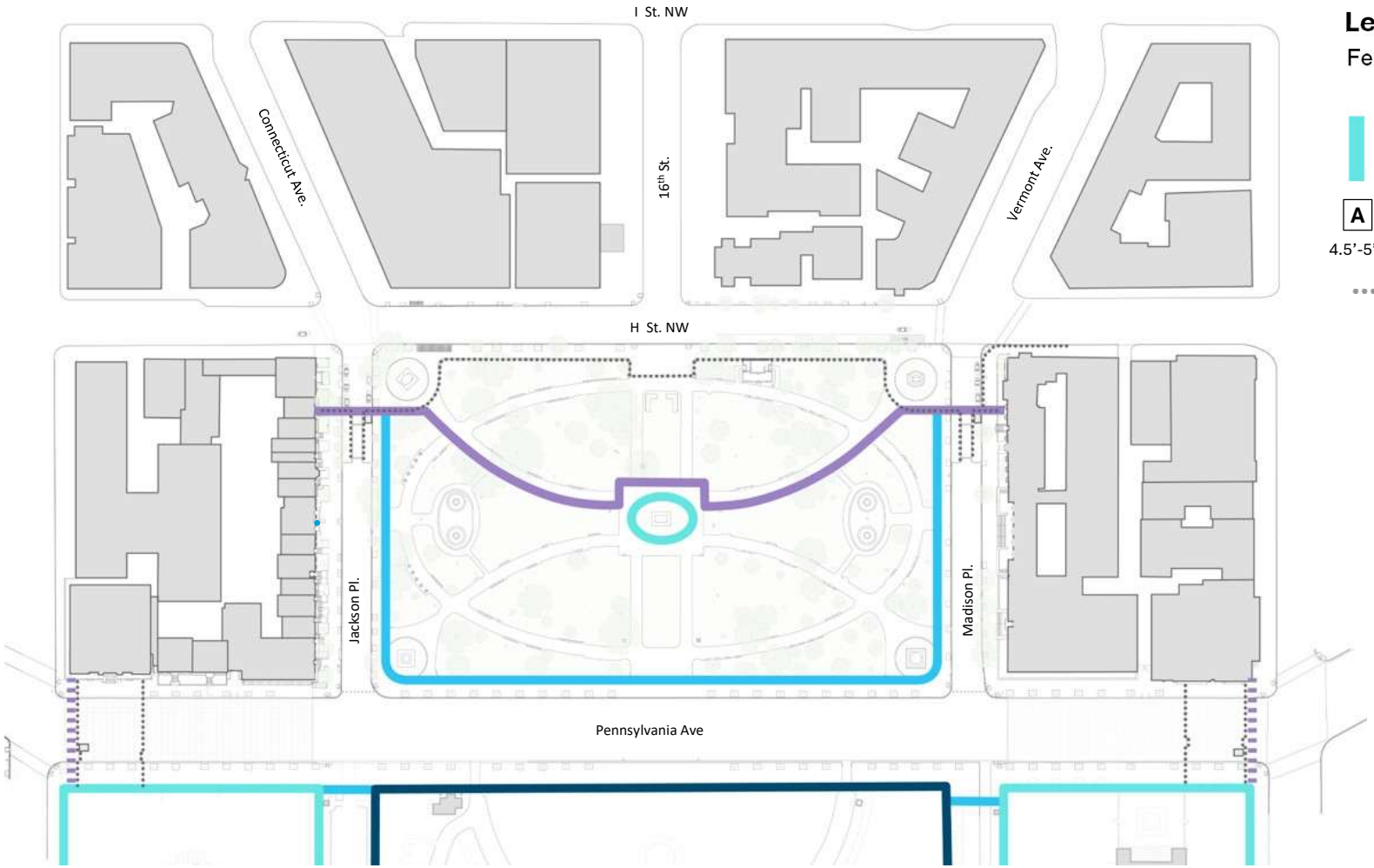
Alternate 2A: Elliptical Placement - High H Street Fence Option

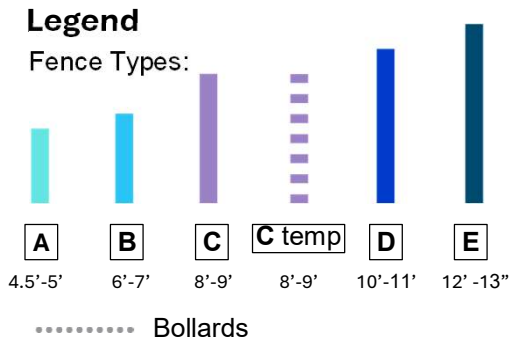


Alternate 2B: Elliptical Placement- Low H Street Fence Option

Fence Type B on the north side does not achieve the project's purpose.

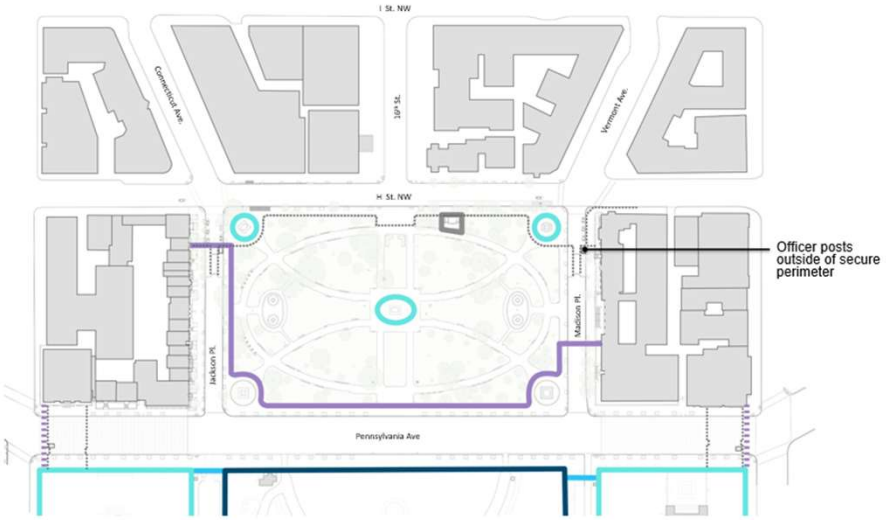
Alternative 3: Northern Bowl Alignment (Adapted October Conditions)

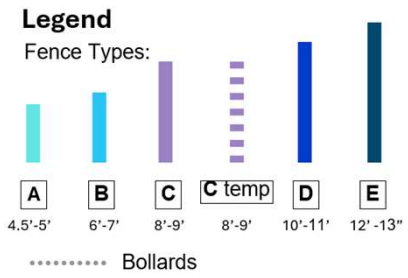




Other Alternatives Considered: Three-Sided Alignment

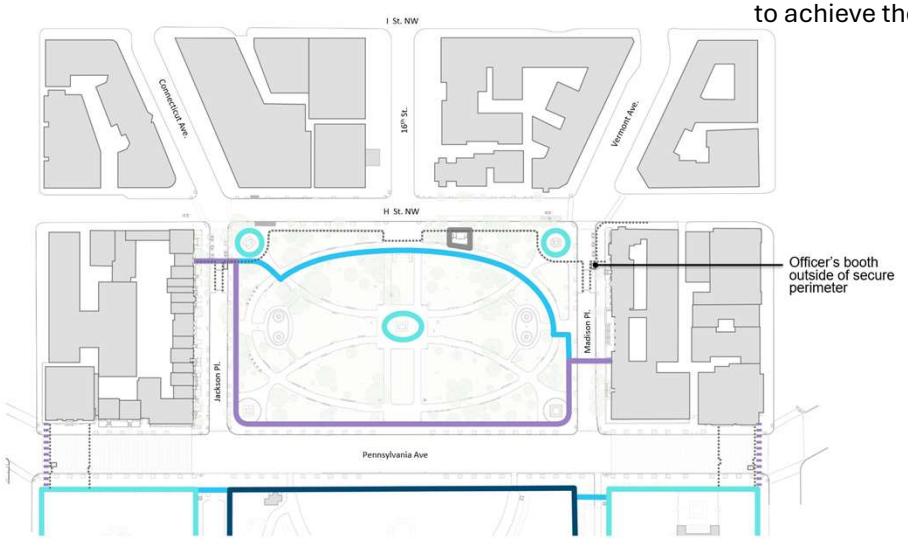
Additional options suggested by consulting parties were considered. These alignments would not continue the symmetrical design of the park by implementing uneven fencing standards throughout the park. Therefore, fencing three sides of Lafayette Park does not effectively meet the project's purpose.





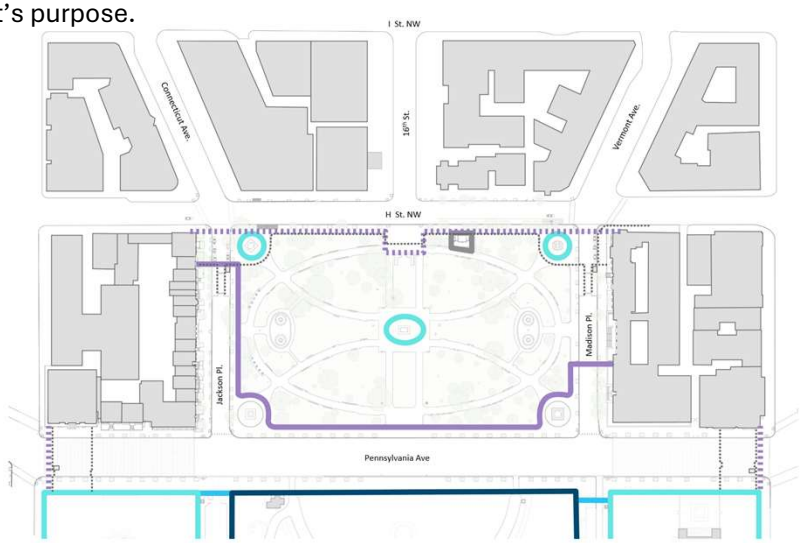
Option 5: 3 Sides

Fence Type C is required along the north side to achieve the project's purpose.



Option 5A: 3 Sides with Type B at Ellipse

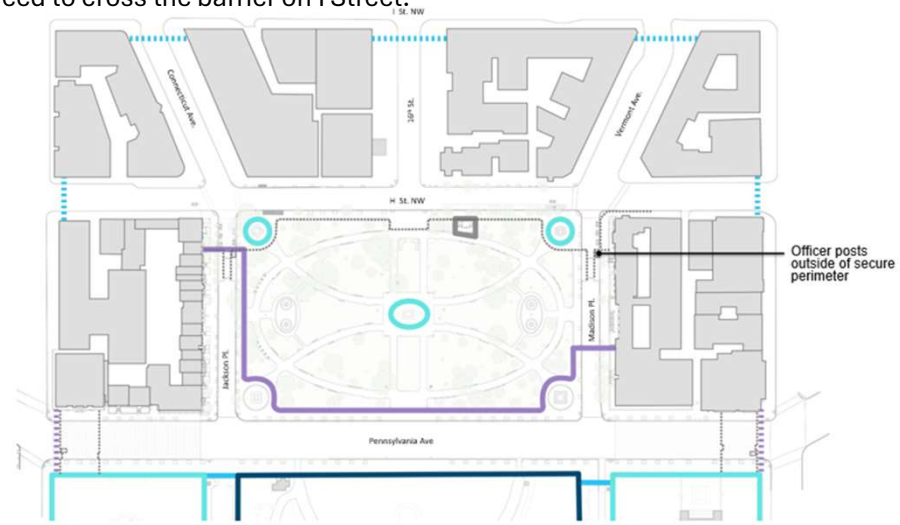
Fence Type B on the north side does not achieve the project's purpose.

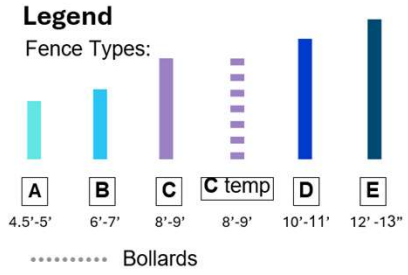


Option 5B: 3 Sides with Temporary Barrier at H Street

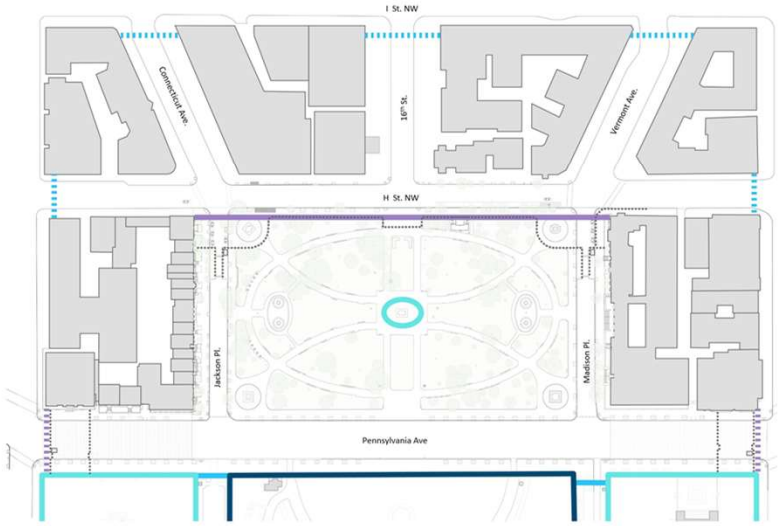
Other Alternatives Considered: I Street Alignment

Additional options suggested by consulting parties were considered. The below alignments would grossly affect the east/west vehicular traffic in the area north of the White House due to closures. These alignments would also require substantial law enforcement personnel and resources to maintain an extended perimeter. Therefore, fencing I Street does not effectively meet the project's purpose. Furthermore, it also places a burden on individuals going into the surrounding area as they would need to cross the barrier on I Street.

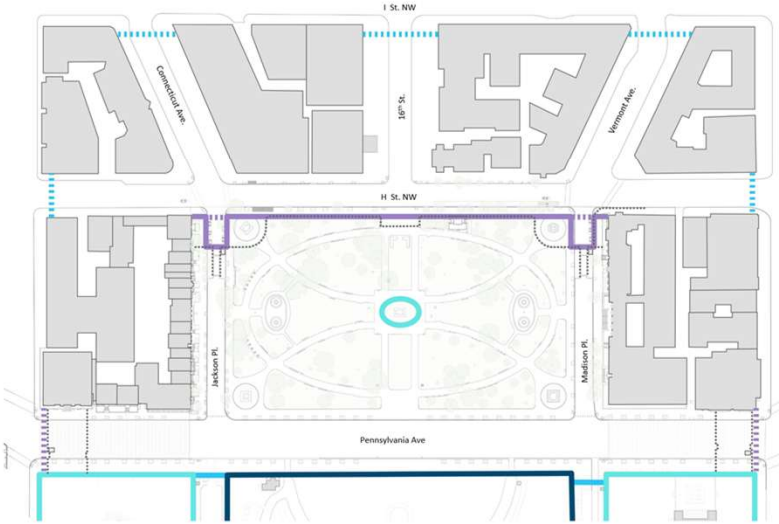




Option 1: Eye Street – Pennsylvania Ave



Option 6: Eye Street – H Street



Option 7: Eye Street – H Street

4. Initial Assessment of Effects

Initial Effects Analysis

Lafayette Square Historic District*/ The White House and President's Park Cultural Landscape

Anticipated **adverse effect** would occur due to the following:

- Proposed fence, including the elliptical alignment, would alter the historically open vistas toward Lafayette Park, diminishing its integrity of design and setting
- Proposed fence could remove rear wall of Lafayette Lodge (H Street Alignment)

Plan of the City of Washington (L'Enfant Plan)

Anticipated **adverse effect** would occur due to the following:

- Proposed fence would alter the historically open vistas toward Lafayette Park, diminishing its integrity of design and setting

Individual Resources

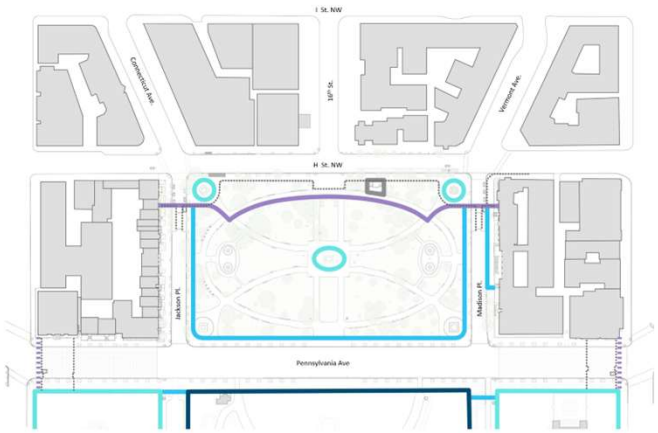
The proposed plan would have an anticipated **adverse effect** on the following properties within the APE due to the introduction of an incompatibly tall and permanent fence in its primary viewshed, impacting its integrity of setting. These include:

- American Peace Society
- Benjamin Ogle Tayloe House
- Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Headquarters
- St. John's Church
- St. John's Parish House
- Stephen Decatur House
- U.S. Chamber of Commerce



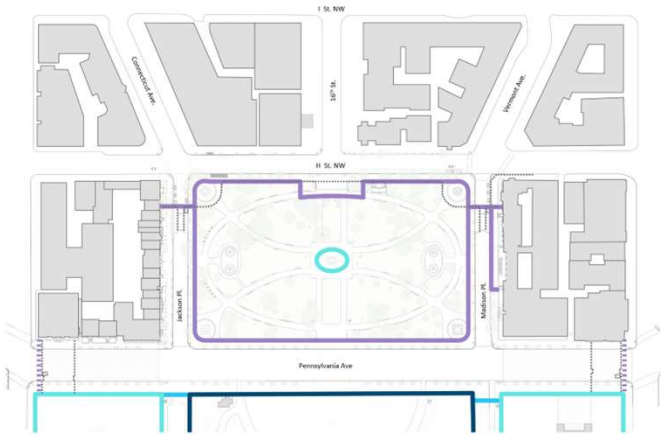
Library of Congress, Survey of The White House and President's Park

Analysis of Alignments



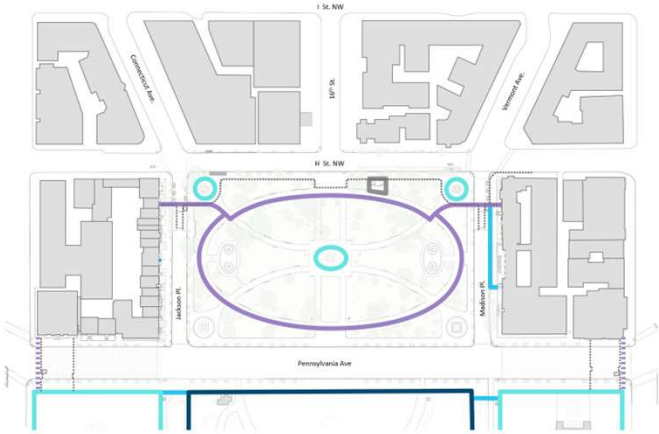
NEW Recommended Alignment 2C: North Crescent

- Offers largest gathering area for First Amendment activities during park closure
- Requires modifications to secure Lafayette Lodge
- Minimizes visual impact of northern fence through curved shape
- Separates bollard line from the fence line allowing for increased visual porosity of proposed fence.
- Minimizes amount of fencing around statues
- Inserts elliptical fence shape along the north that is without precedent at the site



Alternative 1: H Street Alignment – Wide Plaza (Consulting Parties Meeting #2)

- Reflects previous historical fence alignment around park
- Expands plaza area for First Amendment activities during park closure
- Offers greatest continuous area for First Amendment activities during typical park conditions
- Results in greatest resource impact to historic properties adjacent to Lafayette Park



Alternative 2: Elliptical Placement

- Offers largest gathering area for First Amendment activities during park closure
- Requires modifications to secure Lafayette Lodge
- Minimizes visual impact of fence through curved shape
- Minimizes amount of fencing around statues
- Introduces new fence shape with no historic precedence
- Results in greatest bifurcation of spatial site organization

Effects Analysis: No Action Alternative

The continuation of existing conditions would result in the same **temporary adverse effects** to historic properties as the proposed action.

Existing practices on the project site would continue, including:

- Continuation of long-term, temporary, and ad-hoc placement of tall, incompatible security fencing, steel barriers, and Jersey barriers
- Continuation of park closures to the visiting public during times of heightened security.
- Retention of the current use of incohesive and incompatible fencing and barriers
- Continuation of impacts to the historic character of the surrounding area and significant views and vistas
- Continuation of repeated costs to deploy temporary security fencing



2006

Efforts to Avoid, Minimize, and Mitigate Adverse Effects

Adverse effects to historic properties, while still present, have been **minimized** through the following proposed measures:

- Removal of temporary bike rack barriers and large-scale temporary fencing, which present an inconsistent and generally incompatible appearance
- Appropriate design of the fence and its material
- Implementation of an alignment that largely follows the historic alignment of the 19th century iron fence (H Street Alignment only)
- Addition of operable gates at the central north-south axis to allow for open and unobscured vistas toward the White House
- Incorporation of a setback at the H Street NW gates that honors and allows for the continued use of the space as a plaza/ gathering place/ area for First Amendment activities when the park is closed
- Preservation of existing red brick paving in the park

Potential mitigation measures include the following:

- Establishment of quantifiable and enforceable provisions to ensure that Lafayette Park does not remain closed in the absence of clear and present threats



Lafayette Park North Entrance, 2026

5. Discussion

6. Next Steps

Next Steps

- Receive Consulting Parties comments from November 4th meeting
- Develop Perimeter Security Master Plan
- Identify and refine preferred alternatives
- Continue consultation with Consulting Parties



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

Appendix

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

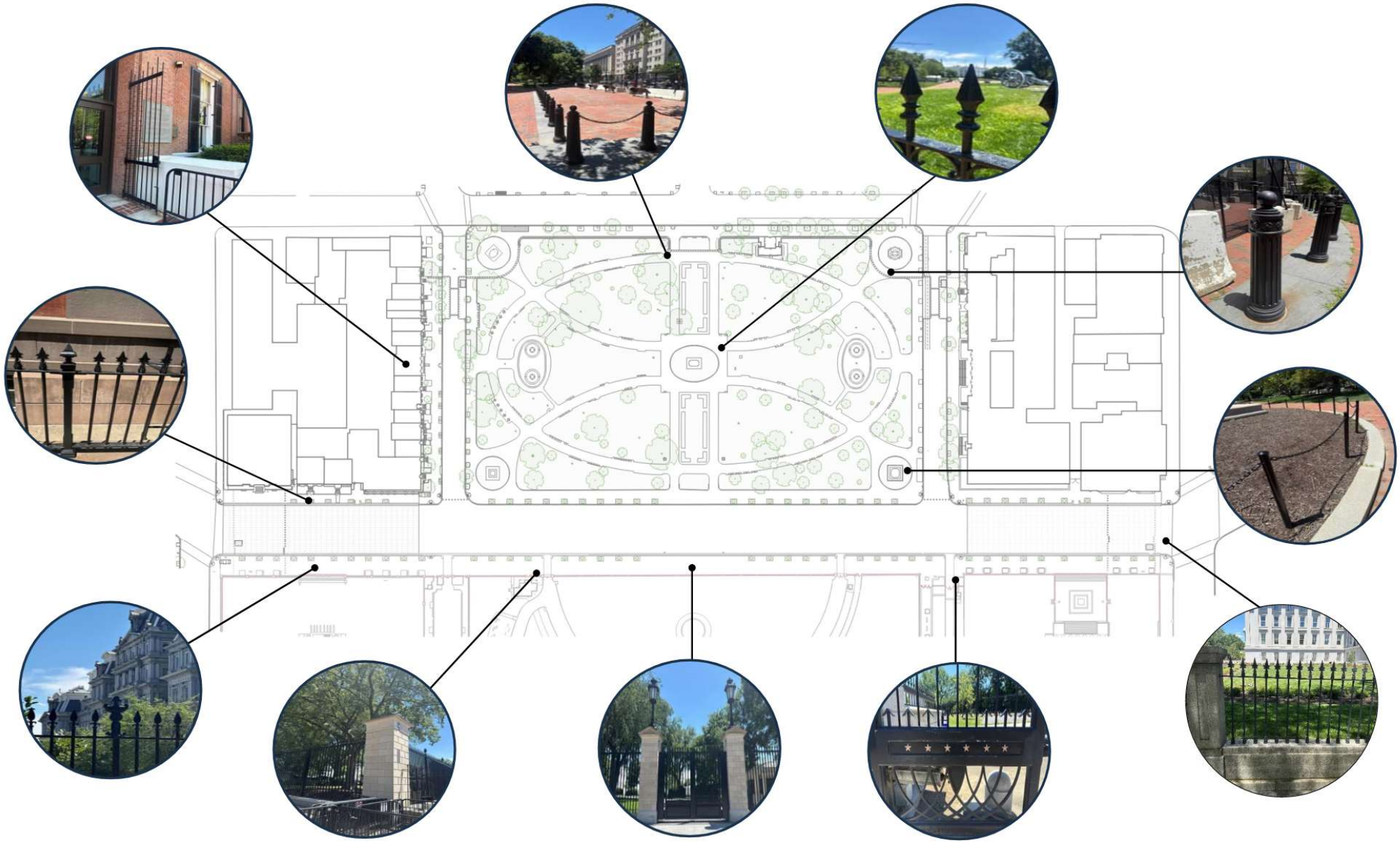


Squared Bollard Cover

APPENDIX

Fence Character Plan

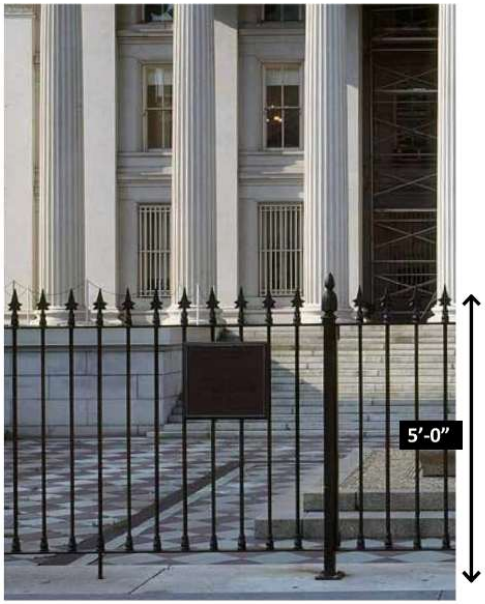
The project area includes historic Lafayette Park and intersections with Pennsylvania Avenue NW, which has had more recent interventions that are more contemporary in character.



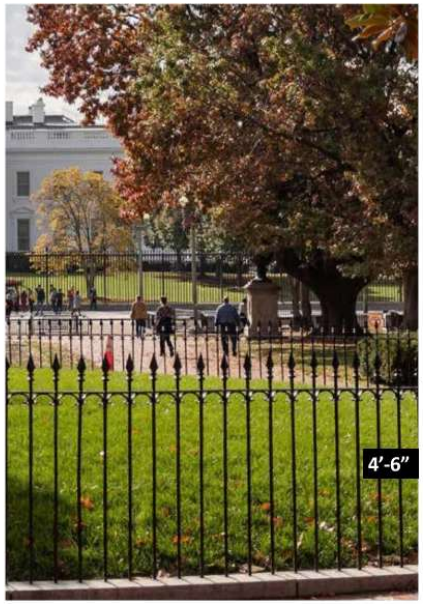
APPENDIX

Current and Historic Fences

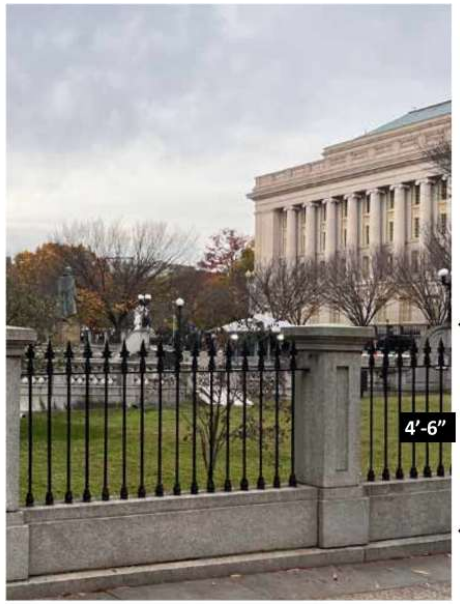
The project area has had multiple fencing types over time.



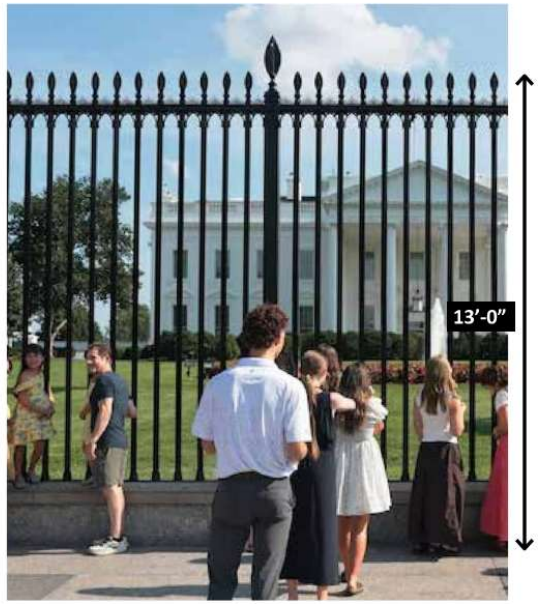
TREASURY BUILDING



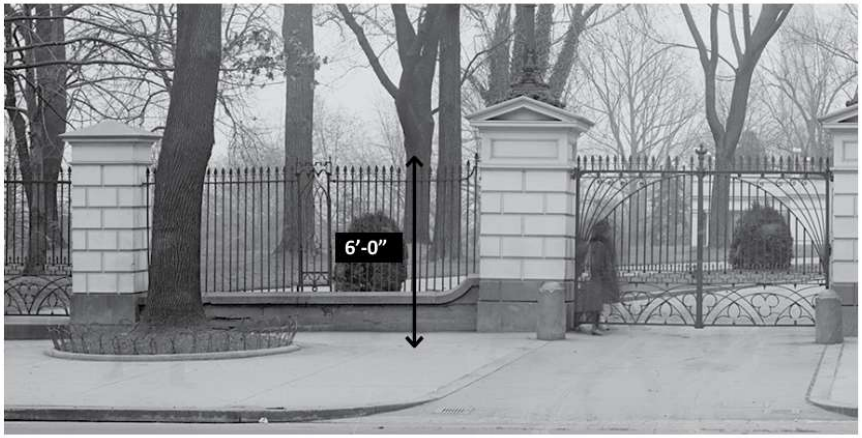
ANDREW JACKSON STATUE



EISENHOWER EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING



WHITE HOUSE FENCE



HISTORIC WHITE HOUSE FENCE



HISTORIC LAFAYETTE PARK FENCE

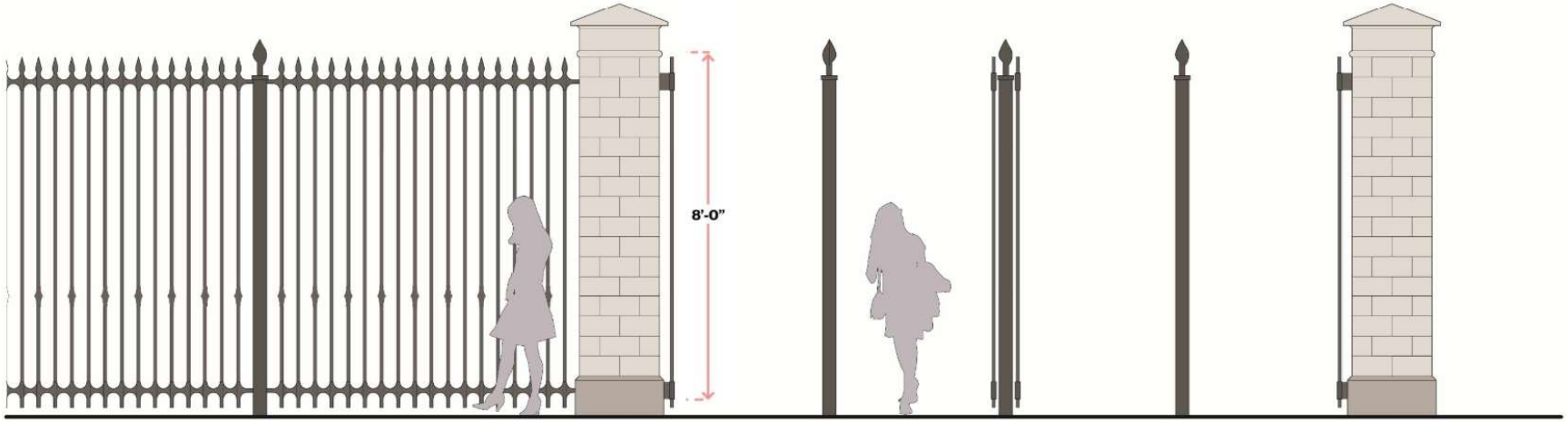


HISTORIC LAFAYETTE PARK FENCE
(Current location at Gettysburg National Cemetery)

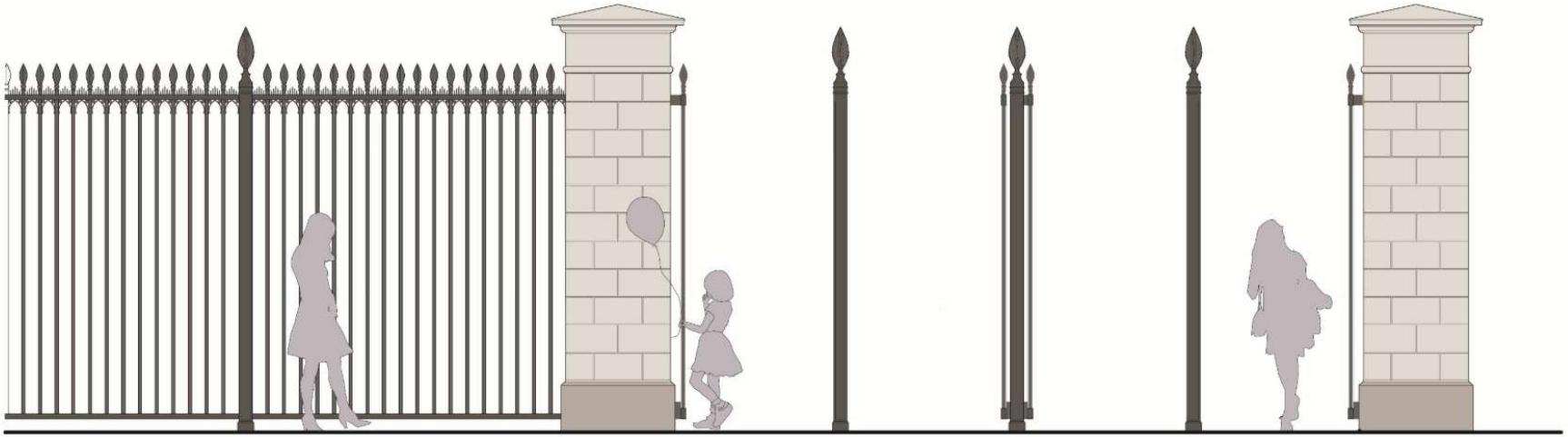
APPENDIX

Exploration: Incorporation of White House Fence Character

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





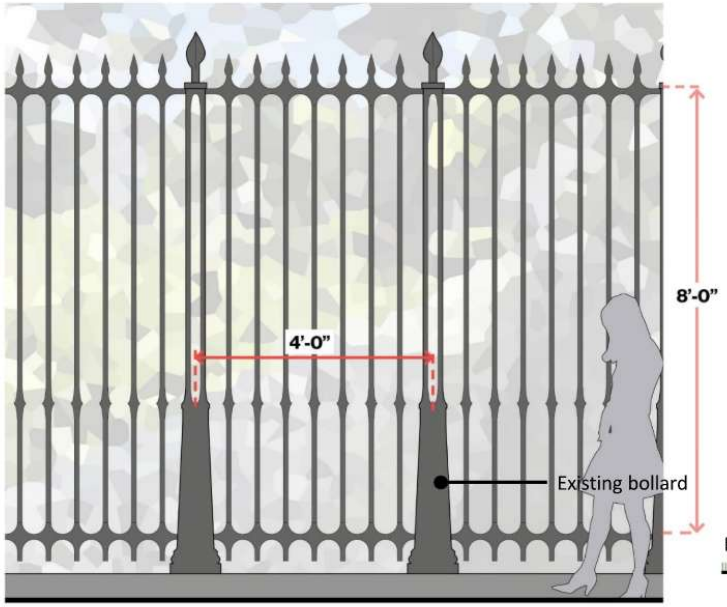




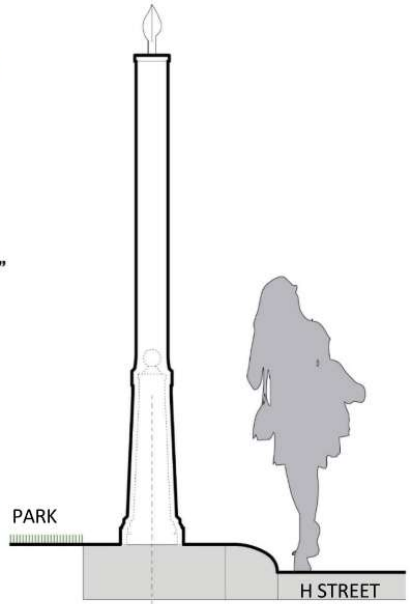
APPENDIX

H Street Integrated Bollard and Standard Fence

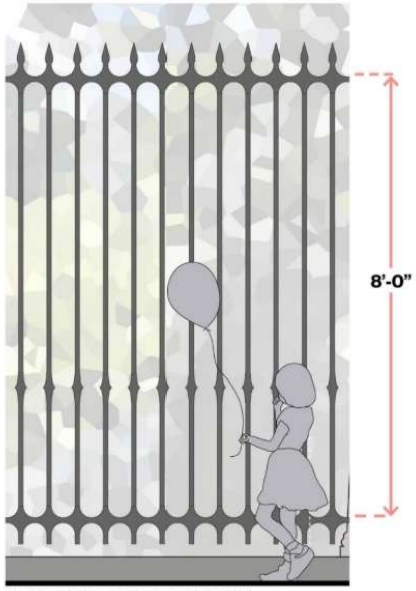
The left side of this page illustrates the recommended approach for Lafayette Park along H Street NW, which includes 4" spacing and incorporation of existing bollards tapering towards the top of the fence, except at the gates; this option is the recommended alternative, should the alignment follow the existing bollards. The right side of the page illustrates the standard fence along Madison Place NW, Jackson Place NW, and Pennsylvania Avenue NW where bollards are not present.



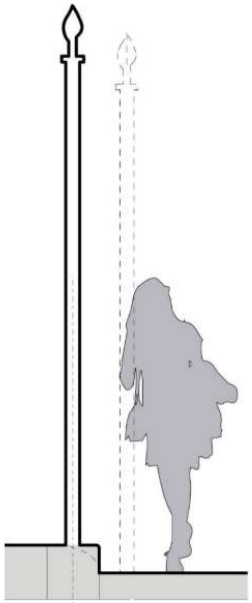
FENCE ELEVATION AT H STREET

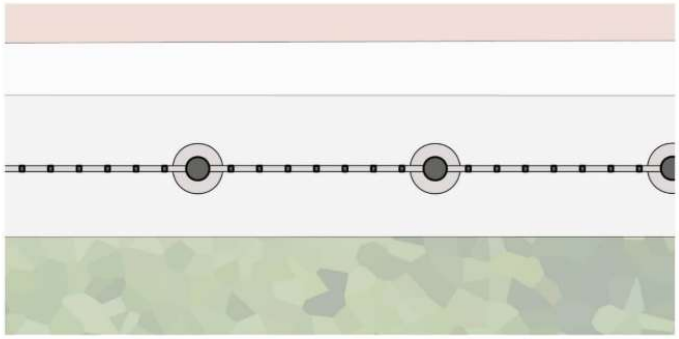


FENCE SECTION

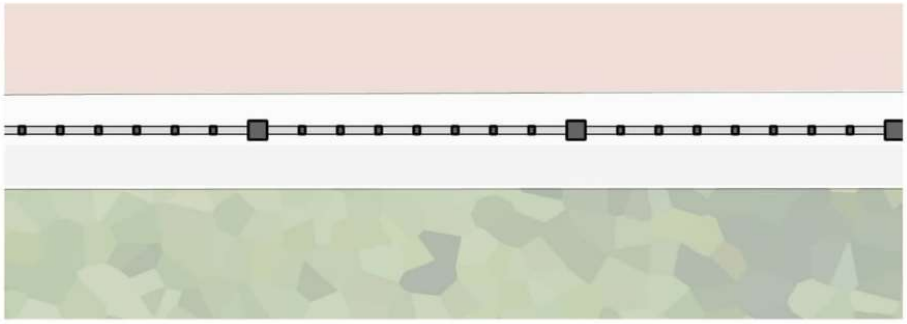


STANDARD FENCE ELEVATION


STANDARD FENCE SECTION


FENCE PLAN


PAINTED STEEL

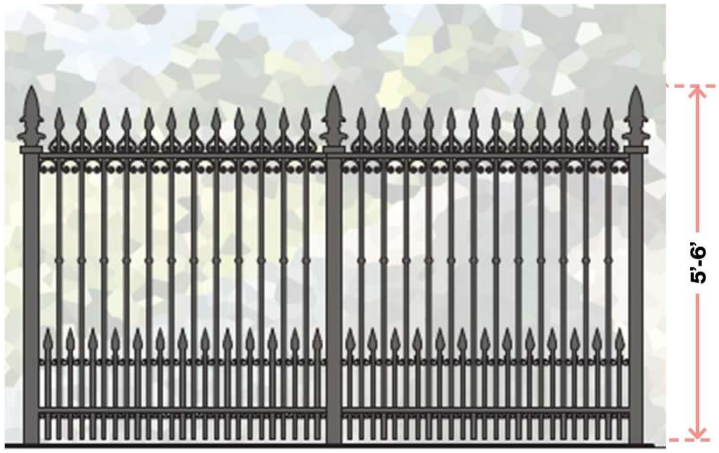

FENCE PLAN

Historic Fence: Lafayette Park Fence Heights and Elements

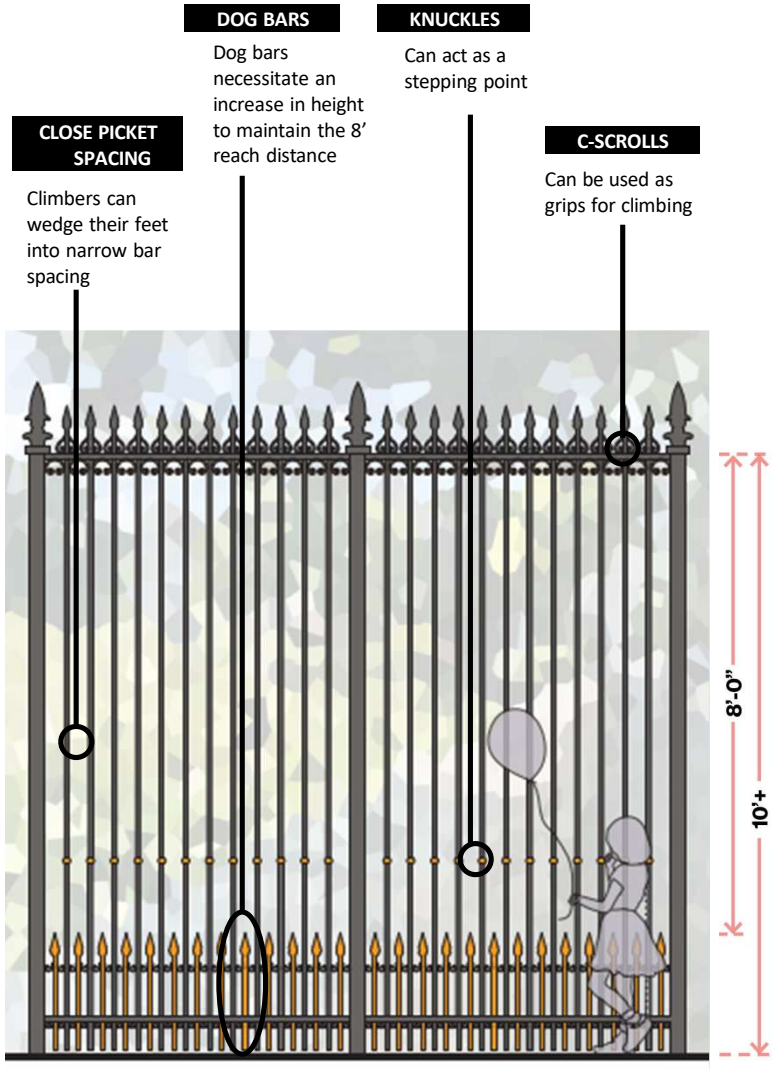
In the past, Lafayette Park had a 5'-6' fence enclosing the park. Below is an image of the original historical fence, currently located at Gettysburg National Cemetery. An illustration below that image shows the original dimensions of the historical fence. Due to present day security needs, the proposed 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



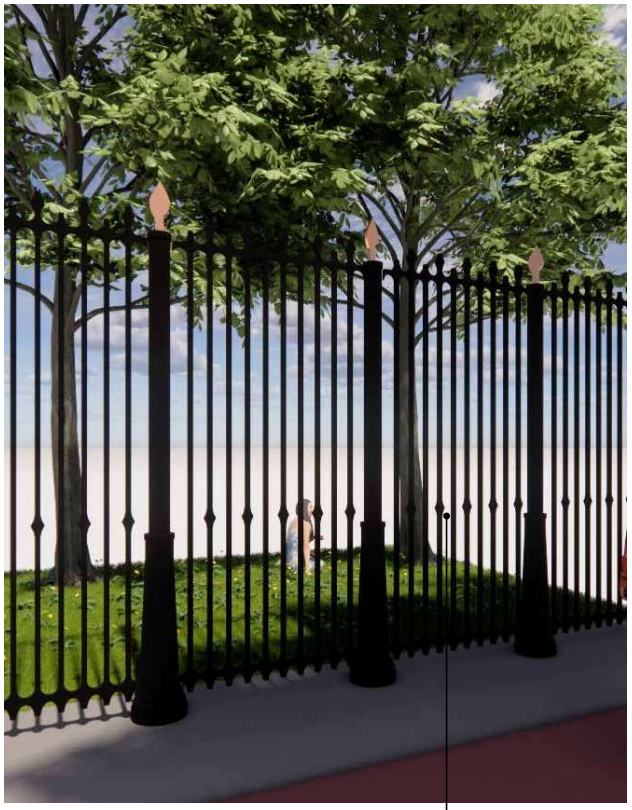
Historic Fence - At Required Height

APPENDIX

Picket Spacing: Lafayette Park

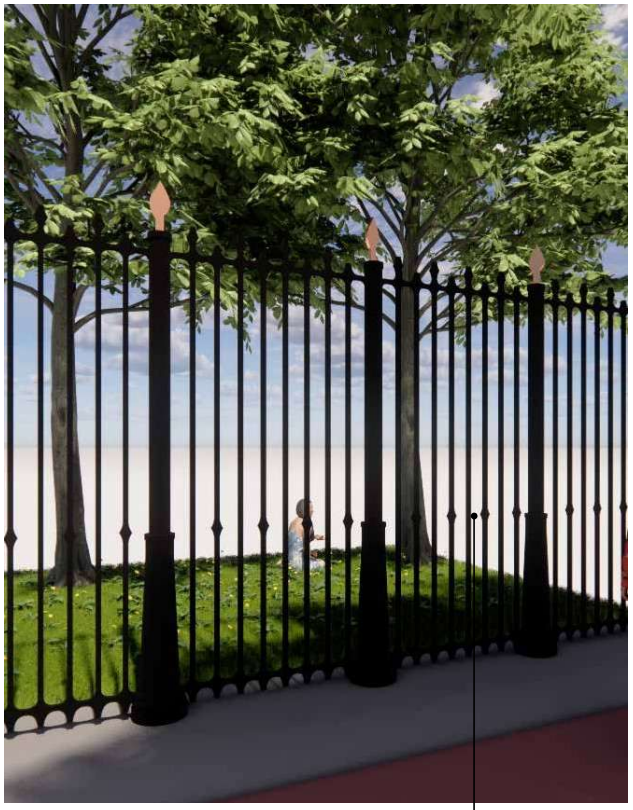
The suggested approach to picket spacing would meet security requirements while still appearing porous and allowing views.

Recommended Alternative



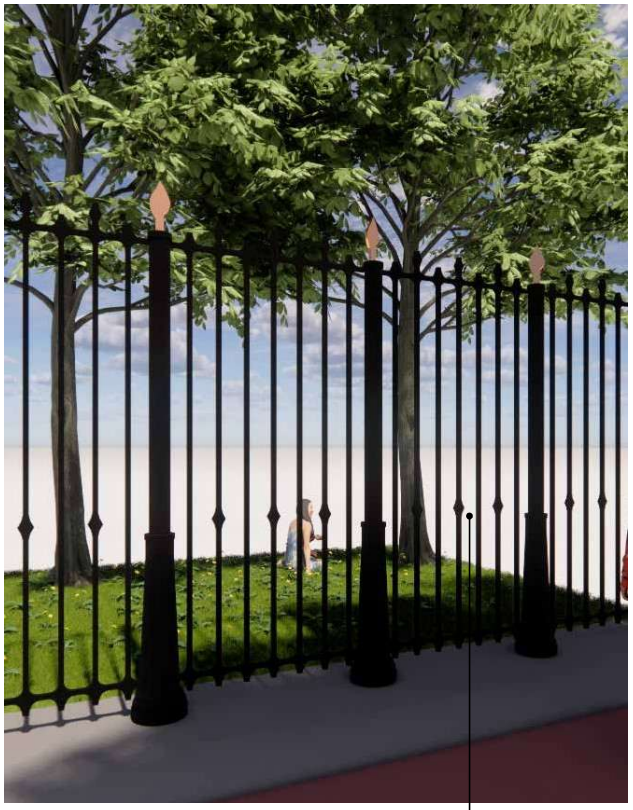
3” SPACING BETWEEN PICKETS

Narrow spacing obstructs views



4” SPACING BETWEEN PICKETS

4” maximum to prevent passing of a child through opening



5” SPACING BETWEEN PICKETS

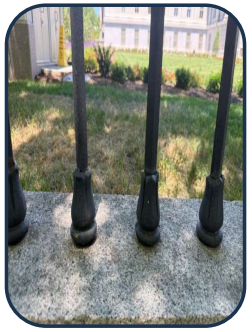
Spacing is too wide to create a secure fence

Character Exploration: Lafayette Park Design Elements

Displayed to the right, various post finials, picket finials, and picket elements including fence bases and knuckles, are positioned throughout Lafayette Square* and President's Park. Below are some potential options for these design elements which will align with the character of the park as well as security standards.

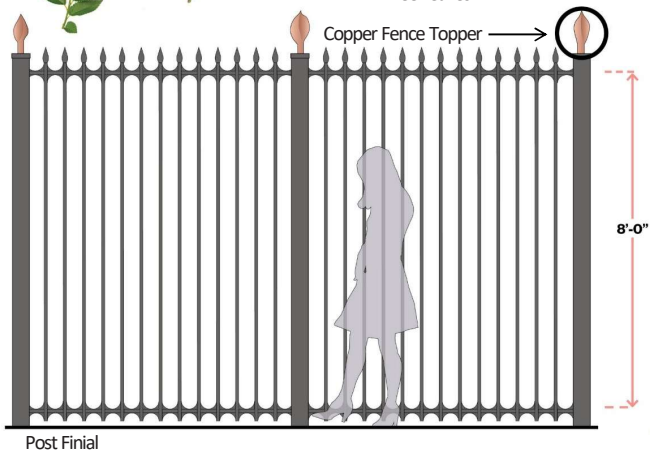




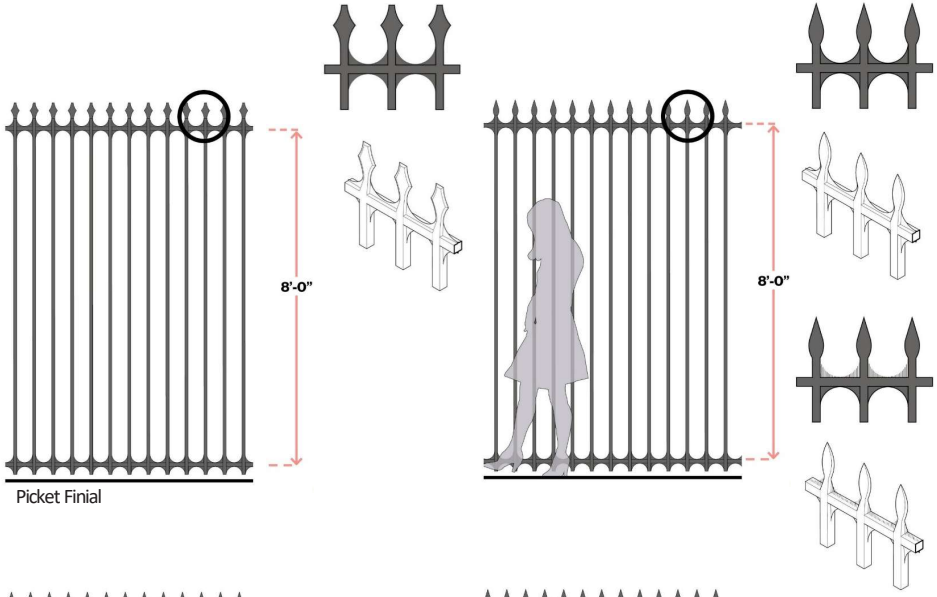




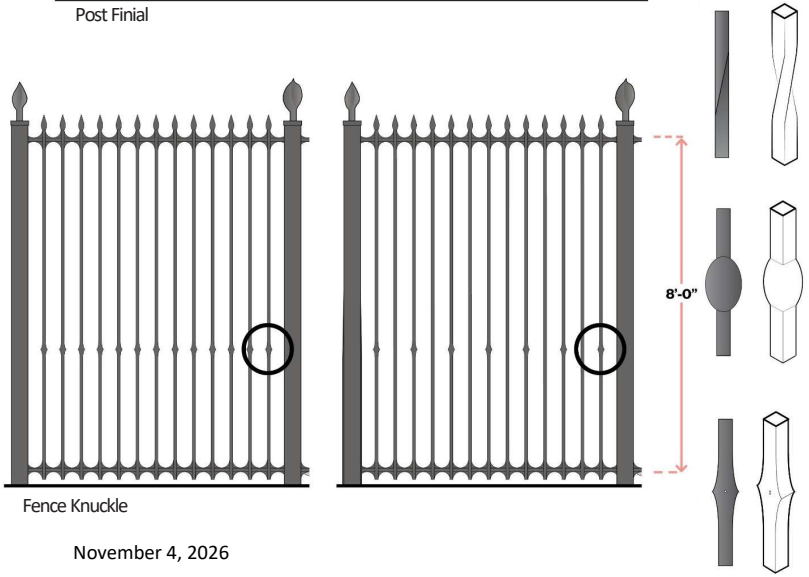




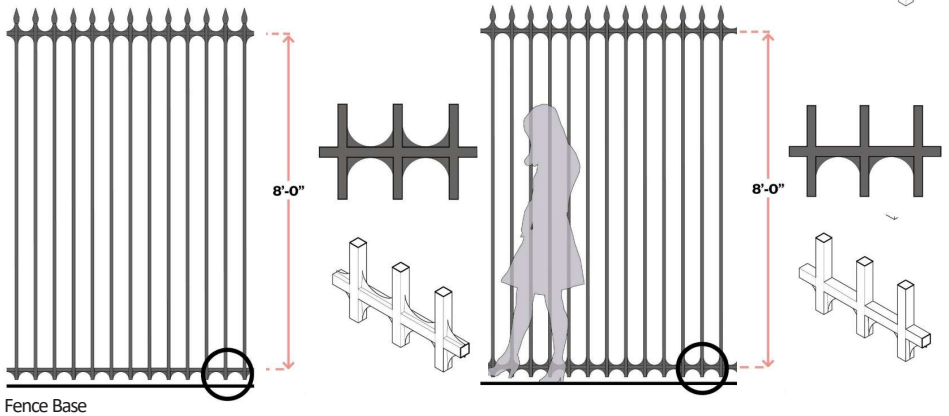
Post Finial



Picket Finial



Fence Knuckle



Fence Base

APPENDIX

Past Fencing Alignment

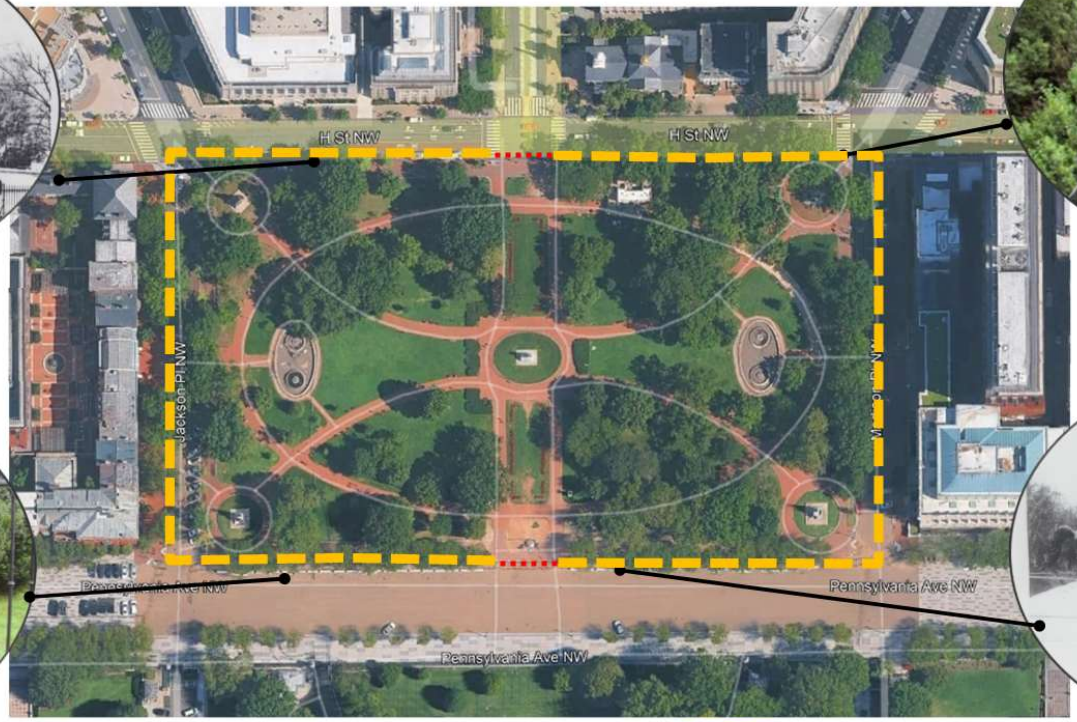
According *to Cultural Landscape Report: Site History and Evaluation, 1791-1994, The White House and President's Park*, Lafayette Park (Lafayette Square*) was first enclosed with a wood fence by 1826. In 1845 a program was initiated to improve many of the "streets, avenues, and public reservations" in 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



Lafayette Park from H Street, CFA 1885

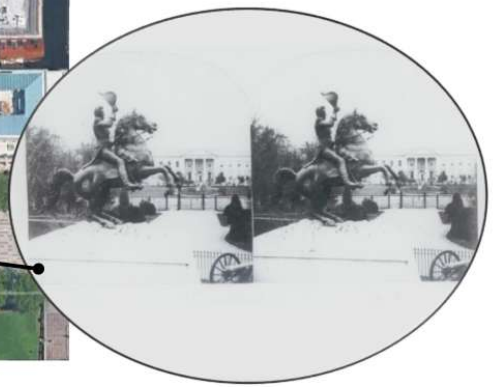


Finial on Original Lafayette Park Fence, 2009





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



Lafayette Park Fence Gate, 1853-1889

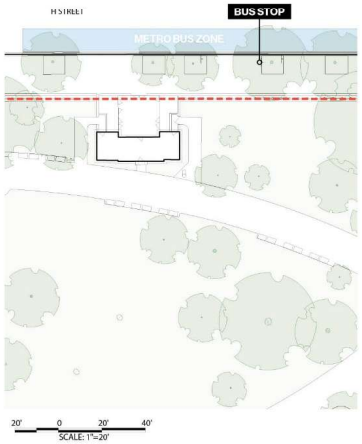
1853 Iron Fence Perimeter

1853 Iron Fence Gate

APPENDIX

Lafayette Lodge Options Considered but Dismissed

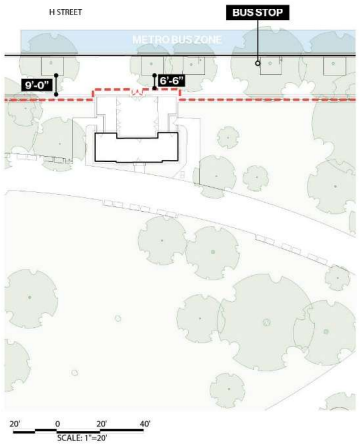
Fence alignment at the Lafayette Lodge offers multiple approaches that would maintain the secure boundary while discouraging potential climbing onto the lodge. Below, these options are discussed and reasons for their dismissal are provided.



OPTION A
Extend wall height



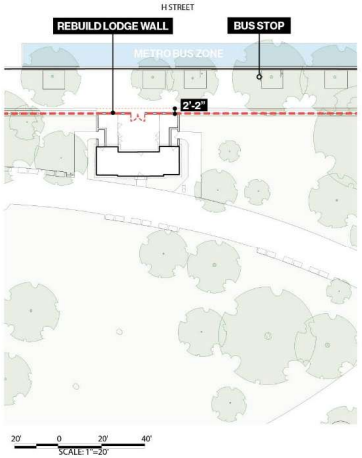
In this option, the lodge fencing would still be climbable. This could pose a security risk.



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'

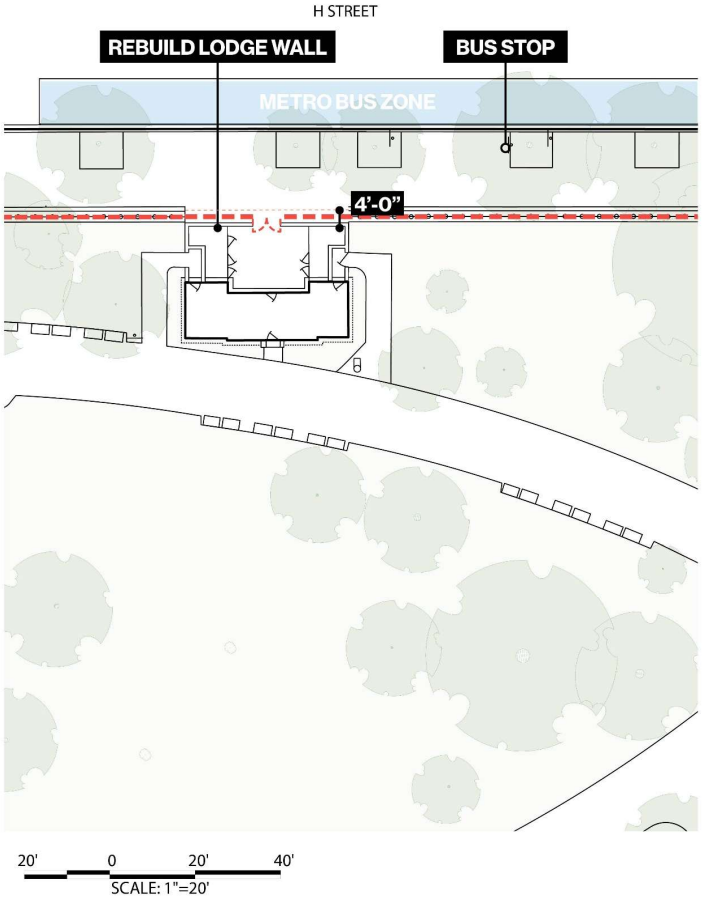


This fence alignment would be unappealing aesthetically and not sufficient practically. Furthermore, rebuilding the lodge wall would risk the historic character of the wall.

APPENDIX

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.



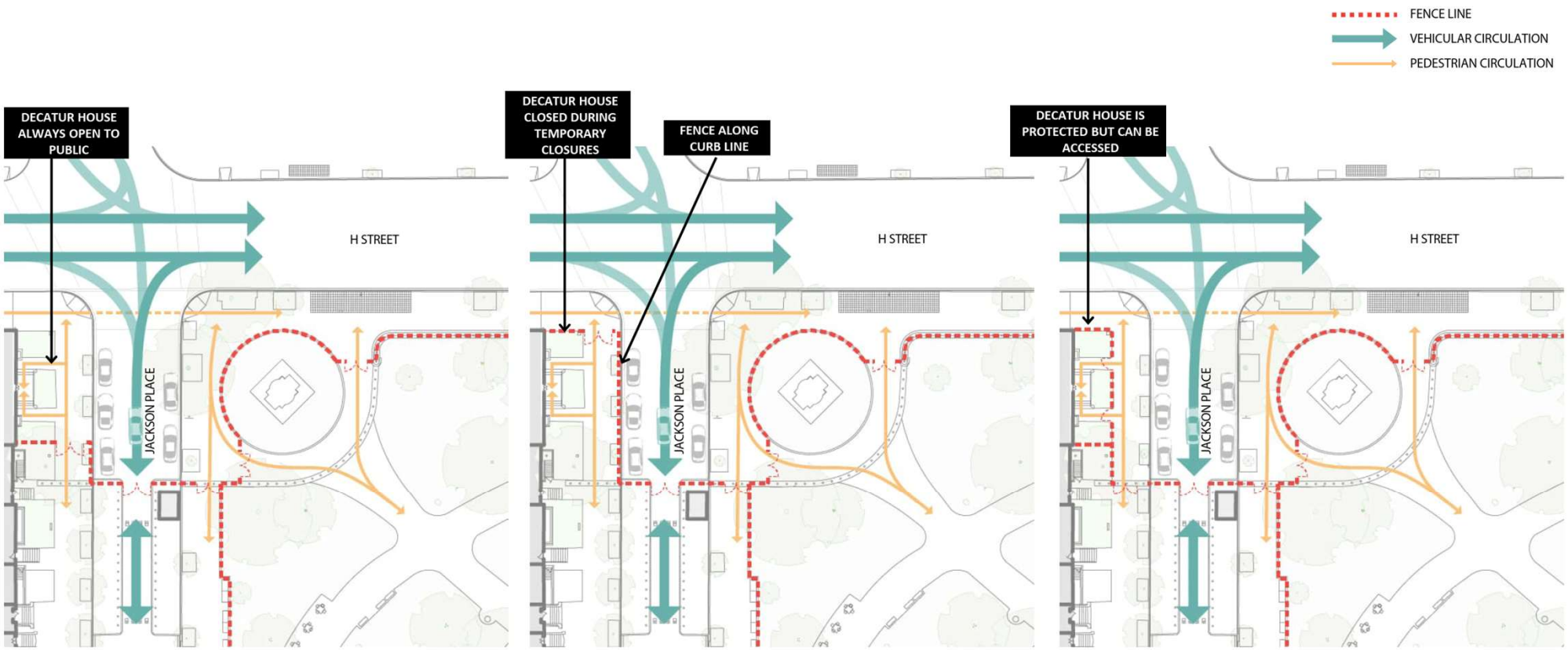


OPTION D
Rebuild Lodge wall behind fence

APPENDIX

Alignment 1: Jackson Place Options

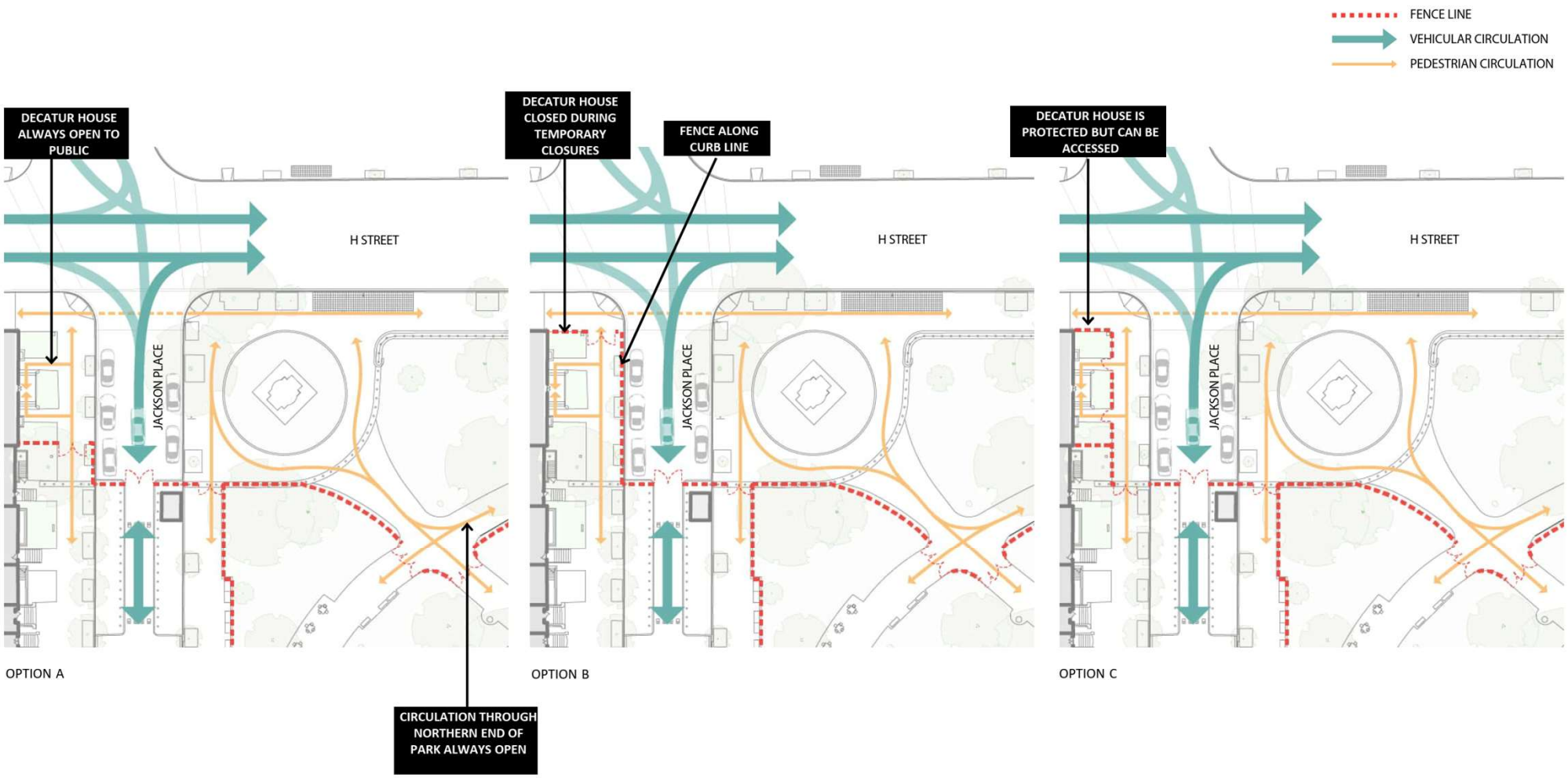
Multiple fence alignments at the White House Historical Society (Decatur House*) could address security requirements and circulation patterns with a fence along H Street NW.



APPENDIX

Alignment 2C: Jackson Place Options

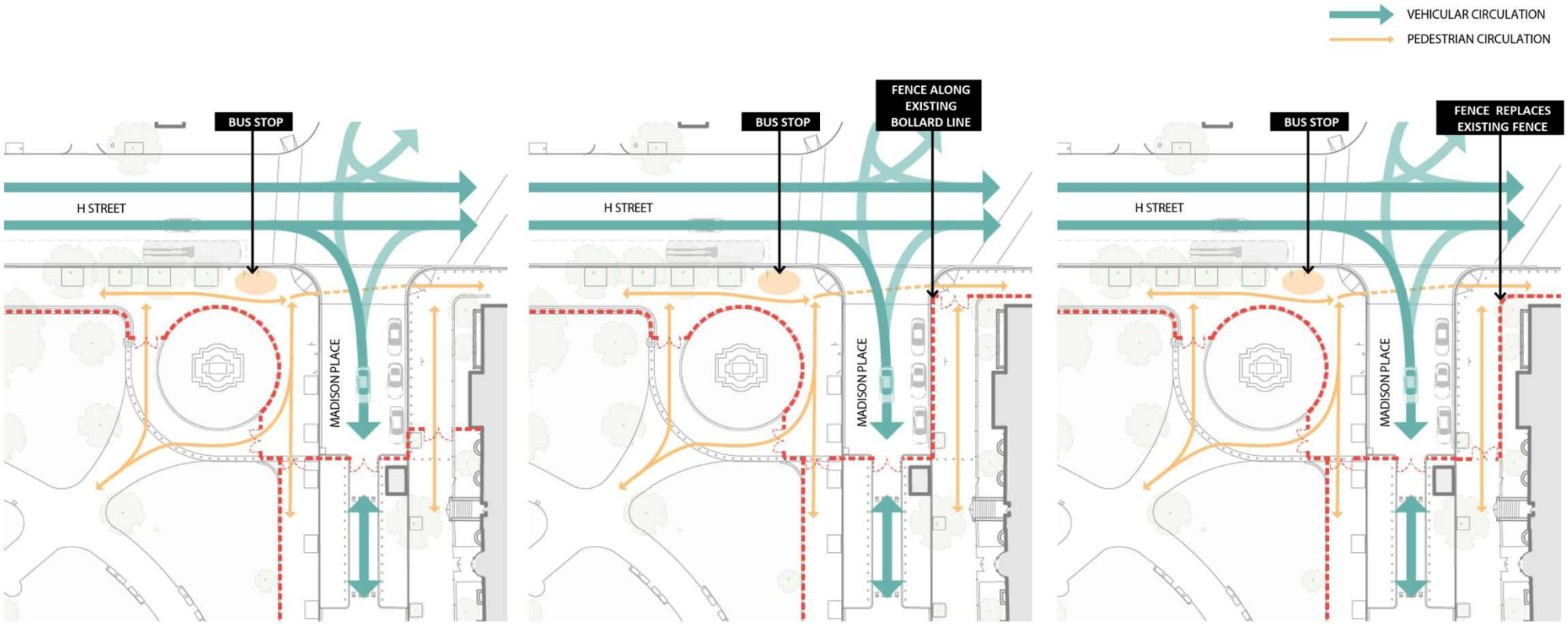
Multiple fence alignments at the White House Historical Society (Decatur House) could address security requirements and circulation patterns with a fence along the northern elliptical paths.



APPENDIX

Alignment 1: Madison Place Options

Multiple fence alignments at the Cutts-Madison House could address security requirements and circulation patterns with a fence along H Street NW.



OPTION A

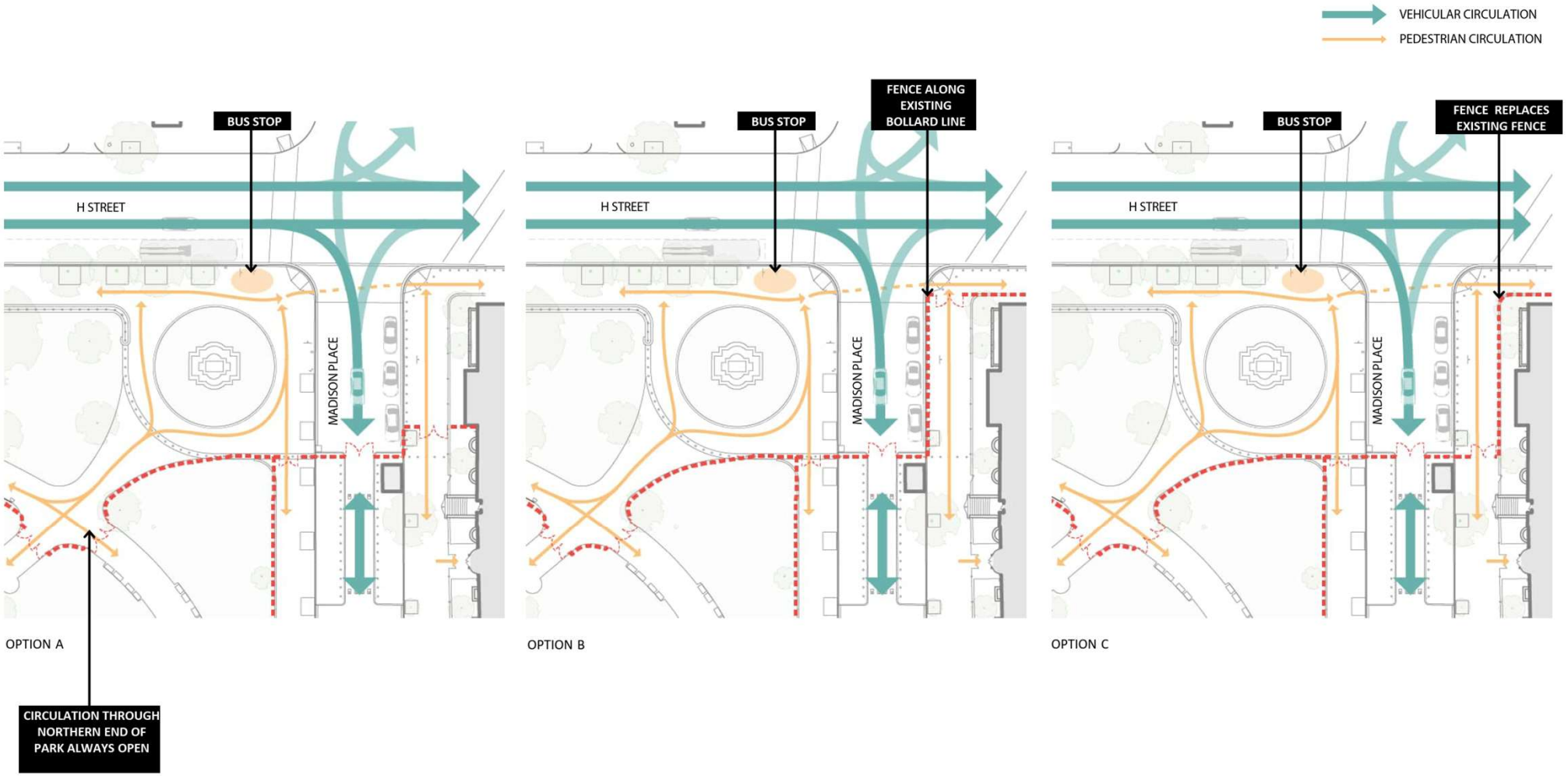
OPTION B

OPTION C

APPENDIX

Alignment 2C: Madison Place Options

Multiple fence alignments at the Cutts-Madison House could address security requirements and circulation patterns with a fence along the northern elliptical path.



APPENDIX

Paving History Timeline



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)

1826 — **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.**

1837 — 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.

1851 — 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.**

1860s — 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.

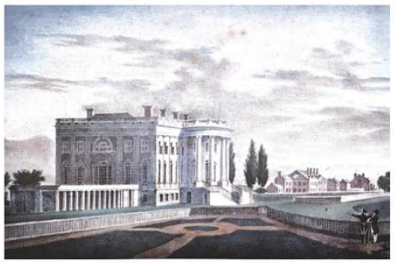


Figure 2-25. A c. 1827–33 engraving of the South Grounds of the President's house, depicting fences and formal gardens. (Source: Machen collection, Historical Society of Washington, D.C. *need number*)

1892 — 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.

1908 — 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.

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

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

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

1990s — 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.

APPENDIX

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 Aeshetic: 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

APPENDIX

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

APPENDIX

Fence Representative Character

LAFAYETTE PARK- HISTORICAL CHARACTER



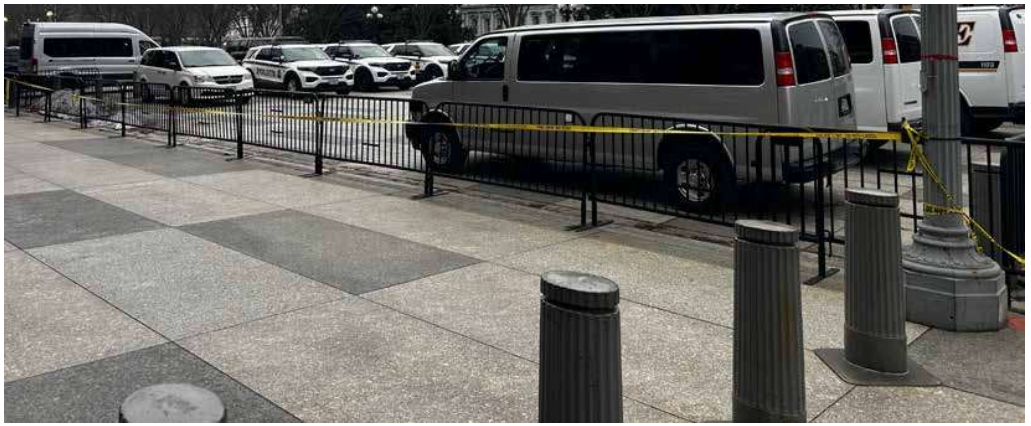




15th & 17th STREET NW- CONTEMPORARY CHARACTER







APPENDIX

Timeline

Pre-Lafayette Park

1824	President Thomas Jefferson authorizes separation of President's Park from White House Grounds
1826	Park levelled and enclosed with wooden fence
1834	President's Park becomes known as Lafayette Square

Lafayette Park

1851	Andrew Jackson Downing hired to design park grounds

	Pathways	Fence / Furnishing	Lighting	Planting	Building / Monuments
1850s	Wide gravel paths	Iron fence and four entrance gates to be surmounted by eagles		English Romantic tradition of planting	(1853) Jackson Statue
1860s	Civil War delays park investments				
1870s	Corps of Engineers interprets Downing's plan. (Downing passes away in 1852)				
	(1872) Brick traps for drainage		(8) Light posts, (2) of which were combined with drinking fountains	(1872) Water pipes for irrigation installed	(1872) Bronze urns (1872) Lodge
1880s	Gravel paths replaced with asphalt	(1887) 172 settees in inventory (1889) Iron fence removed			
1890s	(1890) Brick pavement laid out at 16th and H St. entrances as new brick aprons were constructed on each side of the asphalt walk		(1892) Ornamental lamp posts and gas lamps erected at each pier	City Beautiful Movement	(1891) Lafayette Statue
	(1892) Dressed granite placed around the square. (16) terminal piers placed at park entrances with exception of southeast corner, where two granite-block piers with wing walls were constructed.		(1897) Electric lamp posts installed		
1900s					(1902) Rochambeau Statue
1910s				(1914) Vines planted over lodge lattice	(1910) Kosciuszko and von Steuben Statues (1914) New Lodge

Lafayette Park Site Inventory | 7

Lafayette Park

	Pathways	Fence / Furnishing	Lighting	Planting	Building / Monuments
1935	Olmsted Management Plan re-emphasizes importance of L'Enfant vistas to the South and North and calls for plant modifications to complement this concept				
1936 - 1937	Work conducted by National Capital Parks via Works Progress Administration for the relief of unemployment after the Great Depresslon. Downing's plan is simplified.				
	Outer and inner paths are made equal width. Serpentine paths removed.	Urns relocated to existing location		North grass panel installed	
1960 - 1970	Park redesign by architectural firm John Carle Warnecke & Associates in association with Mrs Paul Mellon and National Park Service (1970) Lafayette Square becomes a National Historic Landmark District				
	Concrete sidewalks replaced with brick to look more like 19th Century walkways	Chess tables installed			(1960) Baruch Bench Two new pools with fountains installed
1980s	Pennsylvania Avenue repaved with brick				Lodge renovated Statues restored
1990s	(1995) Pennsylvania Avenue closed to vehicular traffic following the Oklahoma City Bombing				
2000s	MVVA Redesign of Pennsylvania Avenue				

Sources

Comprehensive Design Plan: The White House & President's Park. National Park Service, Department of the Interior, 2000.

President's Park. The Cultural Landscape Foundation. online.

Olszewski, George J. *Lafayette Park.* National Park Service, Department of the Interior, 1964.