

An aerial photograph of Lafayette Park in Washington, D.C. The park is a large green space with many trees and a central fountain. It is surrounded by historic buildings, including the White House to the north and the U.S. Supreme Court to the east. The text "Lafayette Park Security Modifications" is overlaid in large white letters in the center of the image.

# Lafayette Park Security Modifications

U.S Commission of Fine Arts

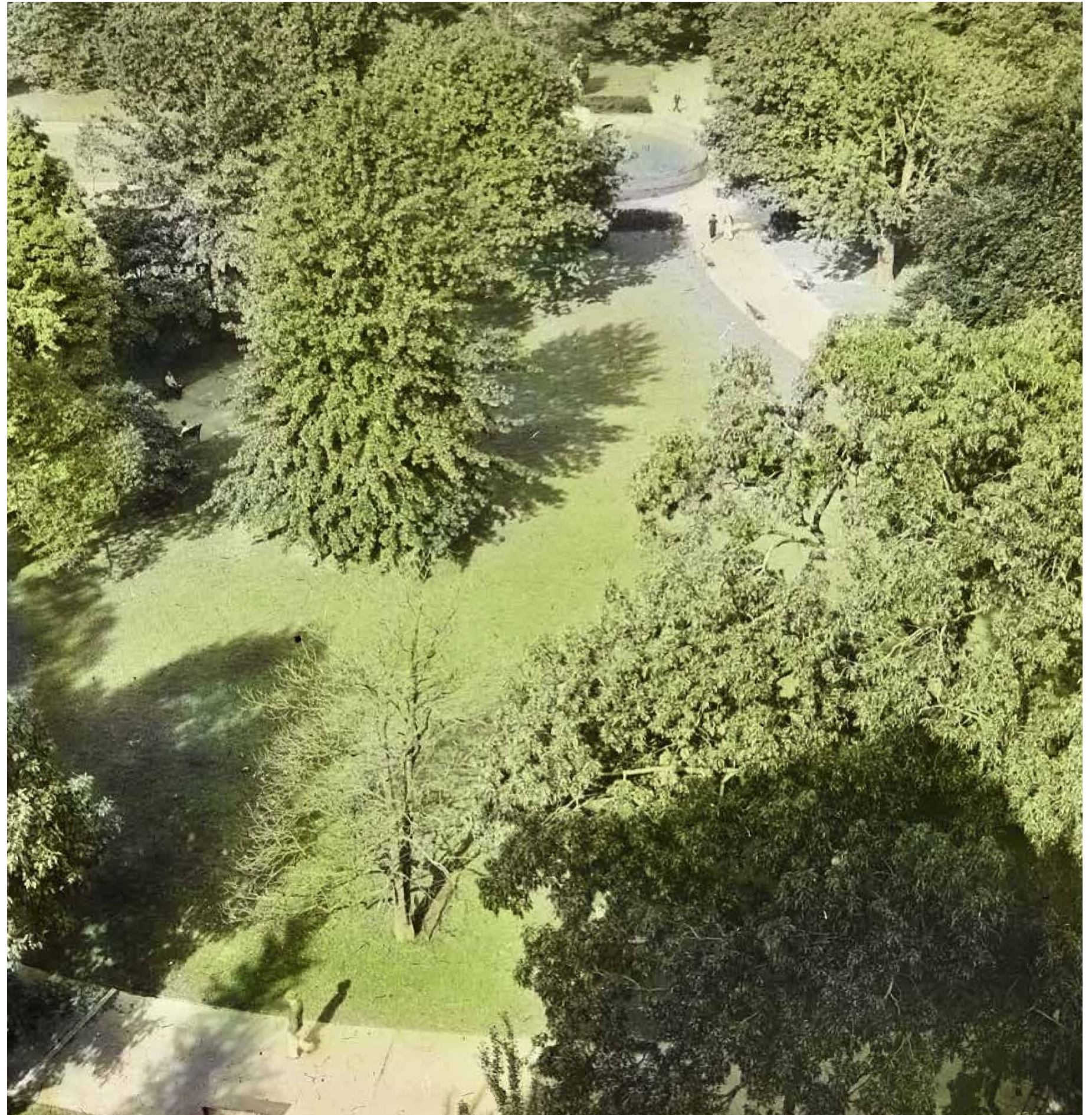
Concept Submittal

July 16, 2026



# Table of Contents

1. Introduction and Background
2. Representative Conditions
3. Security Considerations
4. Fence Alignment
5. Fence Character
6. Hardscape
7. Appendix





# 1. Introduction and Background



## INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

# Project Summary

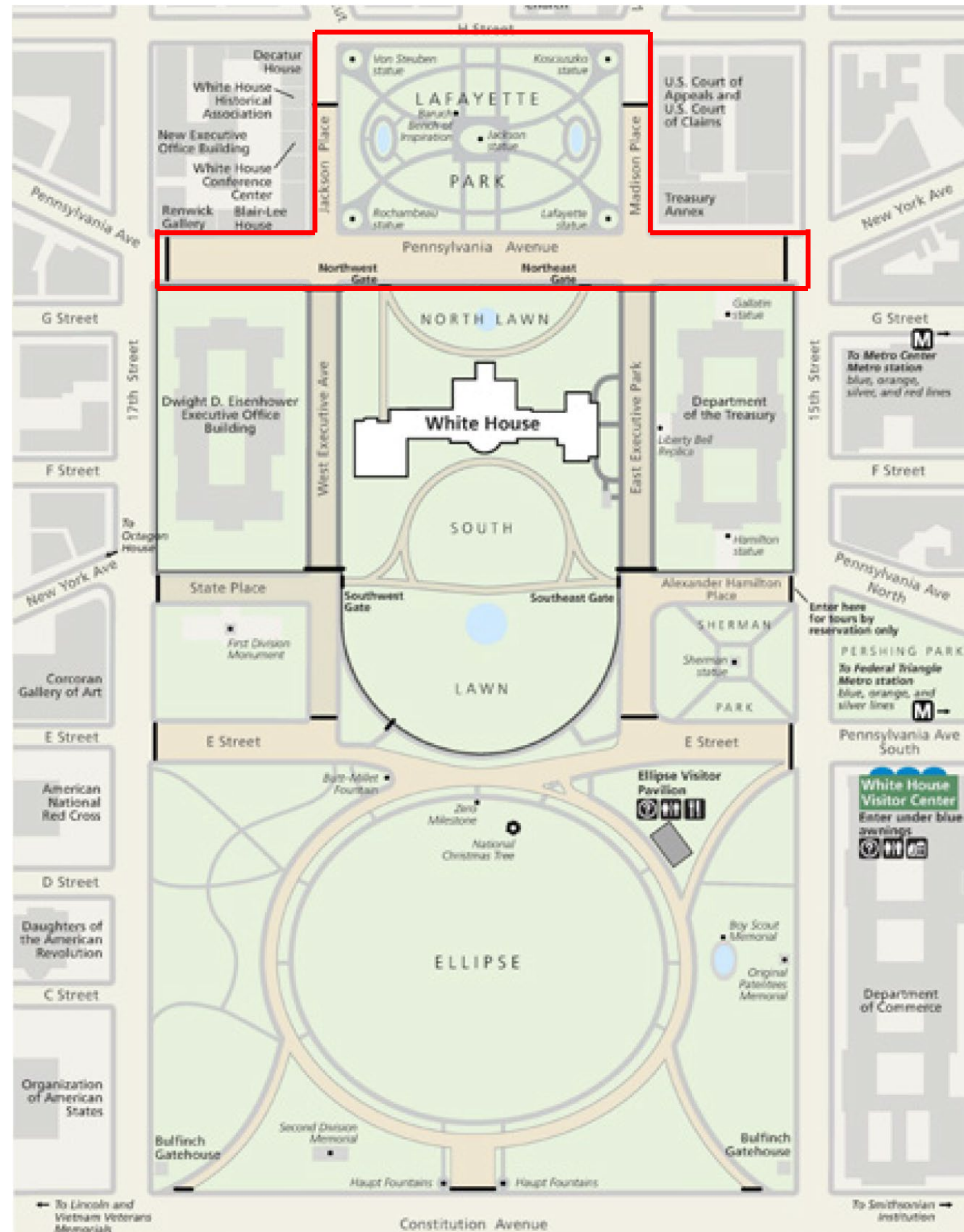
The United States Secret Service (USSS) and the Executive Office of the President (EOP), in coordination with the Department of Interior (DOI) and the National Park Service (NPS), supports a program of security and access improvements for Lafayette Park and its surrounding streets in northwest Washington, 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

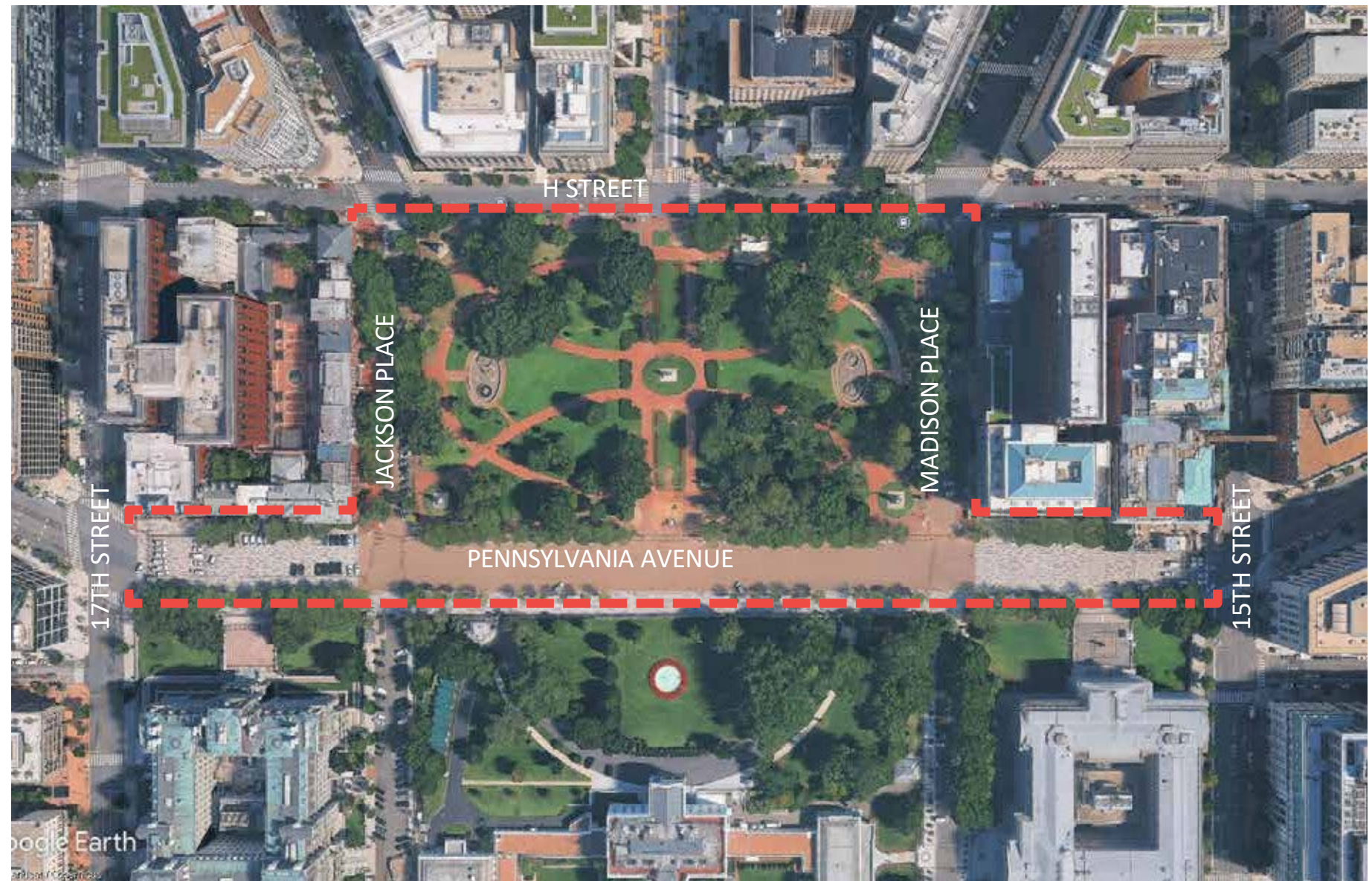
# Introduction

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.

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 7.97-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



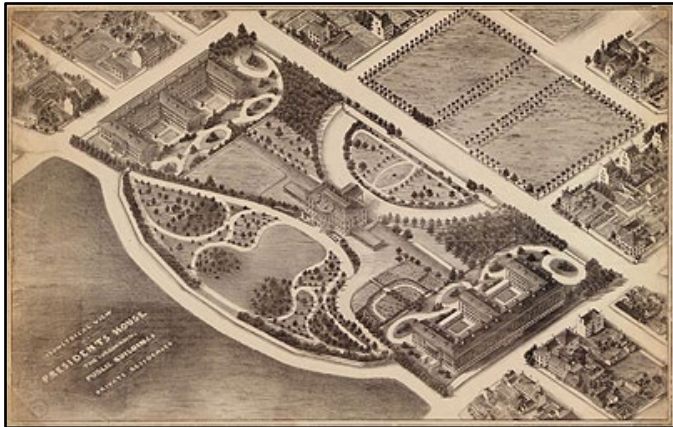
LOC, 1933



INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

# 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



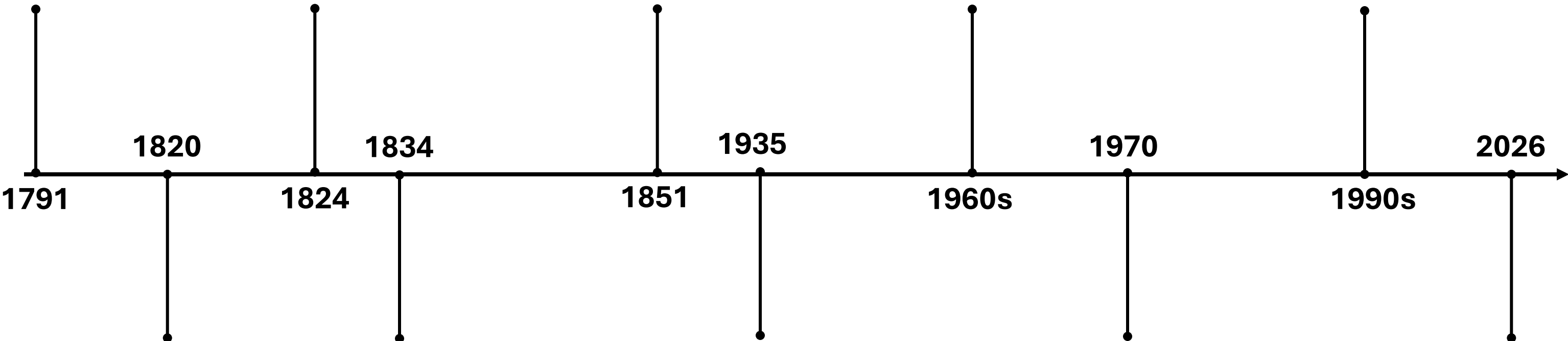
John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Boston

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

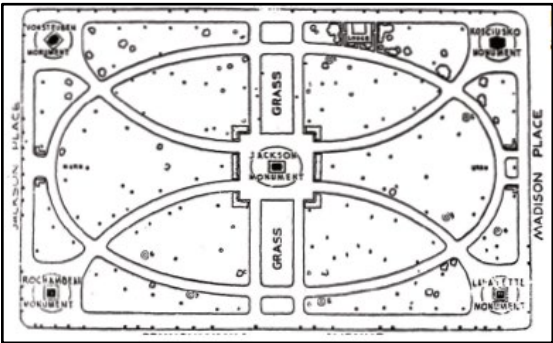
Pennsylvania Avenue NW closed to vehicular traffic following the Oklahoma City Bombing



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 250<sup>th</sup> 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.**

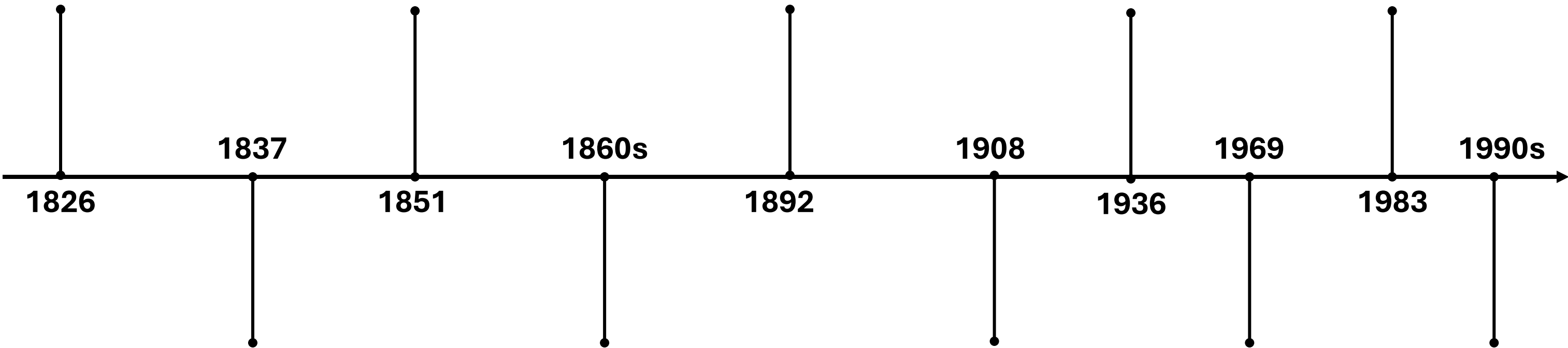
The report for fiscal year **1892** identified **repairs to the asphalt paving on the grounds north of the President’s House.** It recommended that the mounds to the south be graded and shaped, that the **gravel walks be removed and replaced** with artificial or granolithic stone.

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.

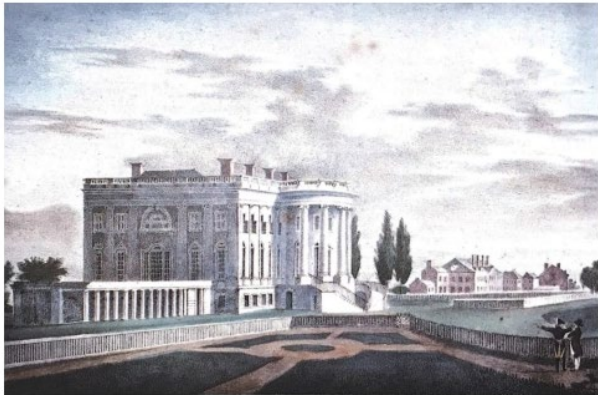


Figure 2-25. A c. 1827–33 engraving of the South Grounds of the President’s house, depicting fences and formal gardens. (Source: Machen collection, Historical Society of Washington, D.C. need number)

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.



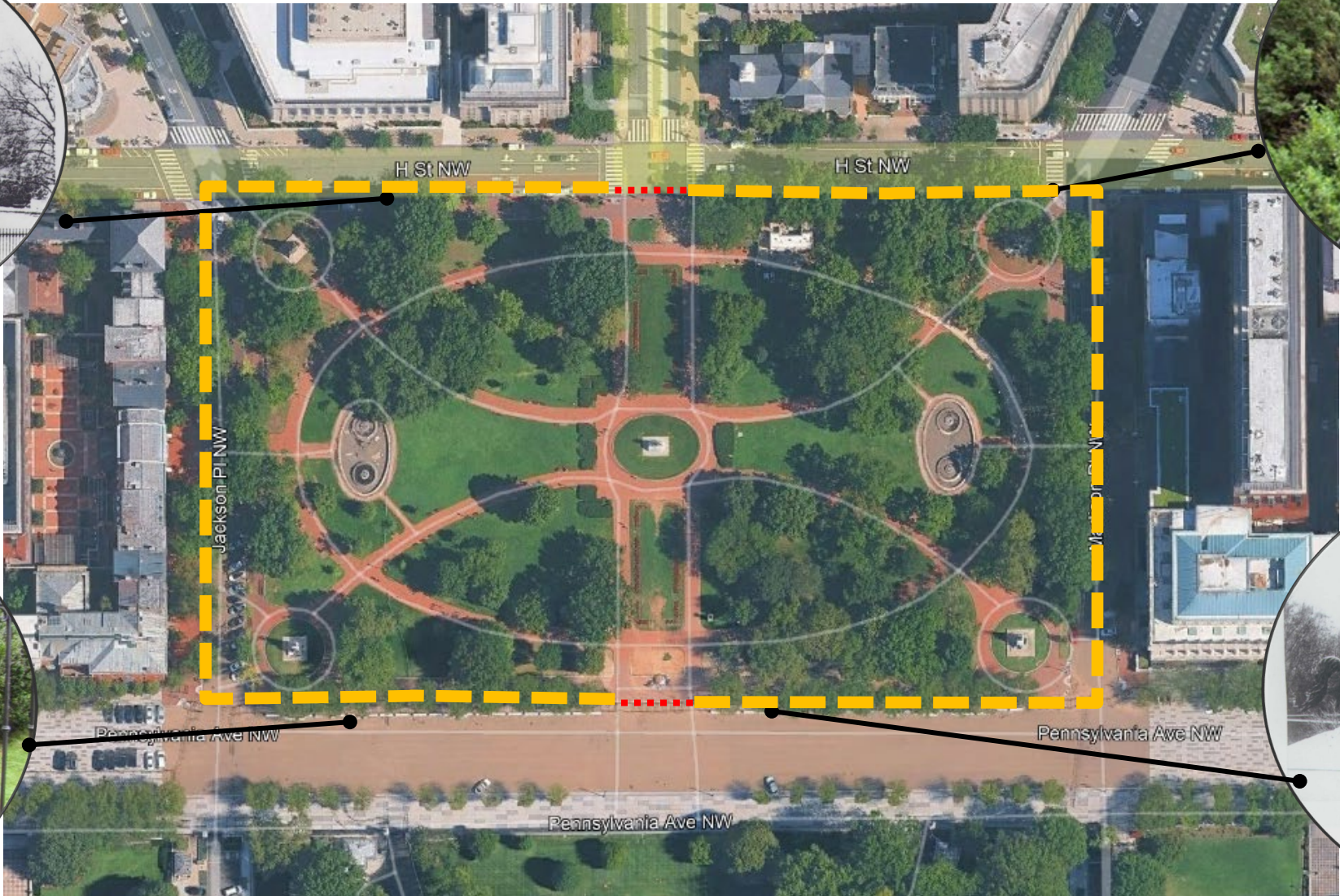
Lafayette Park from H Street, CFA 1885



Finial on Original Lafayette Park Fence, 2009



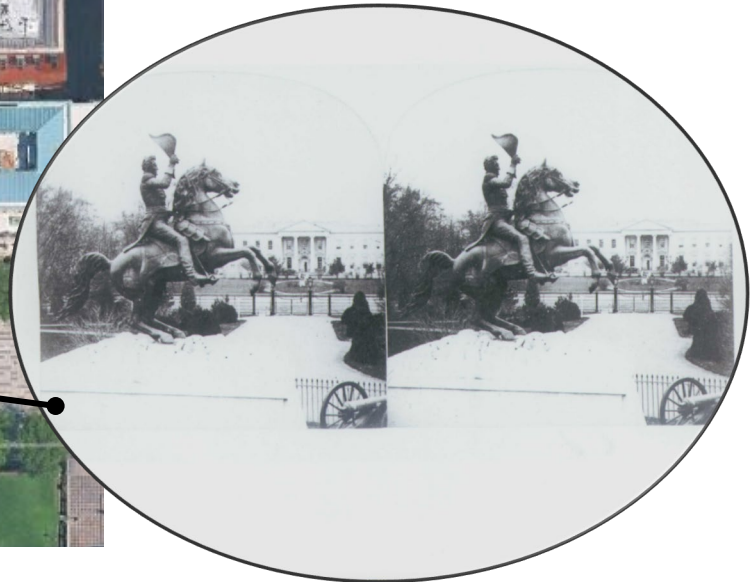
Original Lafayette Park Iron Fence, Located in Gettysburg Cemetery, 2009



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



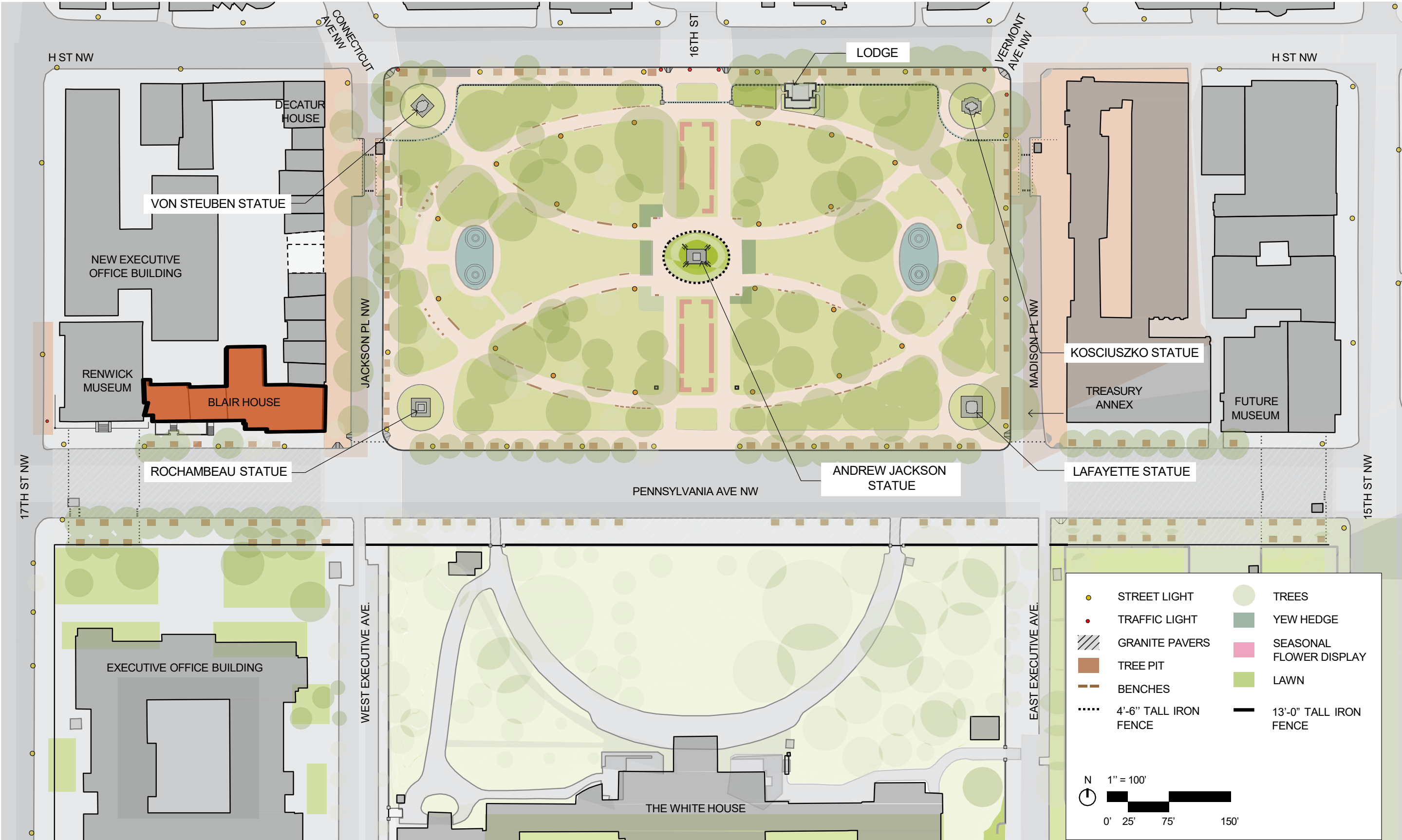
## 2. Representative Conditions



REPRESENTATIVE CONDITIONS

# 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.

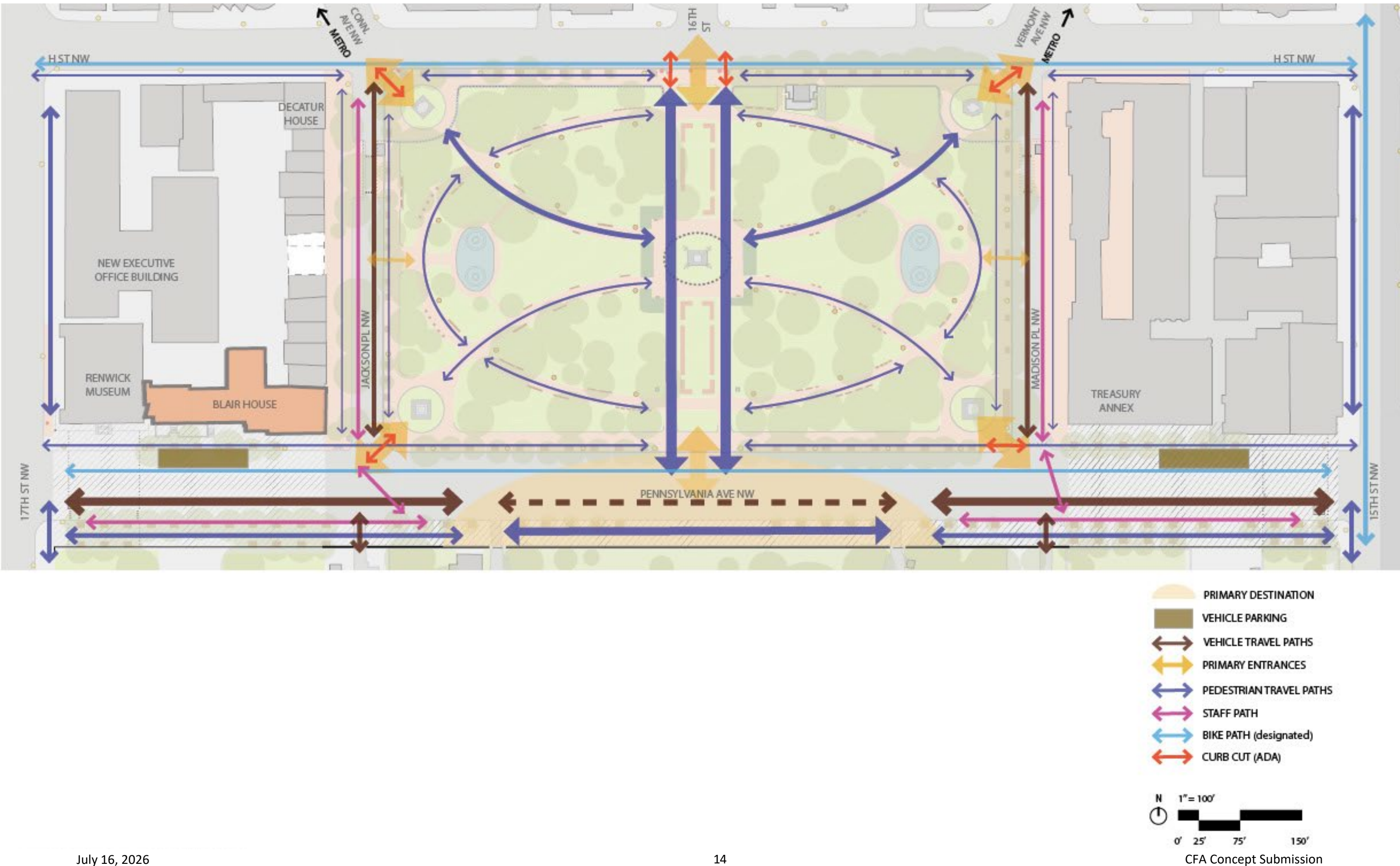




## REPRESENTATIVE CONDITIONS

# 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.

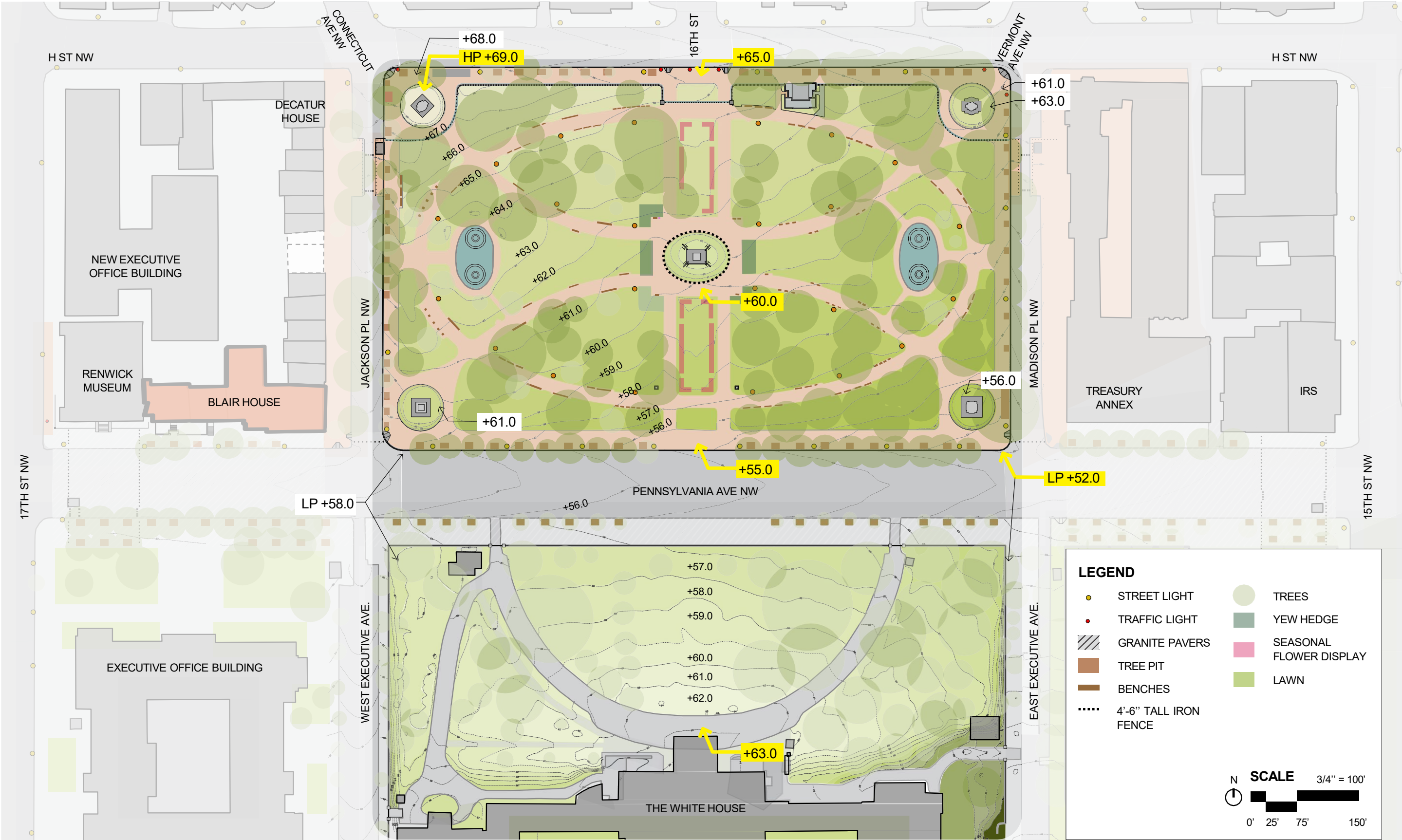




REPRESENTATIVE CONDITIONS

# Topographic Plan

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

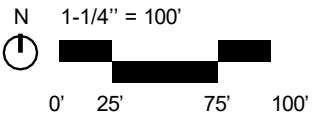
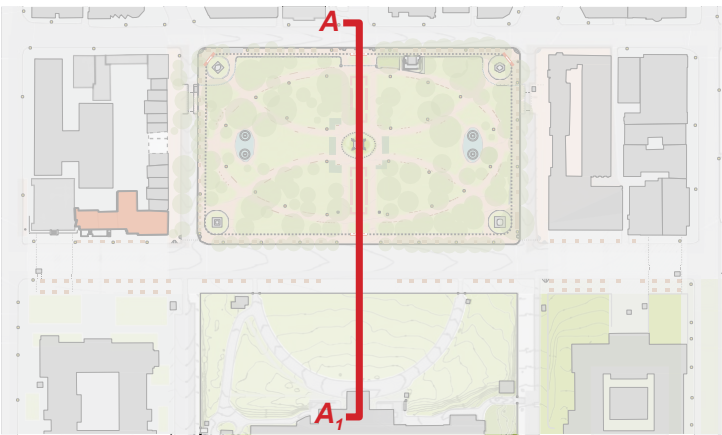
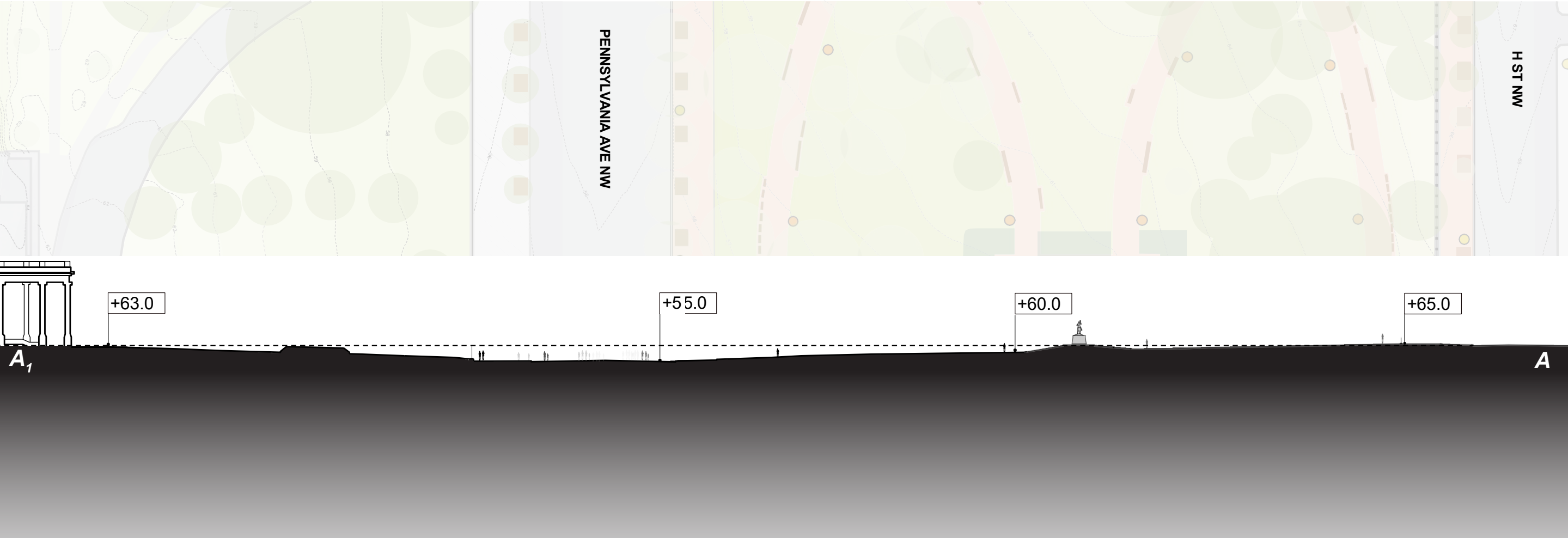




REPRESENTATIVE CONDITIONS

# North/South Axis Section

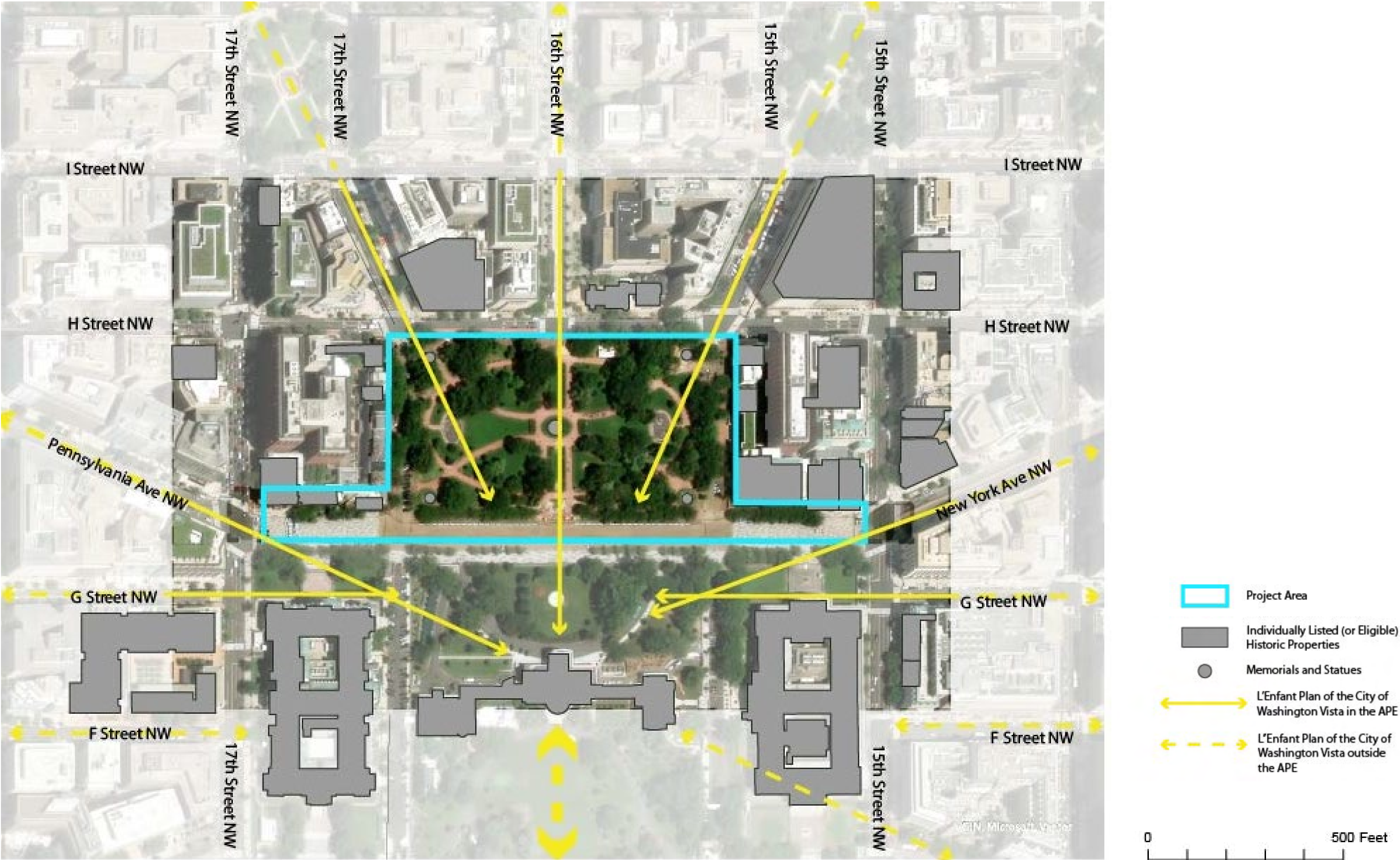
Elevation of the park is highest at the White House and H Street NW at 63 feet and 65 feet respectively, with a decline to 55 feet of elevation at Pennsylvania Avenue NW.





# 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

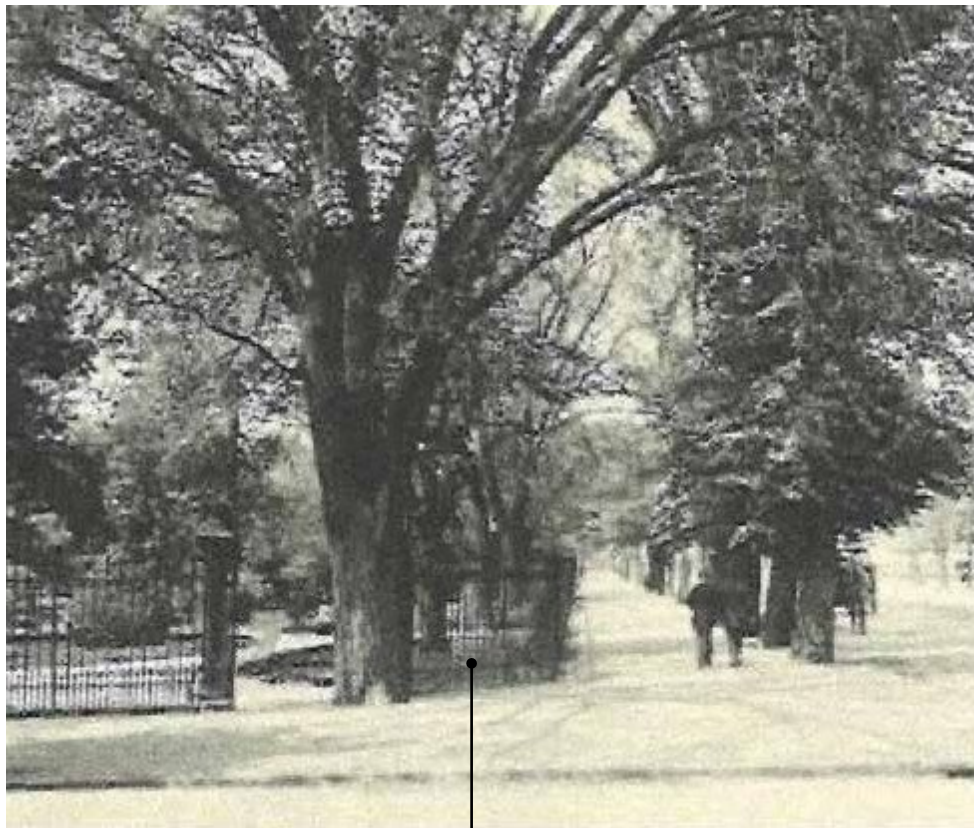
Temporary fencing



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



1921  
H Street NW  
Looking west

Granite curb with  
bollards

Brick sidewalk



REPRESENTATIVE CONDITIONS

# Jackson Place NW

This street 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

This road 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



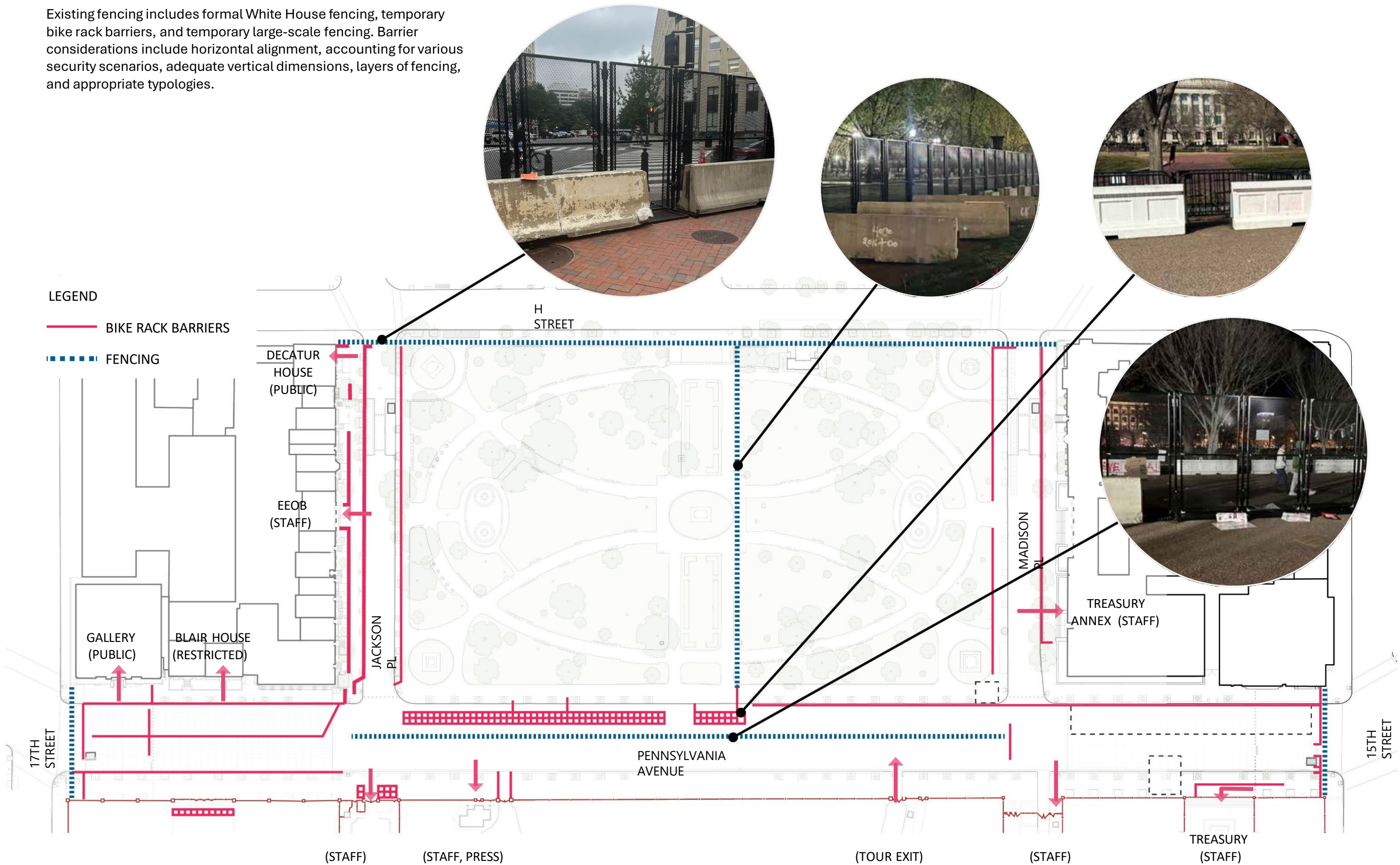
# 3. Security Considerations



SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS

# Temporary Barriers

Existing fencing includes 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.





## 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 demonstration 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.





# Security Need: Permanently Anchored Pedestrian Barrier Solution

Properly installed temporary barrier solutions require increased time to deploy, concrete ballast and repeated cost. They are unsightly and detract from the views within Lafayette Park and historic site of the White House and surrounding buildings.

Utilizing unanchored temporary barrier solutions requires law enforcement officers to physical support these barriers to maintain the authorized closure area. This can lead to tense situations if non-peaceful protestors or public are challenging the authorized area closure.

A permanent fence that is properly anchored would provide separation which would assist in de-escalating most potentially violent protest.





## 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 either increase the thickness of the pavers and enhance the depth of placement, or increase the attachment to ensuring 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

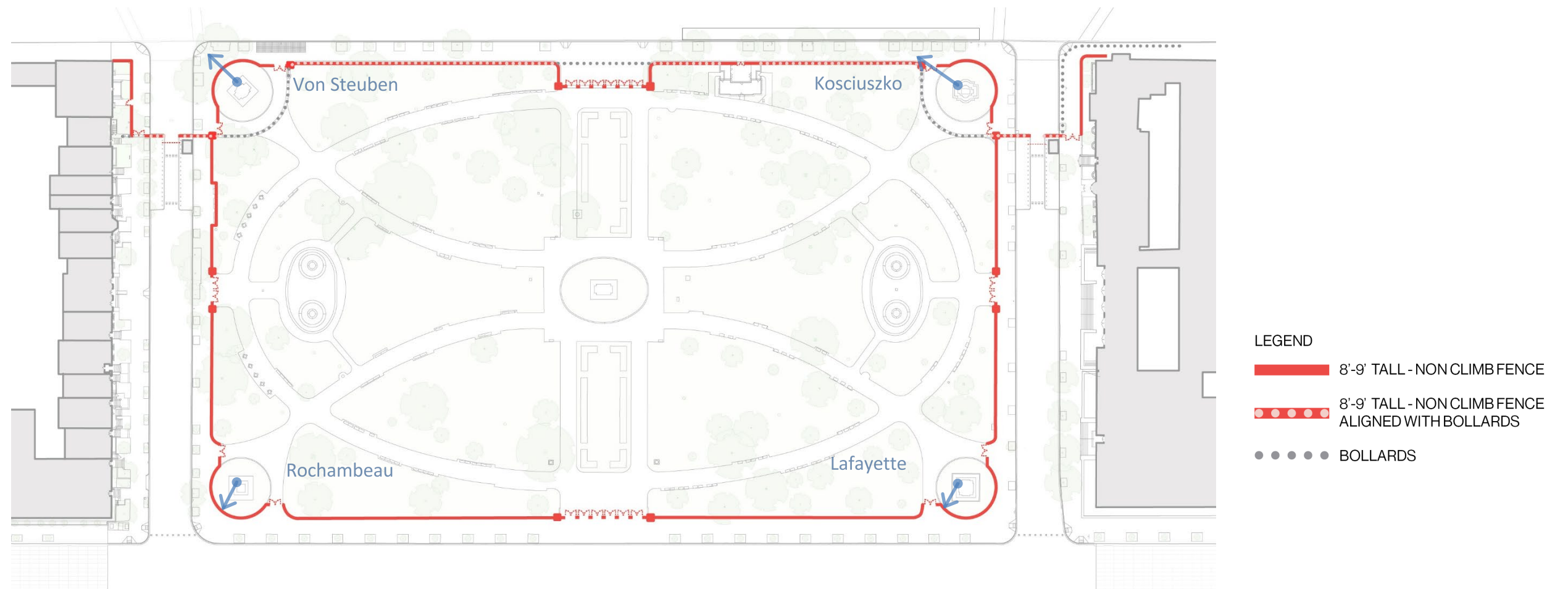


## 4. Fence | Alignment



# Lafayette Park Preferred Alignment 1

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.



## 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
- Enables larger hardscape plaza at H and 16th Streets NW, which allows gathering for First Amendment activities when park is closed
- 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
- Easier alignment to monitor

## 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 and northeast and northwest corners
- Limits viewing area when Pennsylvania Avenue is closed

## Negatives for Operations:

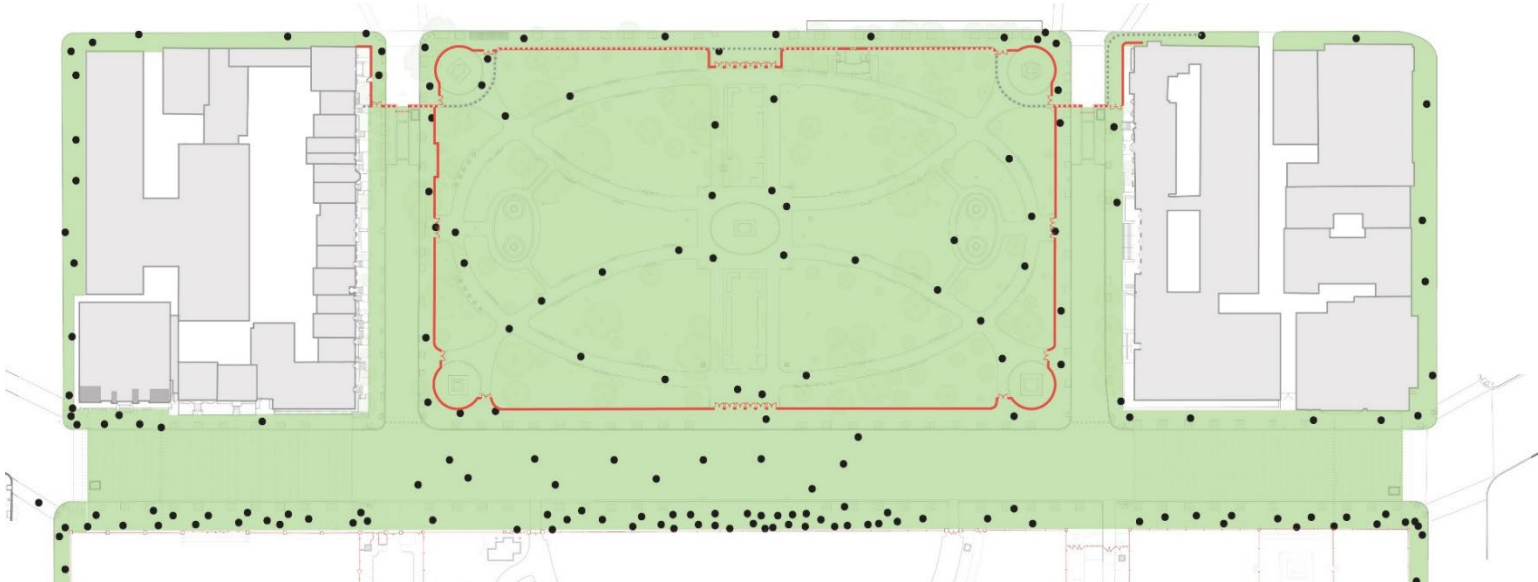
- None identified



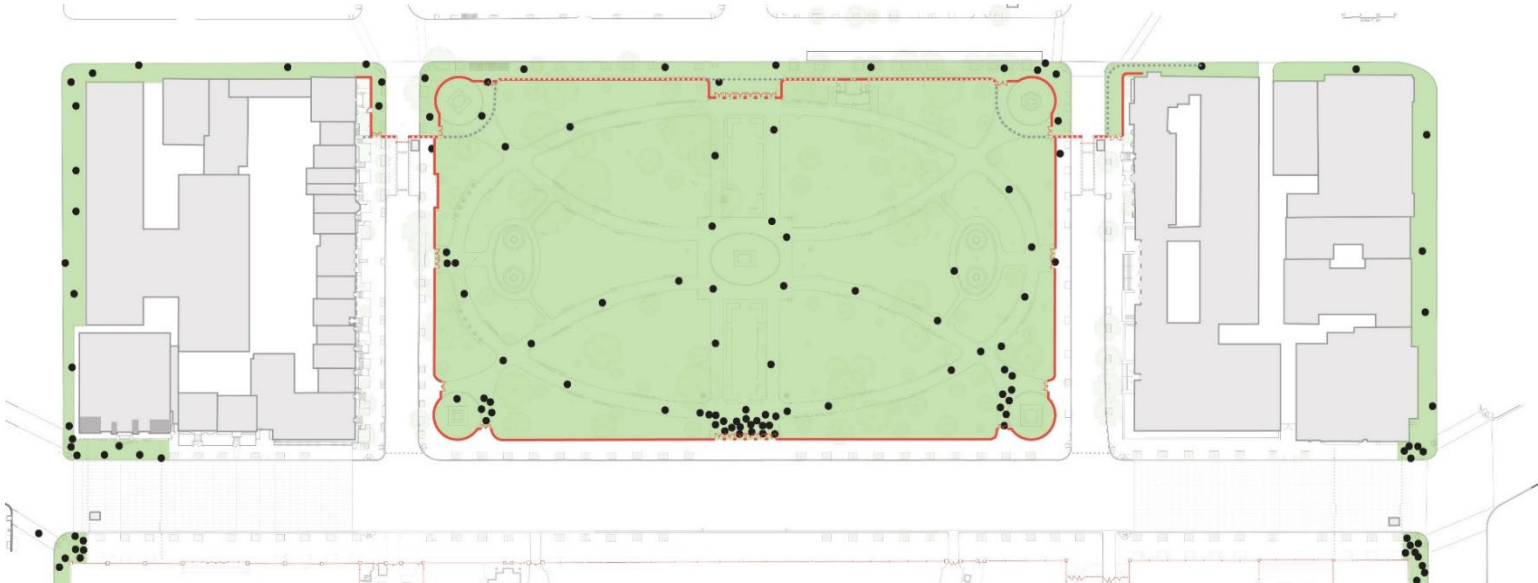
# Lafayette Park Security Scenarios: Preferred Alignment 1

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 be present in each scenario, with the black dots representing members of the public.

TYPICAL CONDITION



TEMPORARY PARTIAL CLOSURE



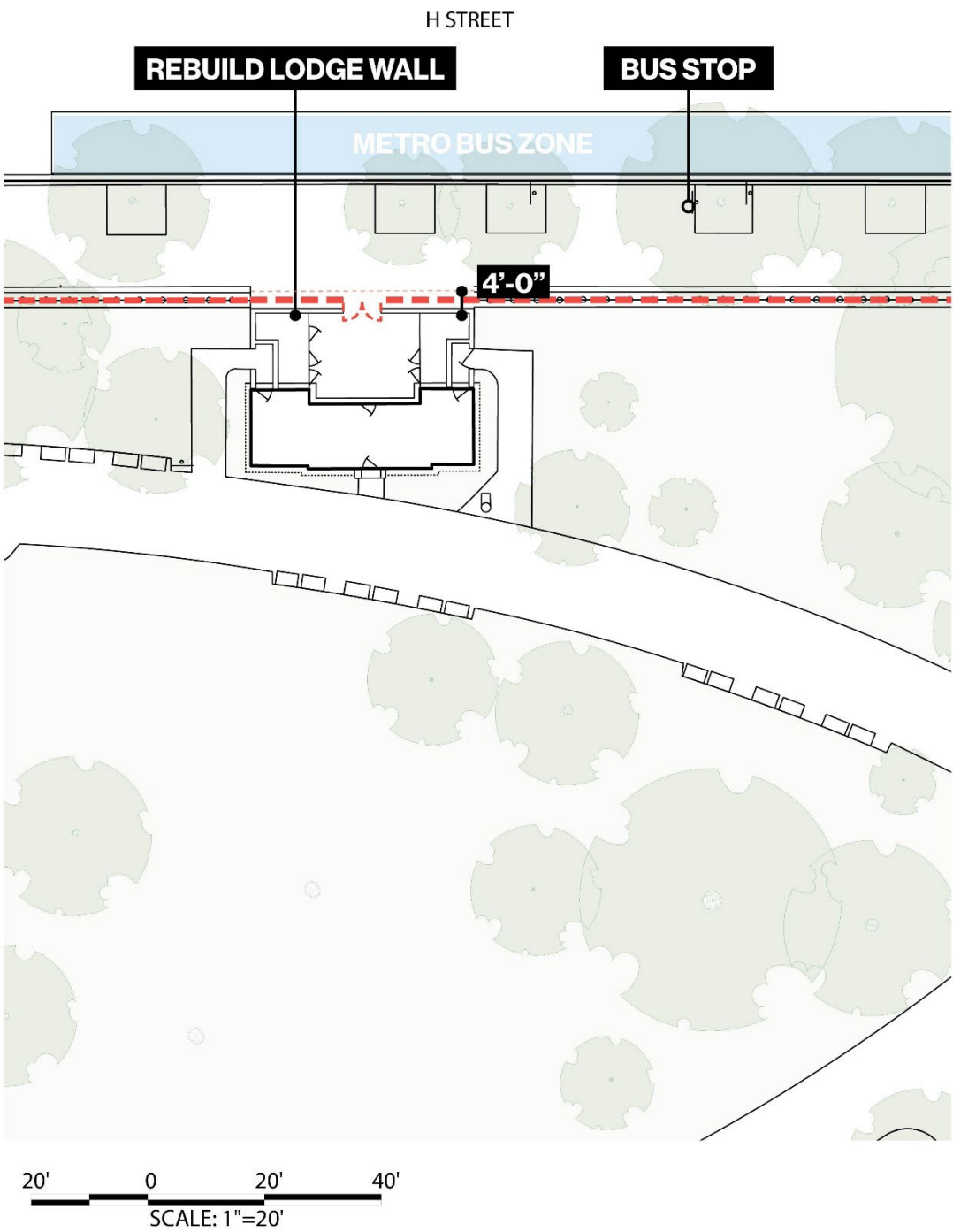
TEMPORARY FULL CLOSURE





# 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.



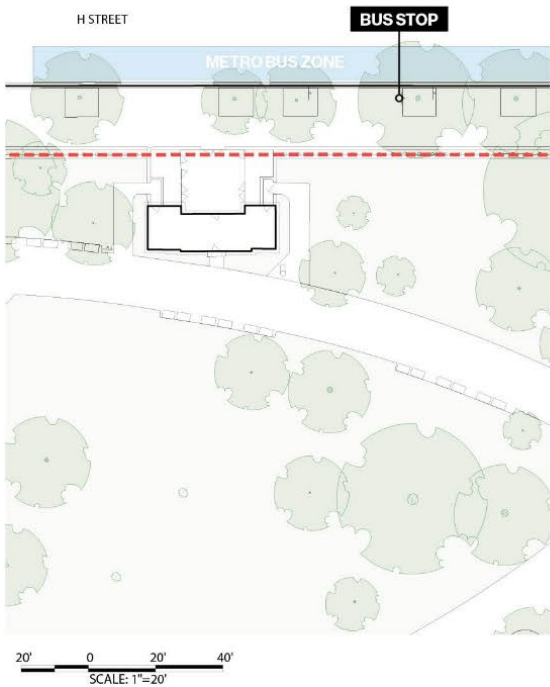
OPTION D  
Rebuild Lodge wall behind fence





# Lafayette Lodge Options Considered but Dismissed

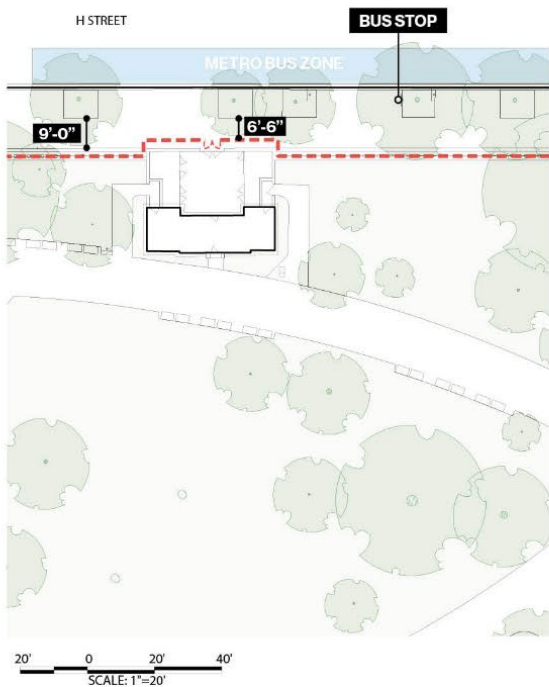
Fence alignment at the Lafayette Lodge offers multiple approaches that would maintain the secure boundary while discouraging potential climbing onto the lodge. Below, these options are discussed and reasons for their dismissal are provided.



OPTION A  
Extend wall height



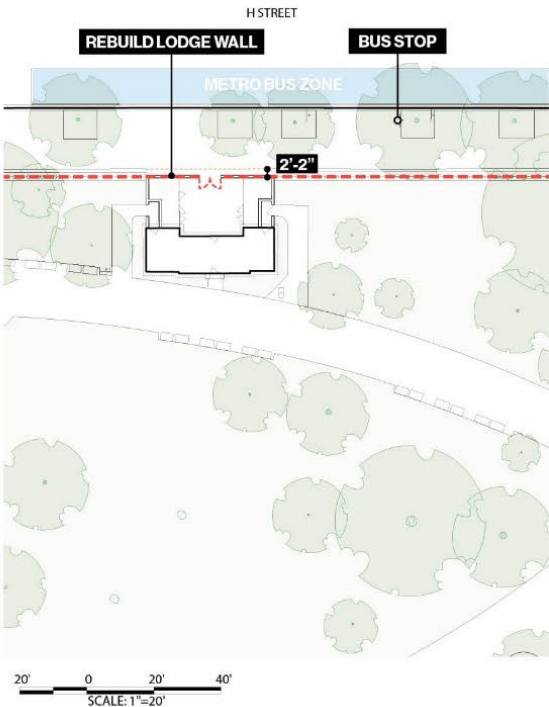
In this option, the lodge fencing would still be climbable. This could pose a security risk.



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.



# Visualization- H Street looking South, Alignment 1





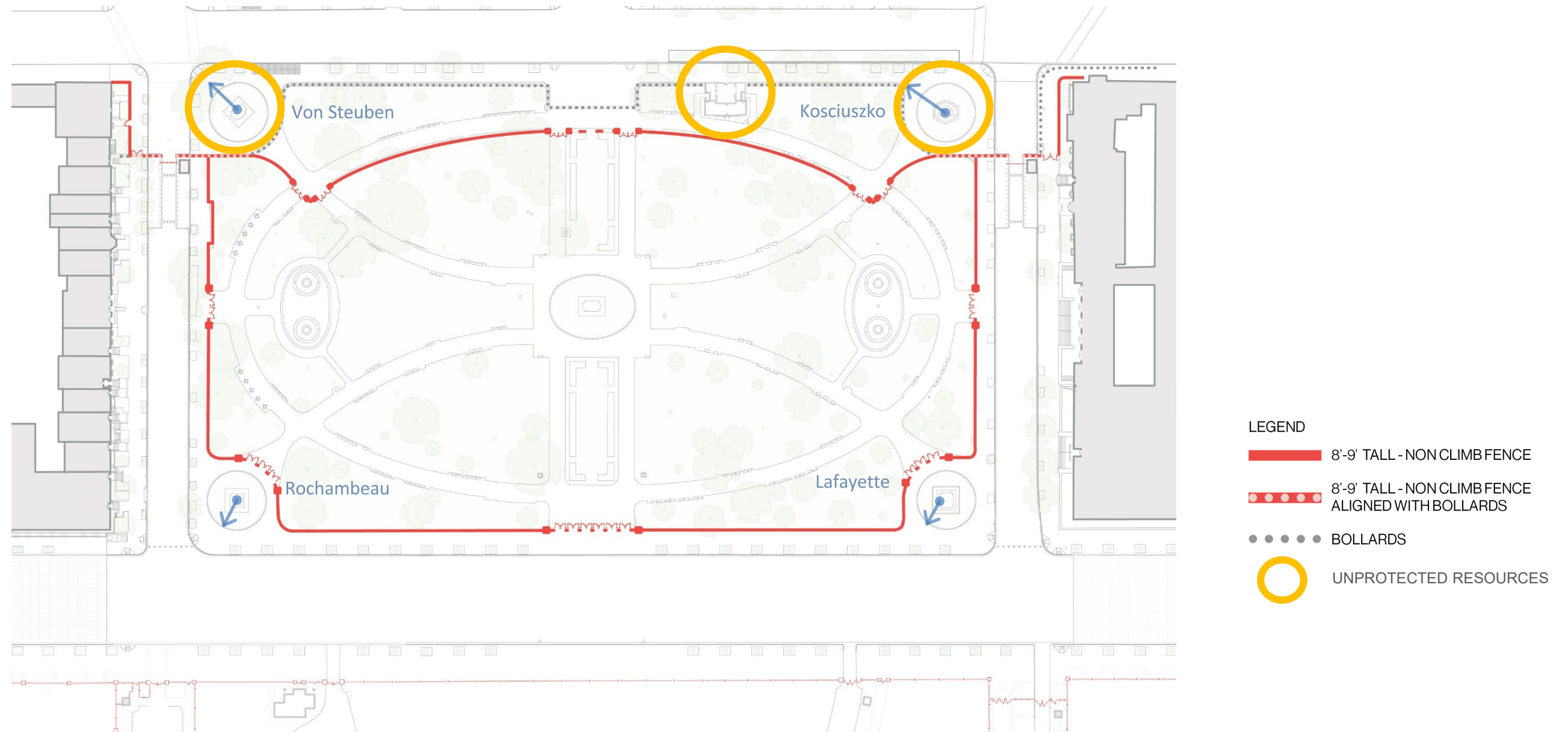
# Visualization- H Street looking South at Eye Level, Alignment 1





# Lafayette Park Alignment: Alignment 2

The alignment of Alternative A 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 space 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
- 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
- Easier alignment to alarm the southern border

## Negatives for Visitor Use:

- Adds additional barrier line due to fence relocated inboard of entrance along H Street NW at 16th Street NW
- Limits viewing area when Pennsylvania Avenue is closed

## Negatives for Operations:

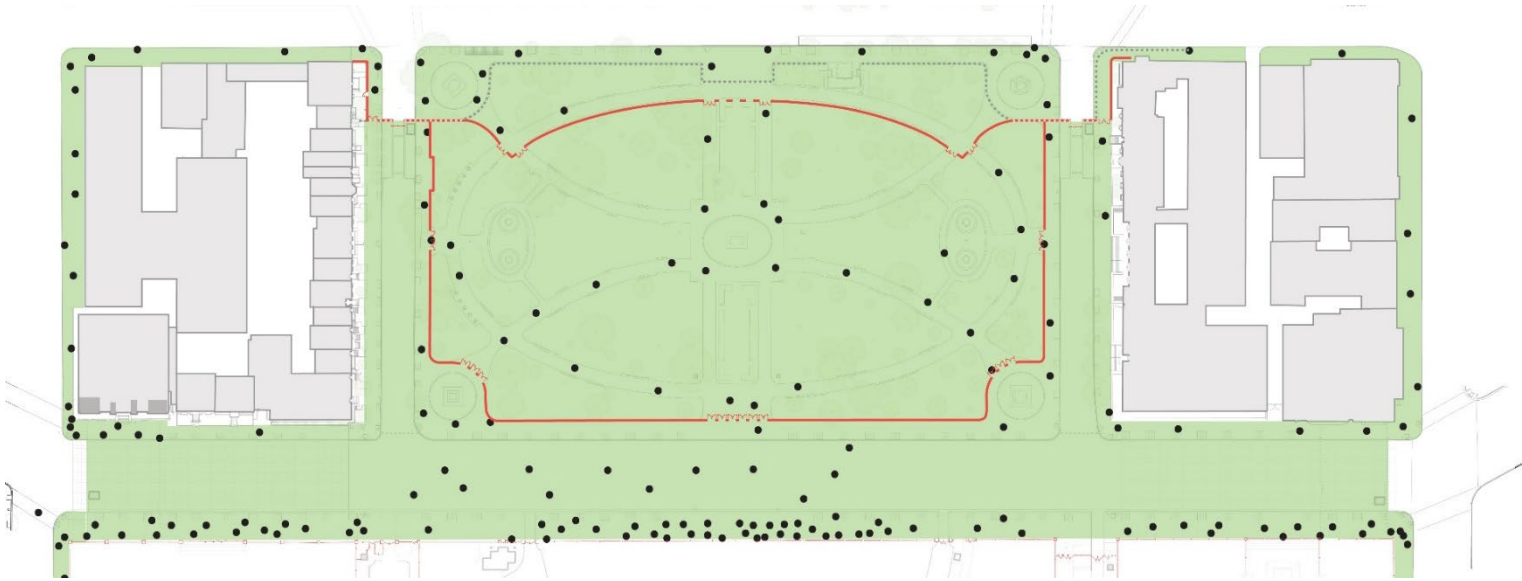
- Places Lafayette Lodge outside the fence line
- Exposes two statues on H Street NW to potential to vandalism
- Swings East and West gates swing into the Park, against the direction of egress
- Swings north side gates in against the direction of egress from the Park
- Less stand-off from Blair House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



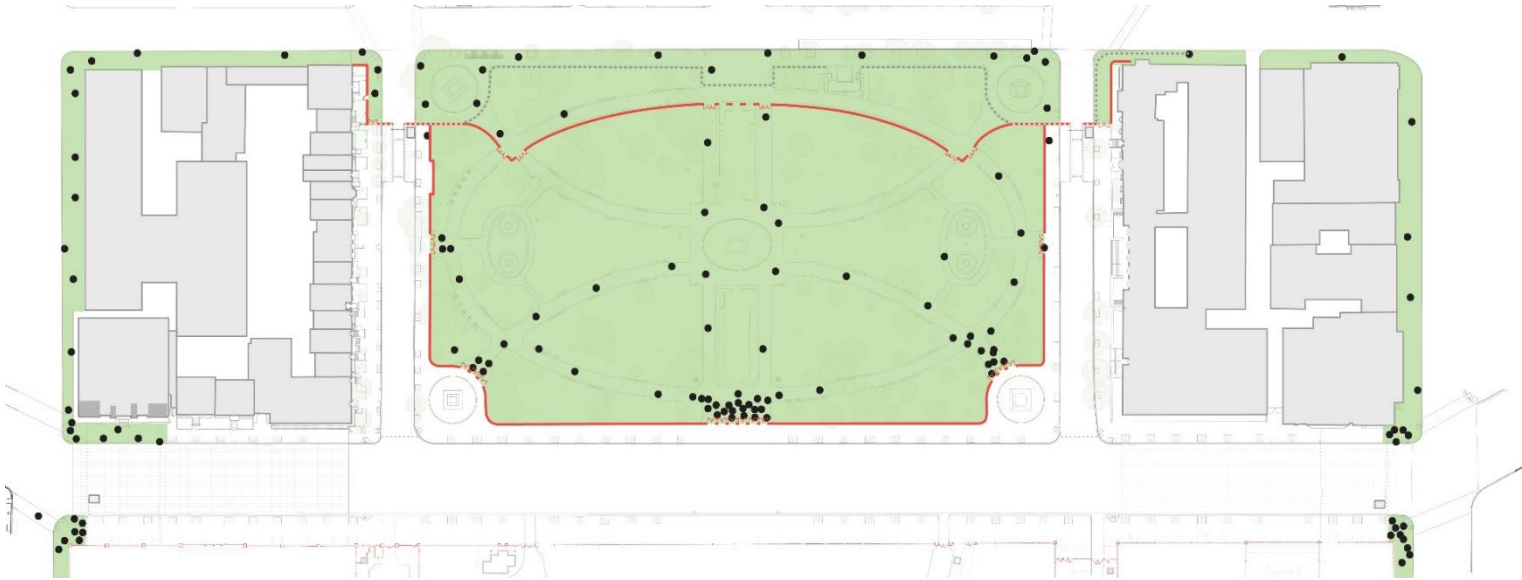
# Lafayette Park Security Scenarios: Alignment 2

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.

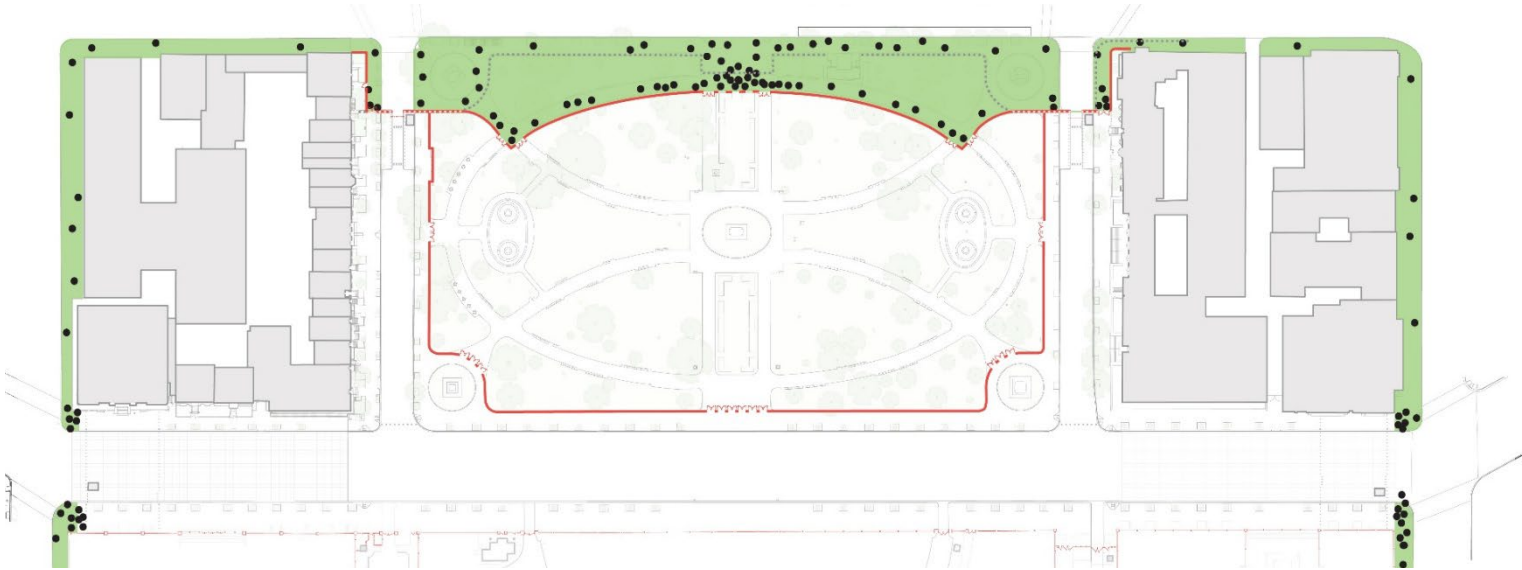
TYPICAL CONDITION



TEMPORARY PARTIAL CLOSURE



TEMPORARY FULL CLOSURE





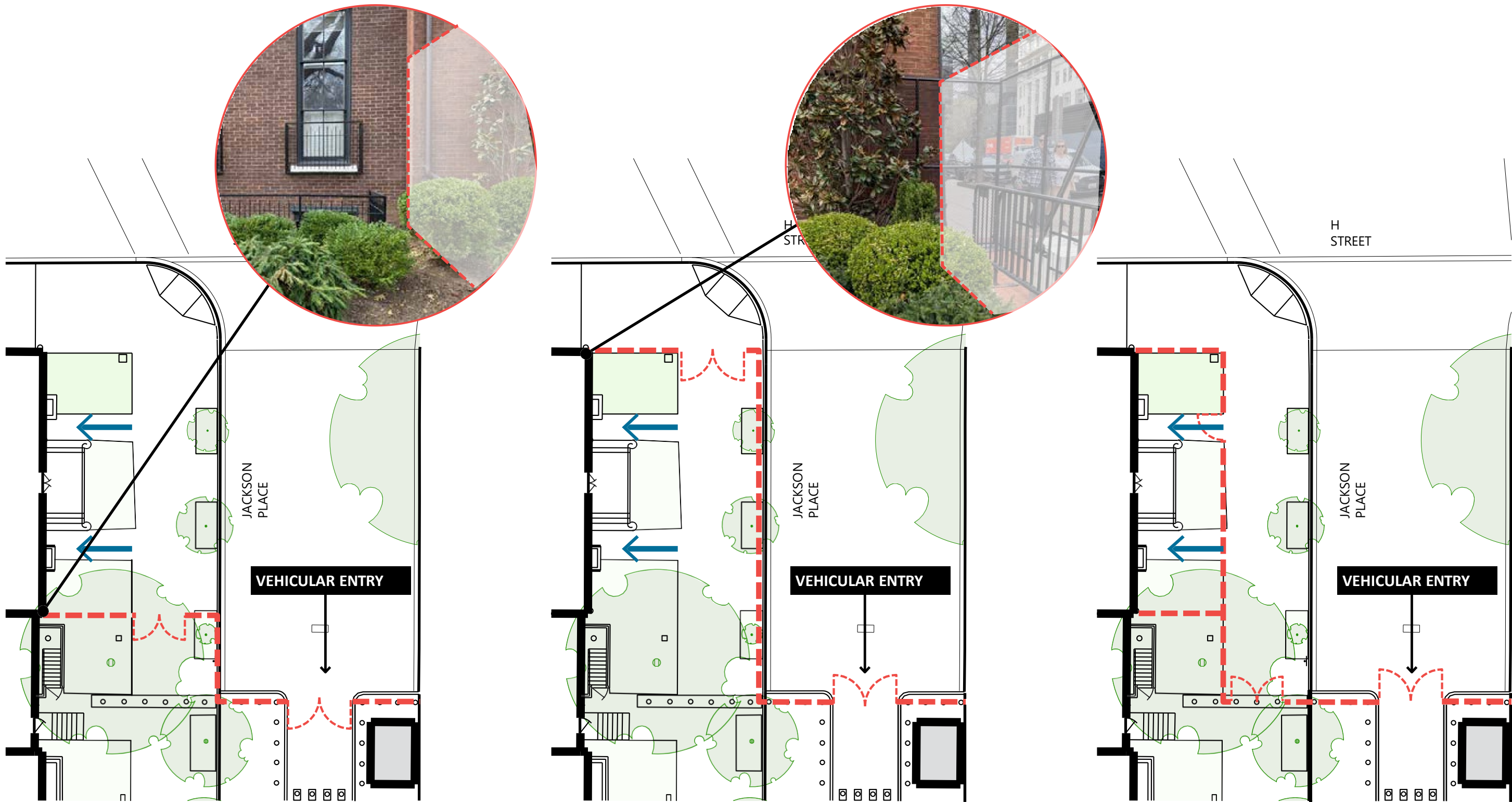
# Visualization- H Street looking South, Alignment 2





# 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

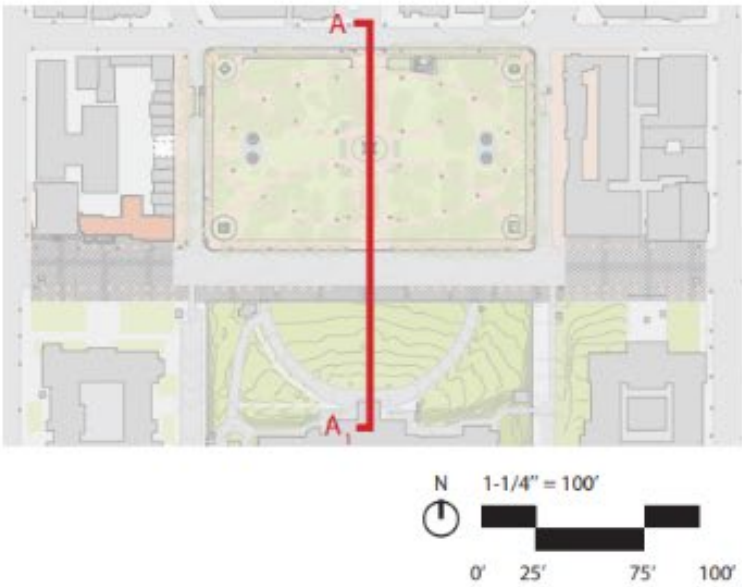
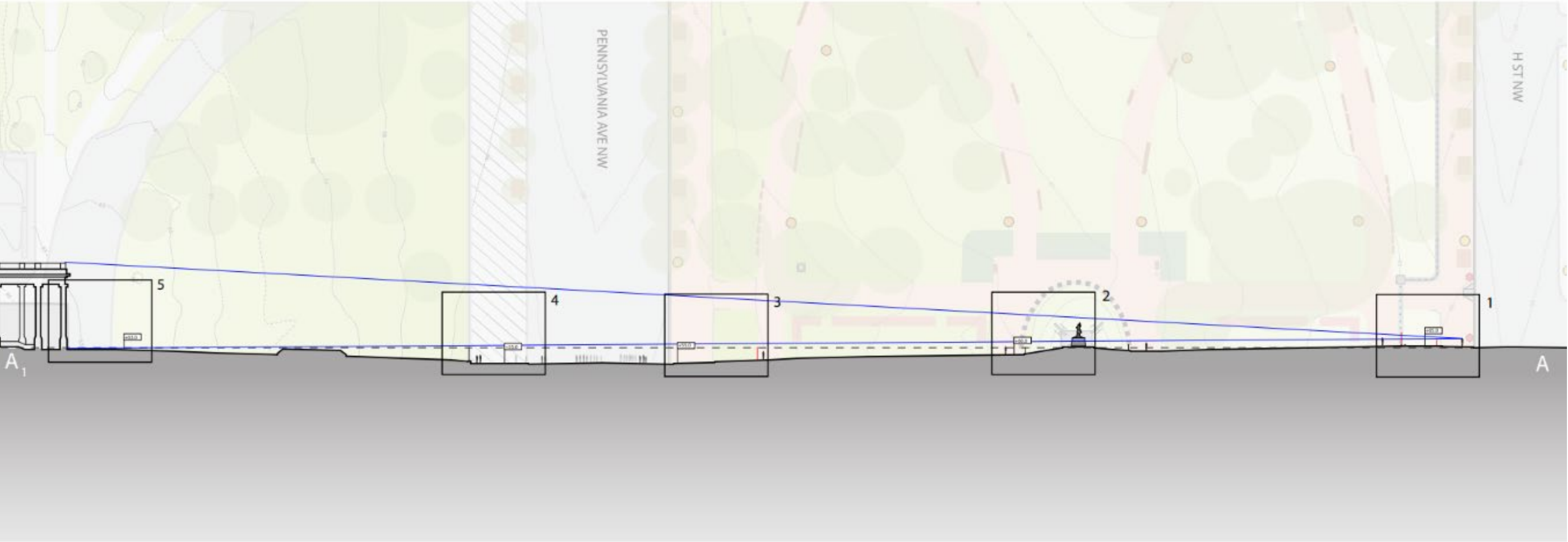
OPTION B:  
Fence along curb line

OPTION C:  
Fence along inside of sidewalk



# North/South Axis Section

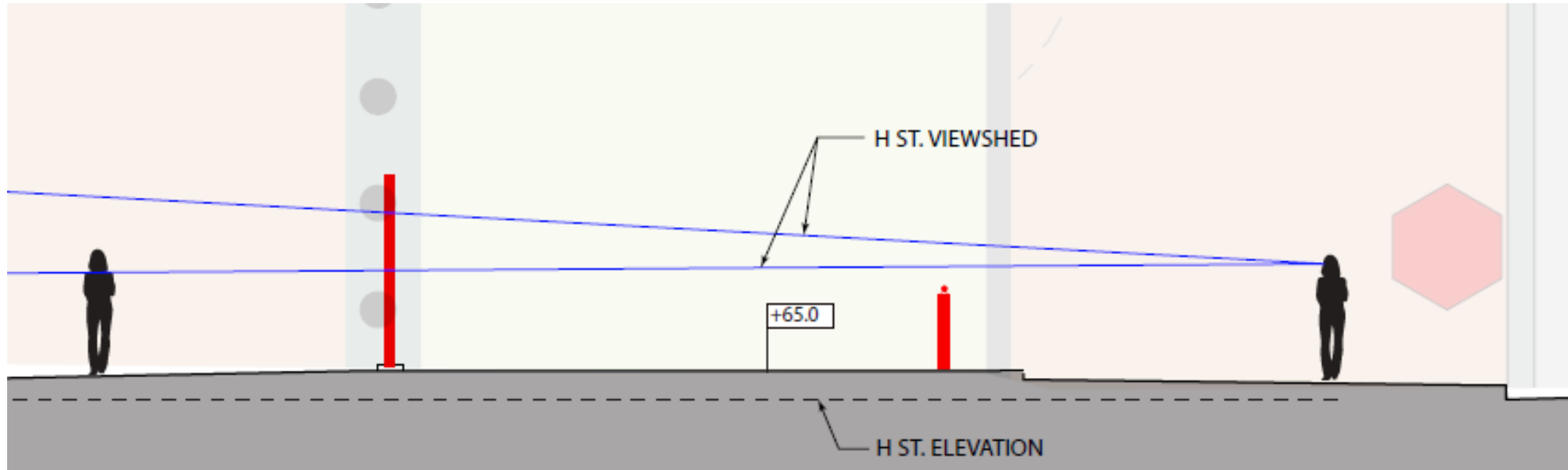
The North/ South Axis section shown below illustrates the elevation and sightlines of key points within Lafayette Park.



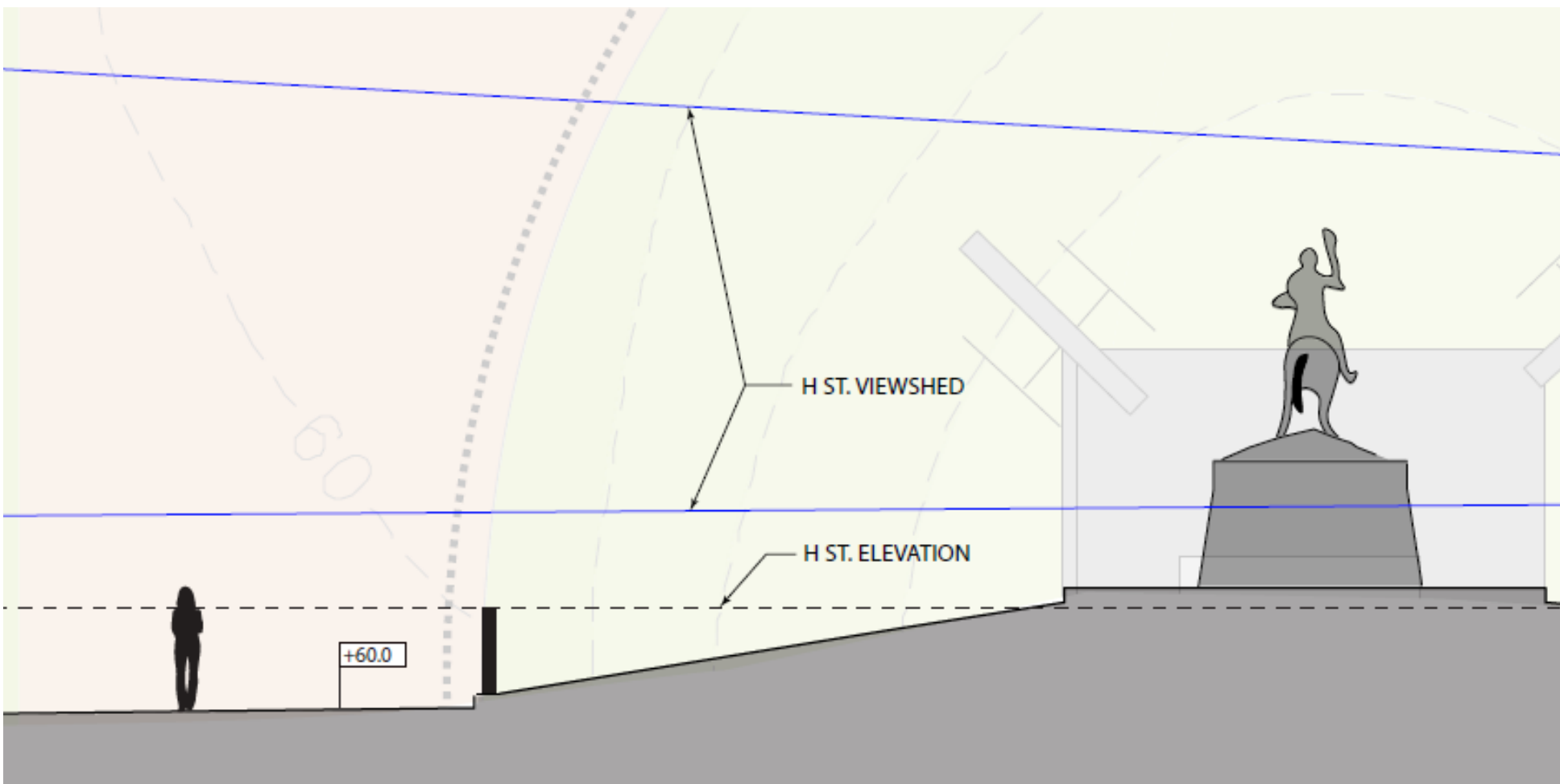
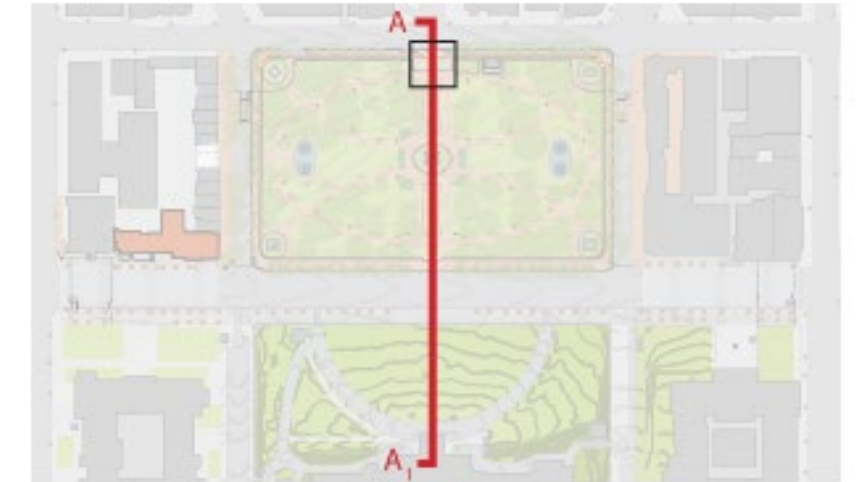


# North/South Axis Sections 1 & 2

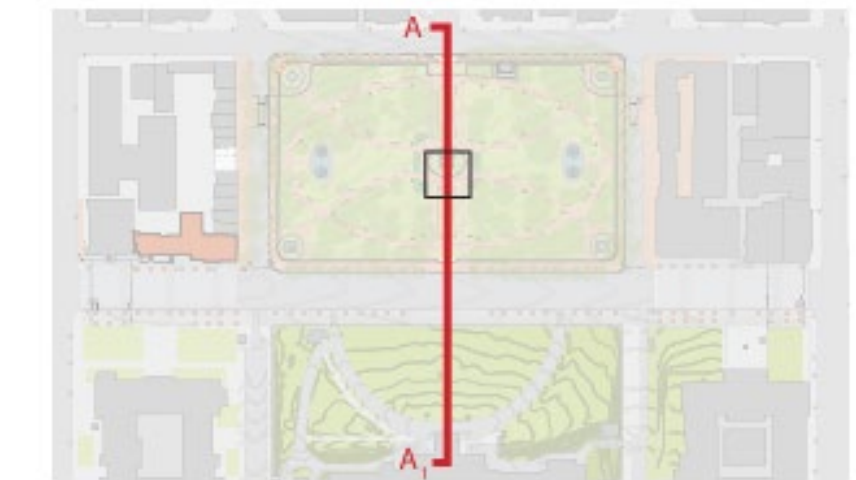
Sections 1 and 2 of the site's North and South Axis section show the elevation and lines of sight from the most northern side of Lafayette Park to the middle of the park. Once past the proposed fencing or looking through a gate, the historic Andrew Jackson statue is visible and views are minimally interrupted. 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



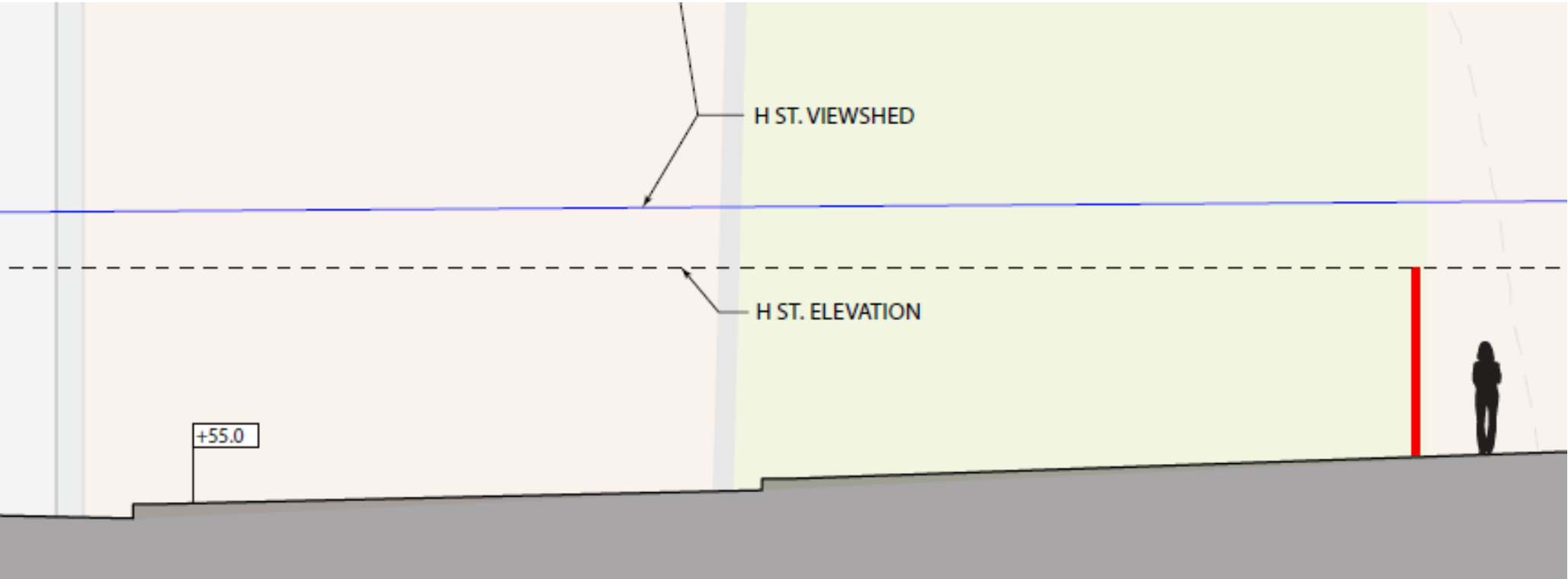
Section 2



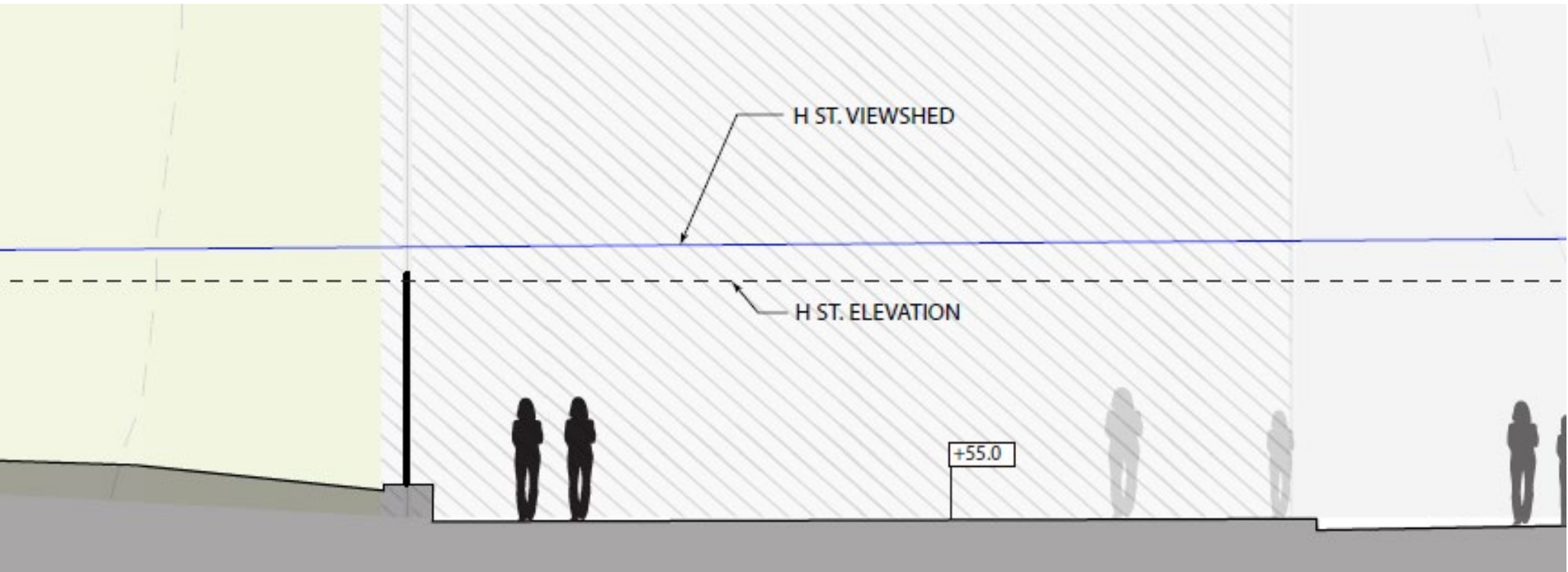
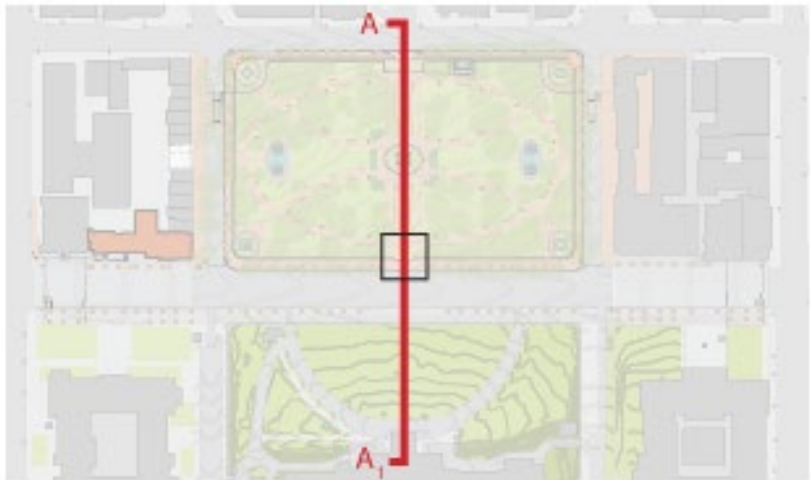


# North/South Axis Section 3 & 4

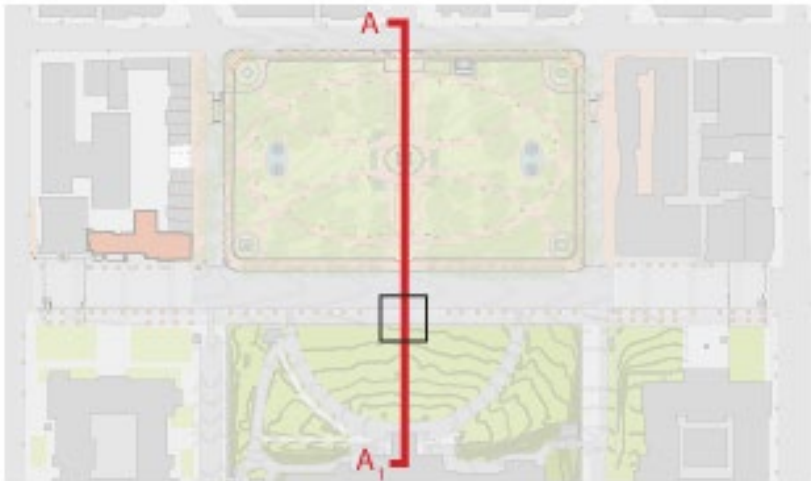
Sections 3 and 4 of the site’s North and South Axis section show the elevation and lines of sight from the southern side of the park to the southern edge of Pennsylvania Avenue NW. Based on the blue sight lines, a visitor standing at the northern side of Lafayette Park would be able to see over the White House fence and be able to view the structure unobstructed by the White House fence.



Section 3



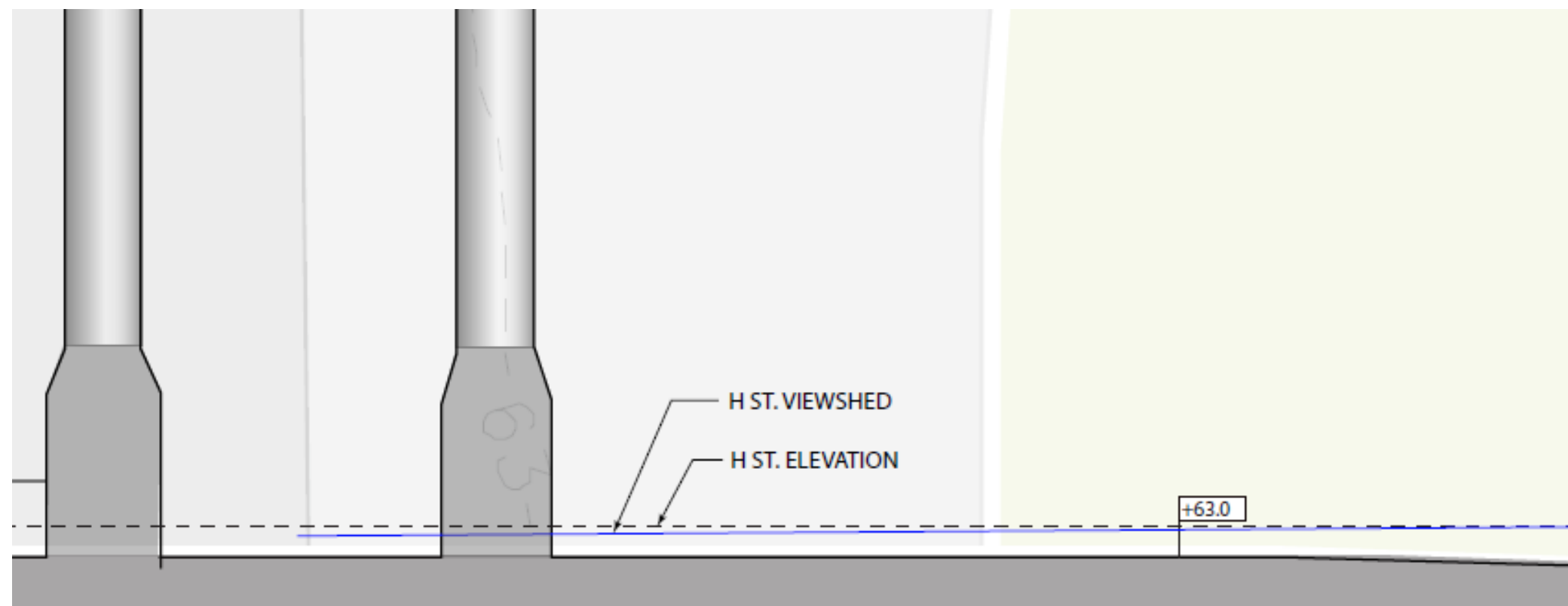
Section 4



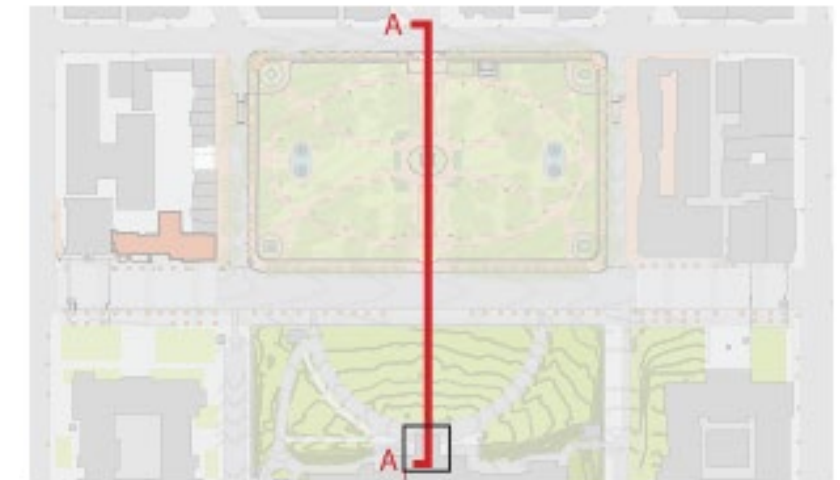


# North/South Axis Section 5

Section 5 of the site's North and South Axis section shows the elevation and lines of sight from the southern side 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 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.



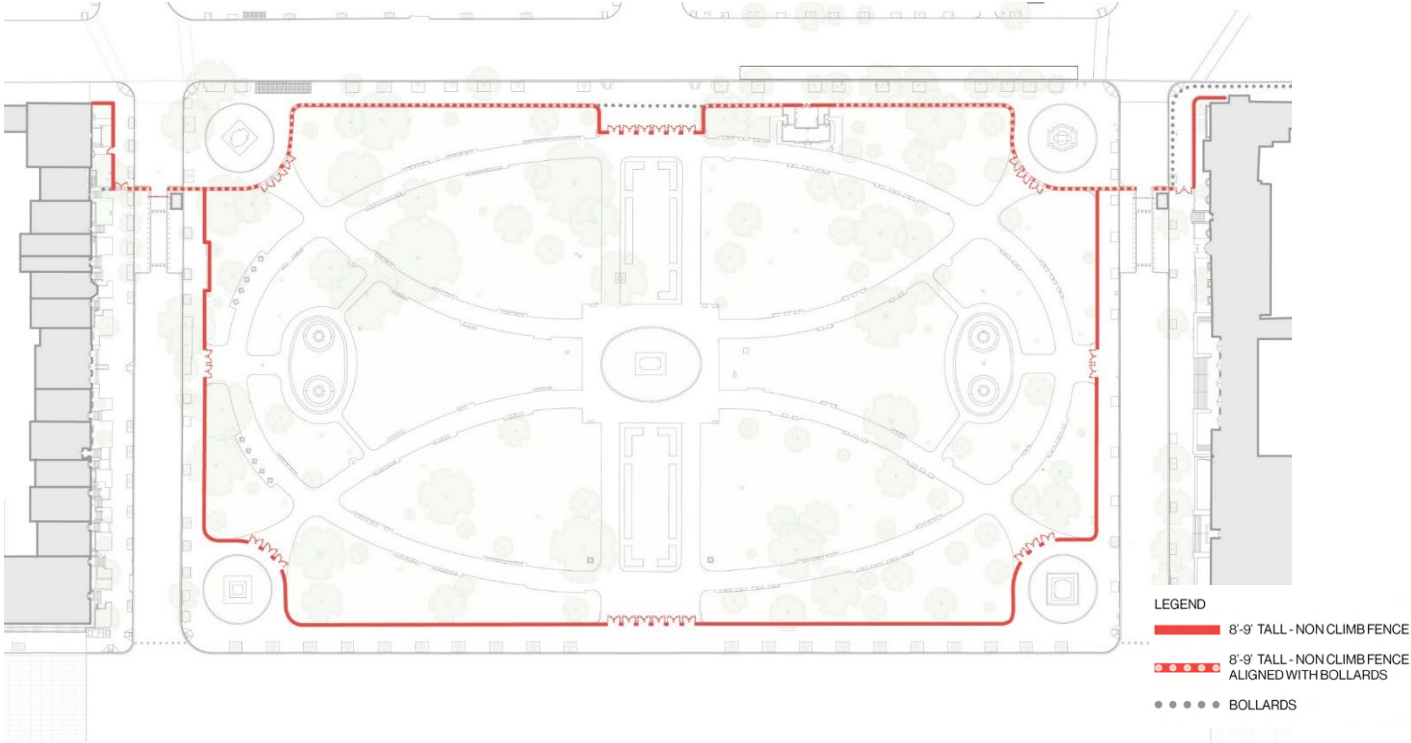
Section 5





# 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 larger 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:**

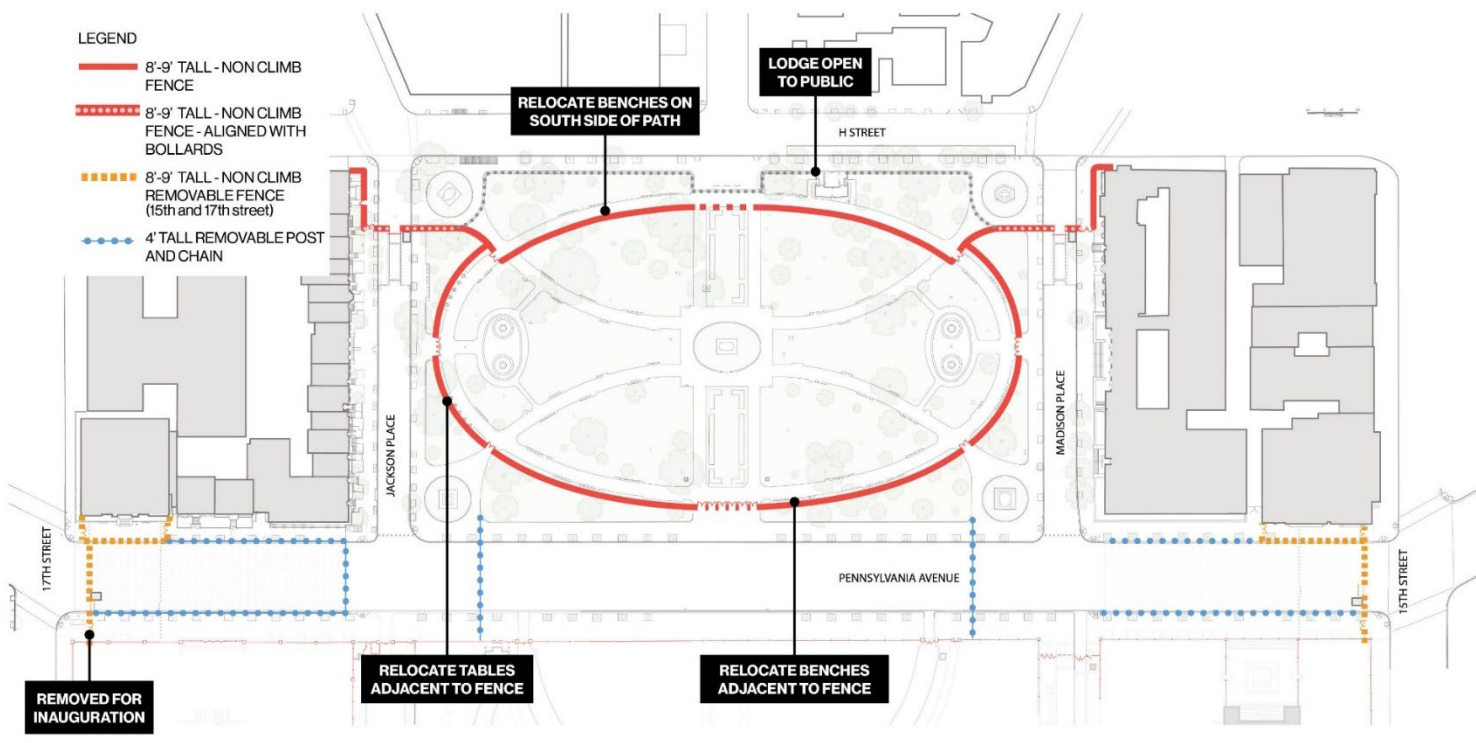
- Swings north side gates out in the direction of egress from the Park; Swings gates from Pennsylvania Avenue NW into the Park, in the direction of egress
- Places Lafayette Lodge within the fence line
- Accommodates Inauguration stands
- Establishes multiple gates to facilitate egress
- Easier alignment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

**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 viewing area when Pennsylvania Avenue is closed

**Negatives for Operations:**

- Affects bollard performance at fence connection (3 locations)
- Leaves statues and Lafayette Lodge 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
- 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

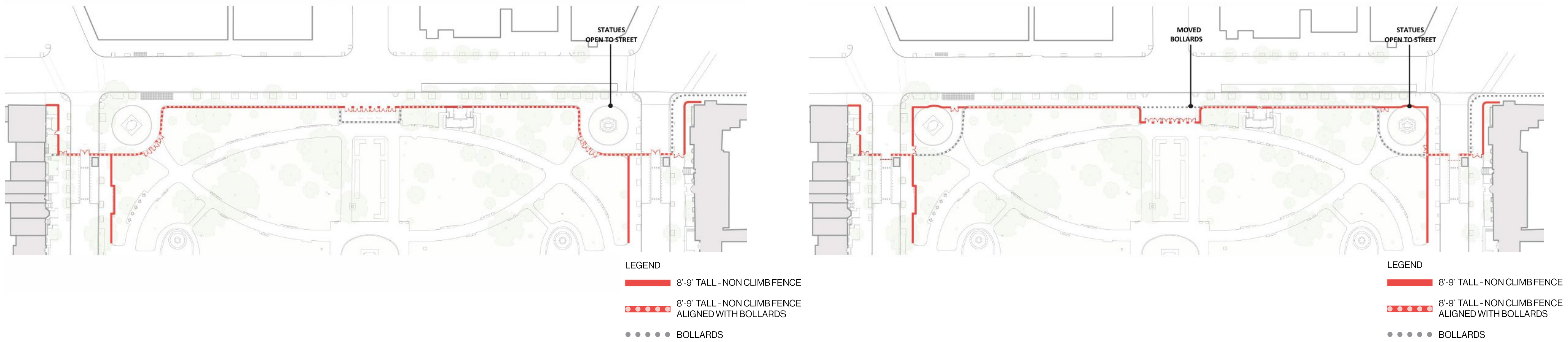
**Negatives for Operations:**

- Limits viewing area when Pennsylvania Avenue is closed
- Emphasizes closed feeling of the park due to continuous fencing south of the elliptical walkway, rather than Pennsylvania Avenue NW



# 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
- Limits fence design (likely decreasing visibility) 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 larger 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

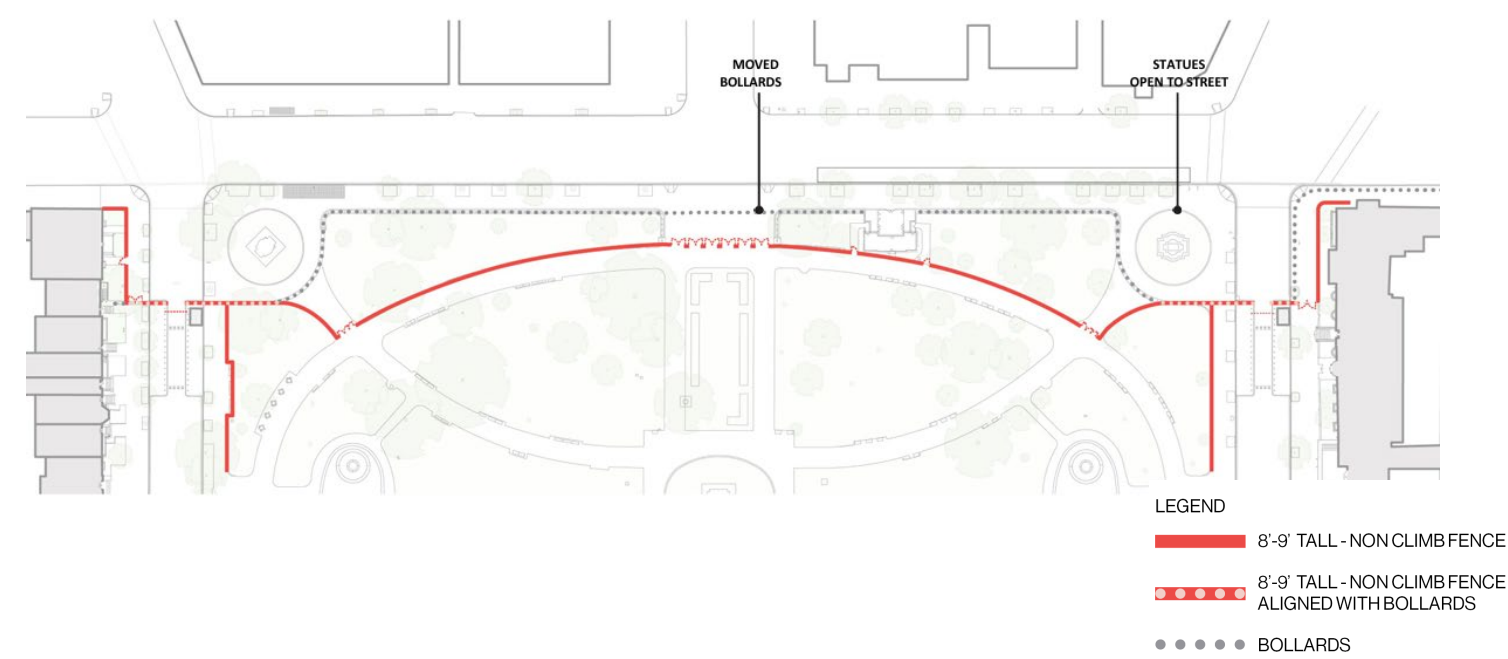
**Negatives for Operations:**

- 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:**

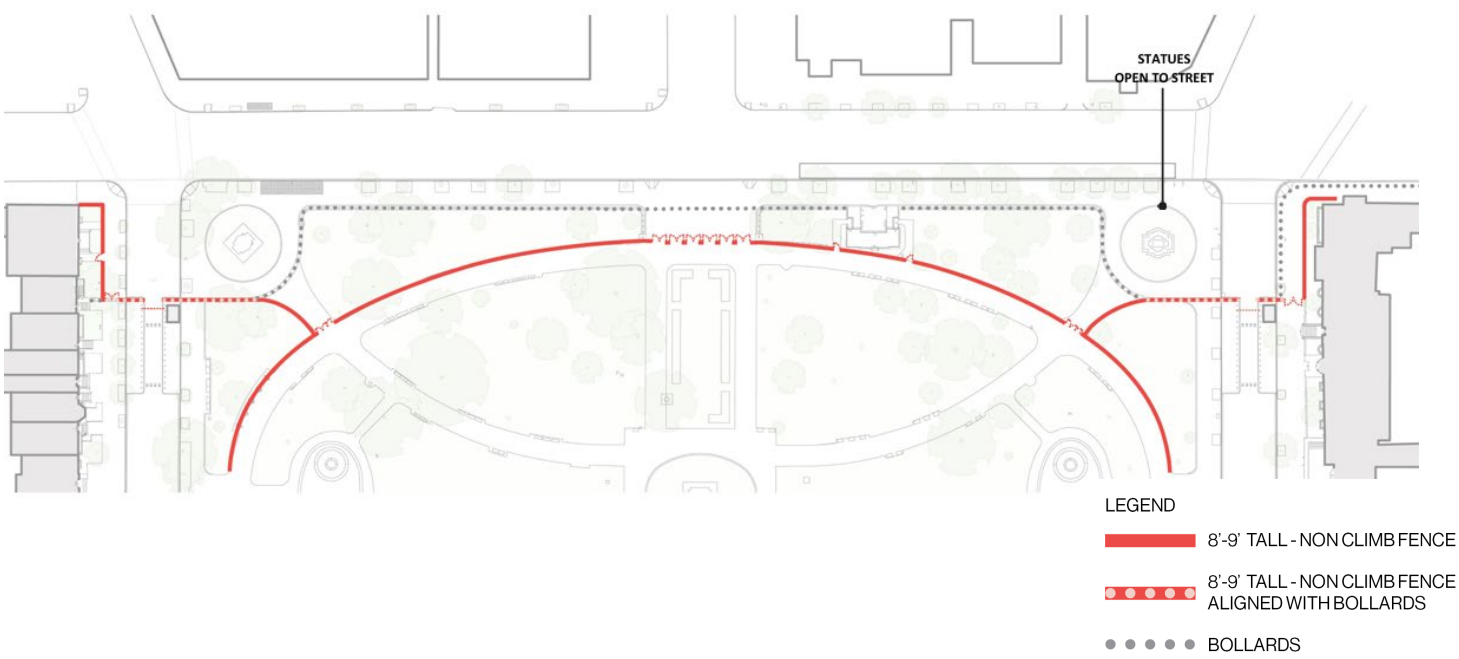
- Swings north side gates out in the direction of egress from the Park
- Sets fence line south of H Street NW, which would minimize vehicular intrusions

**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:**

- None identified



**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

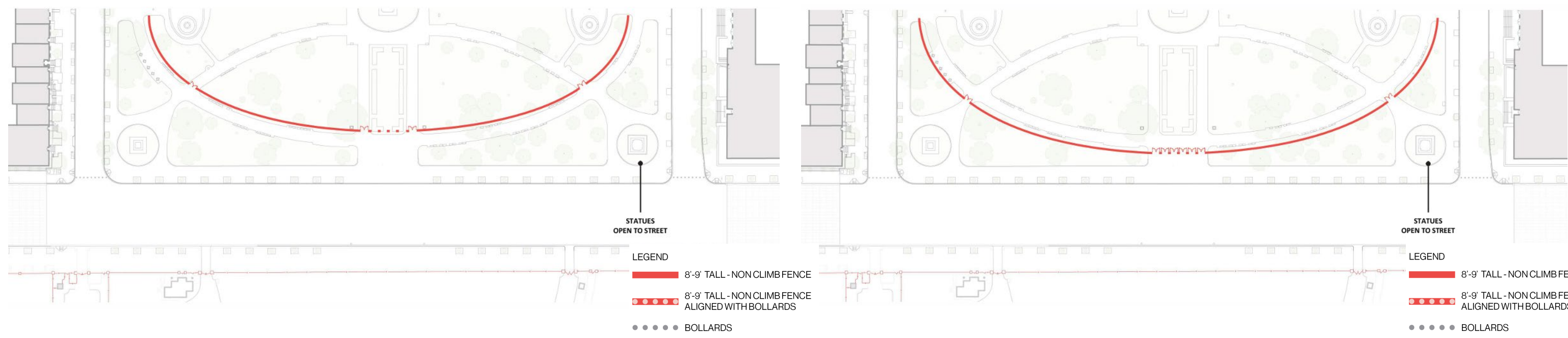
**Negatives for Operations:**

- 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
- Alarming more difficult

**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

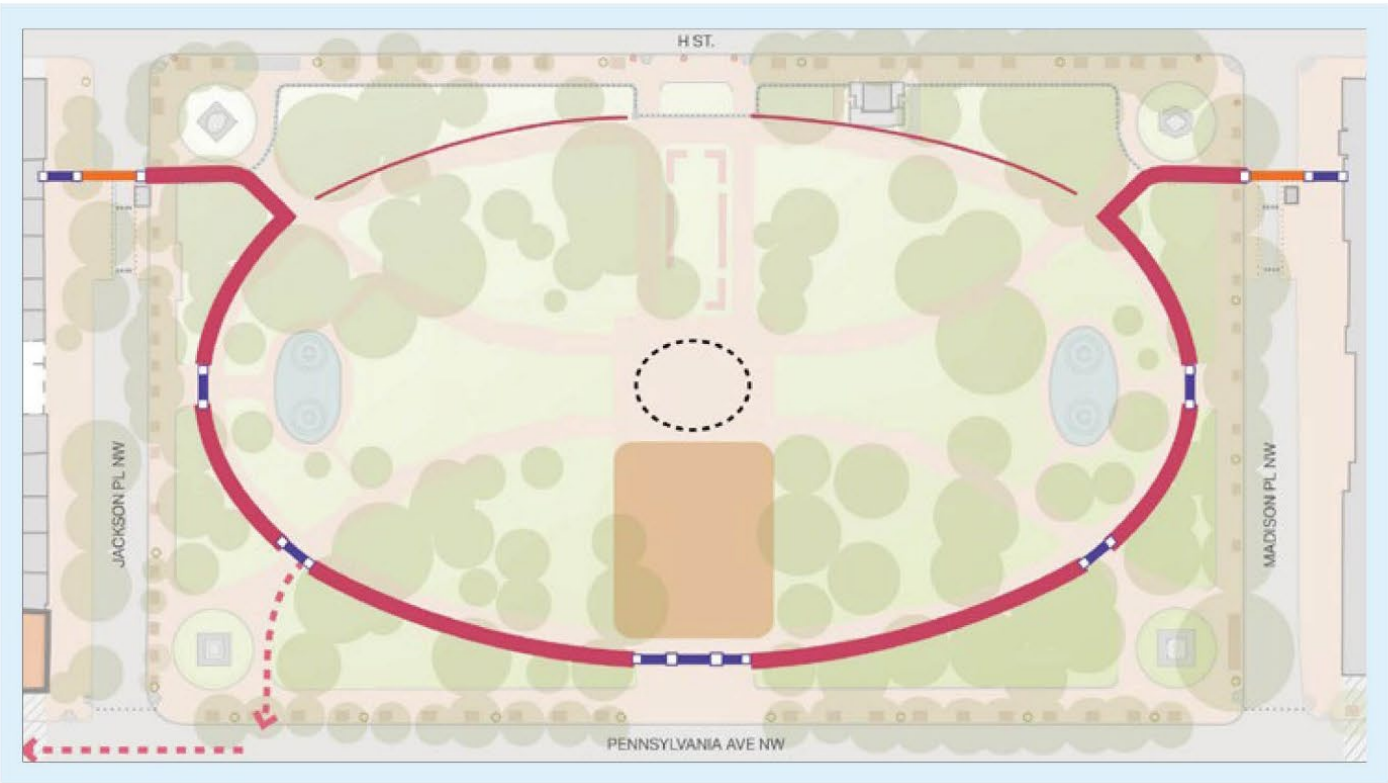
**Negatives for Operations:**

- None identified

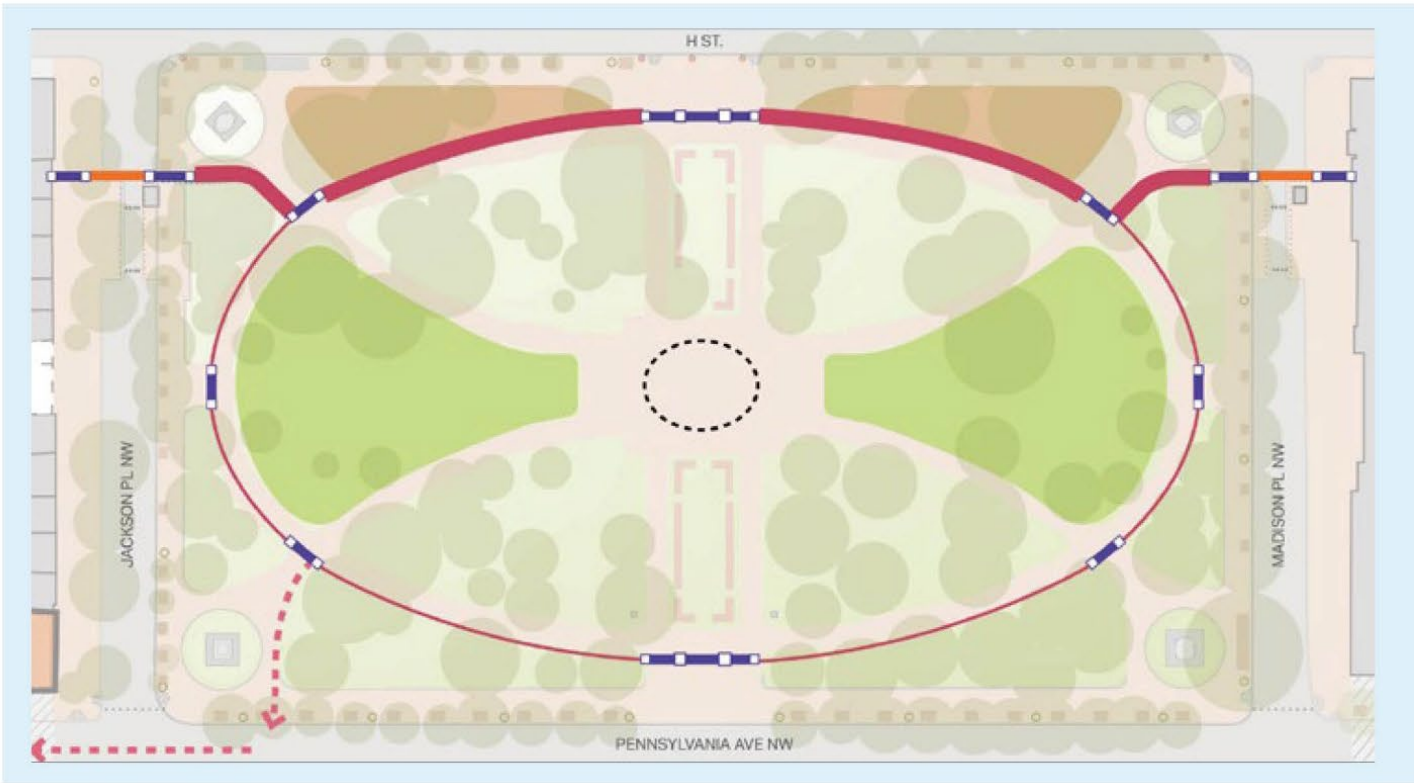


# Legacy Alignments Considered but Dismissed (2020)

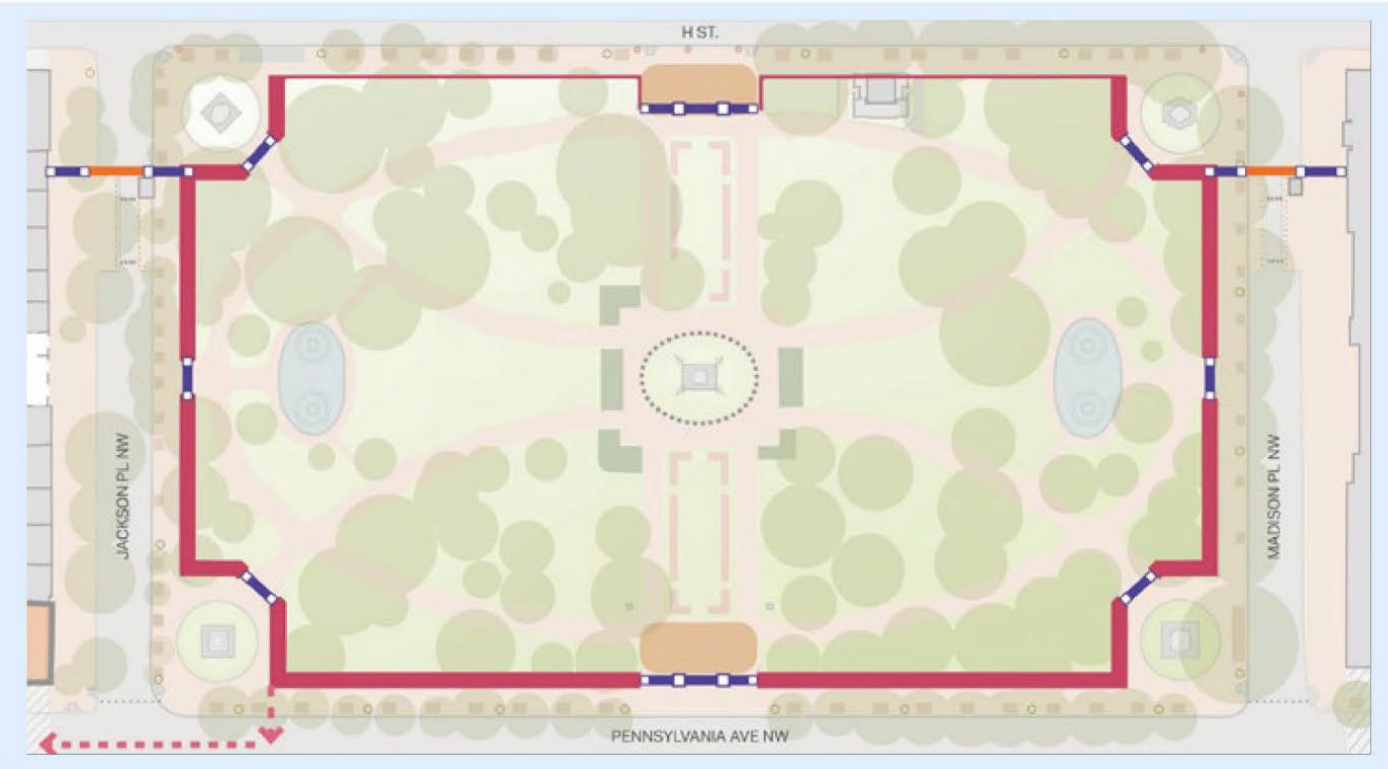
Additional fence alignments were considered in 2020, but were ultimately determined that they did not adequately address security concerns. Reasons for dismissal are addressed in the following:



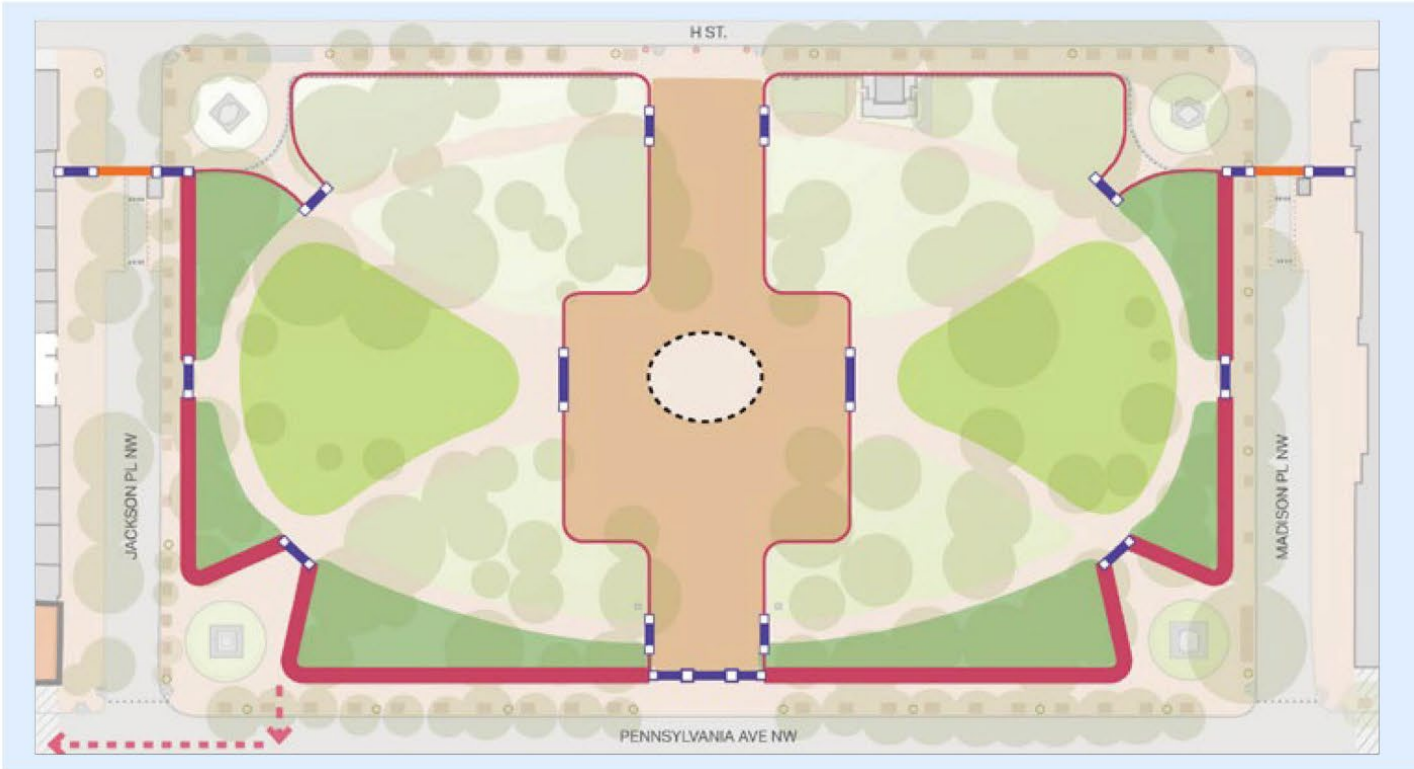
Not enough space between the park, Blair House, and White House during partial or full street closures



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



Not enough 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



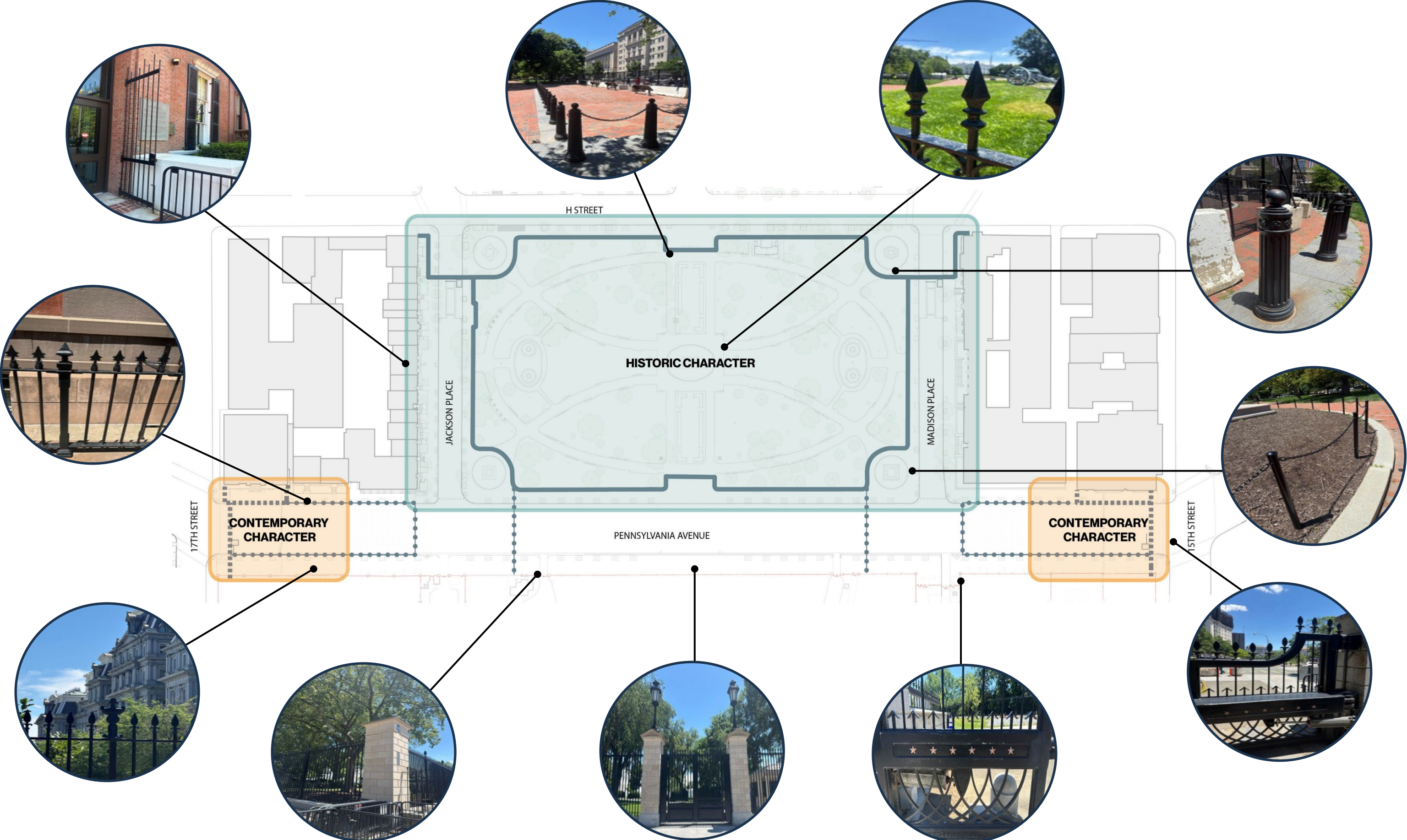
## 5. Fence | Character



FENCE | CHARACTER

# Site 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.



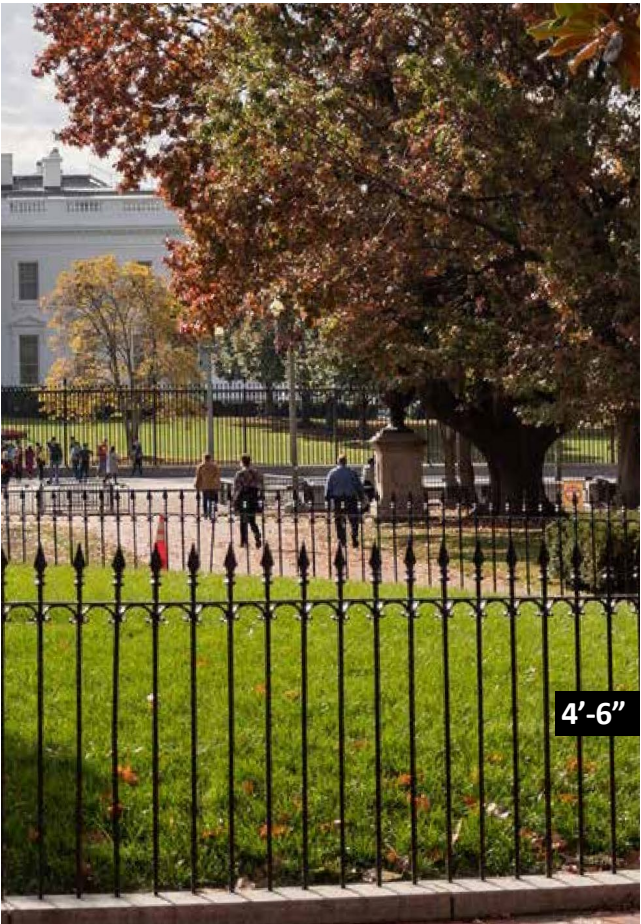


# Current and Historic Fences

The project area has had multiple fencing types over time.



TREASURY BUILDING



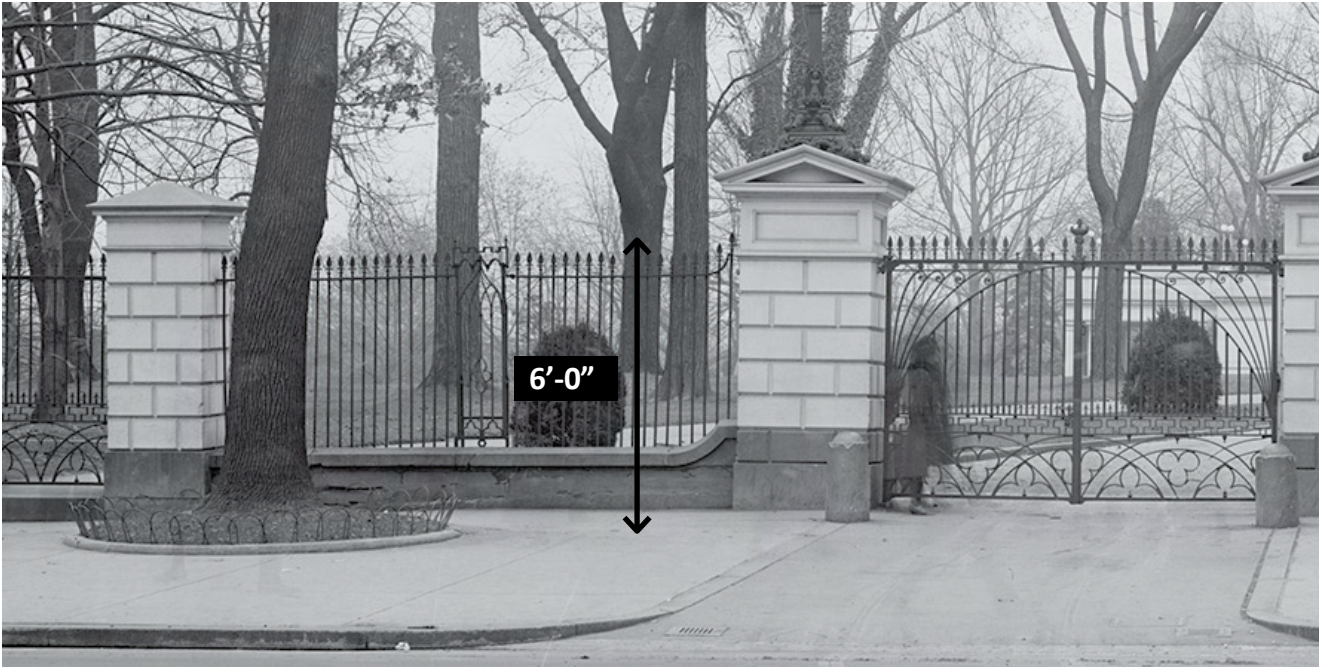
ANDREW JACKSON STATUE



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)

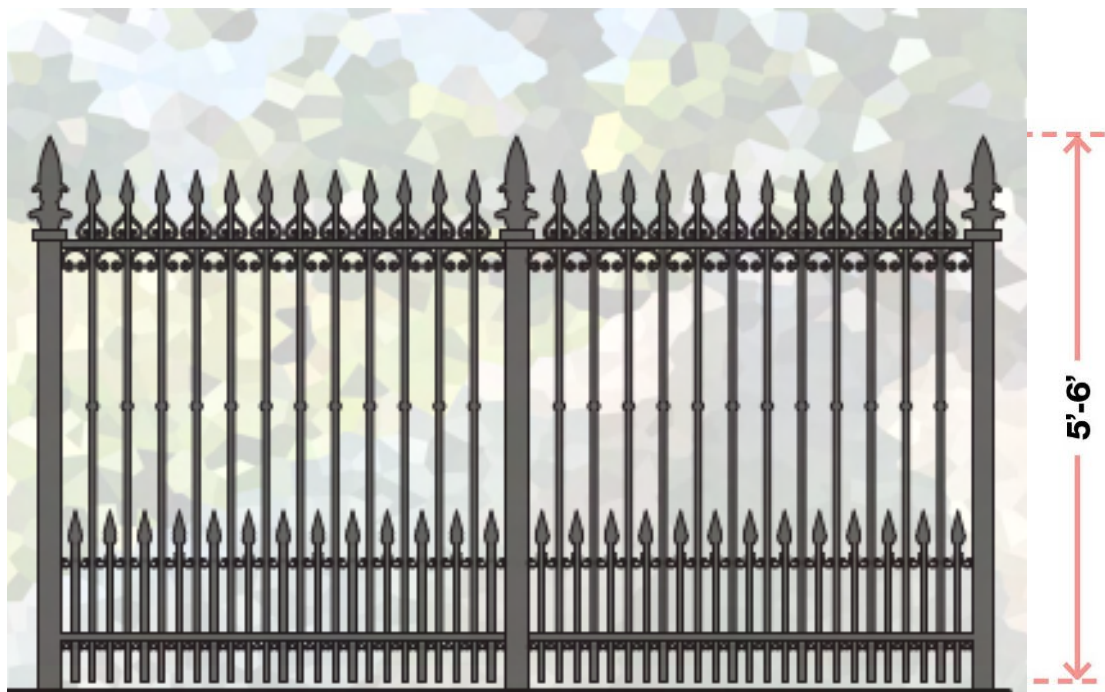


# Historic Fence: Lafayette Park Fence Heights and Elements

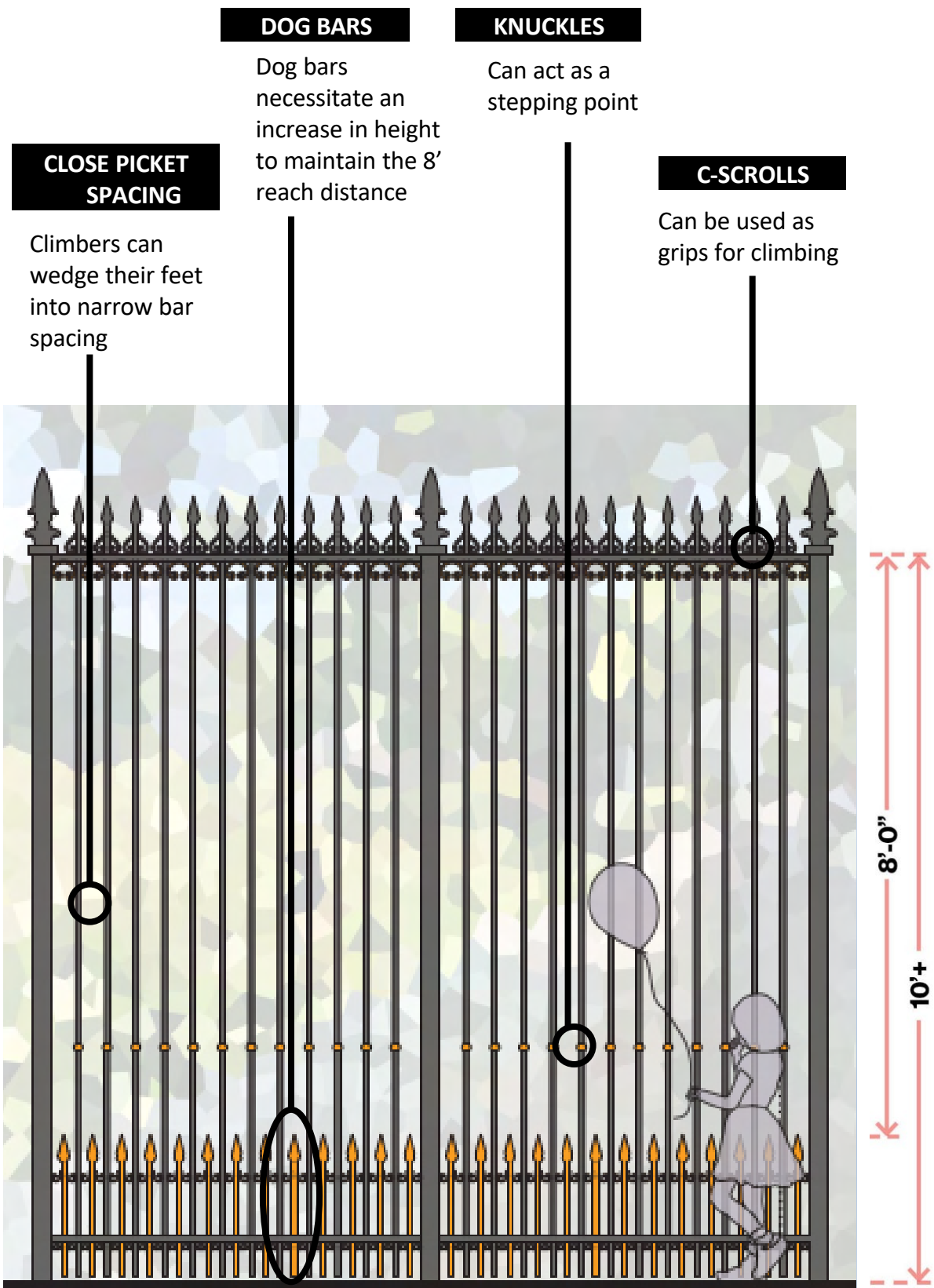
In the past, Lafayette Park had a 5'-6" fence enclosing the park. Below is an image of the original historical fence, currently located at Gettysburg National Cemetery. An illustration below that image shows the original dimensions of the historical fence. Due to present day security needs, the proposed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

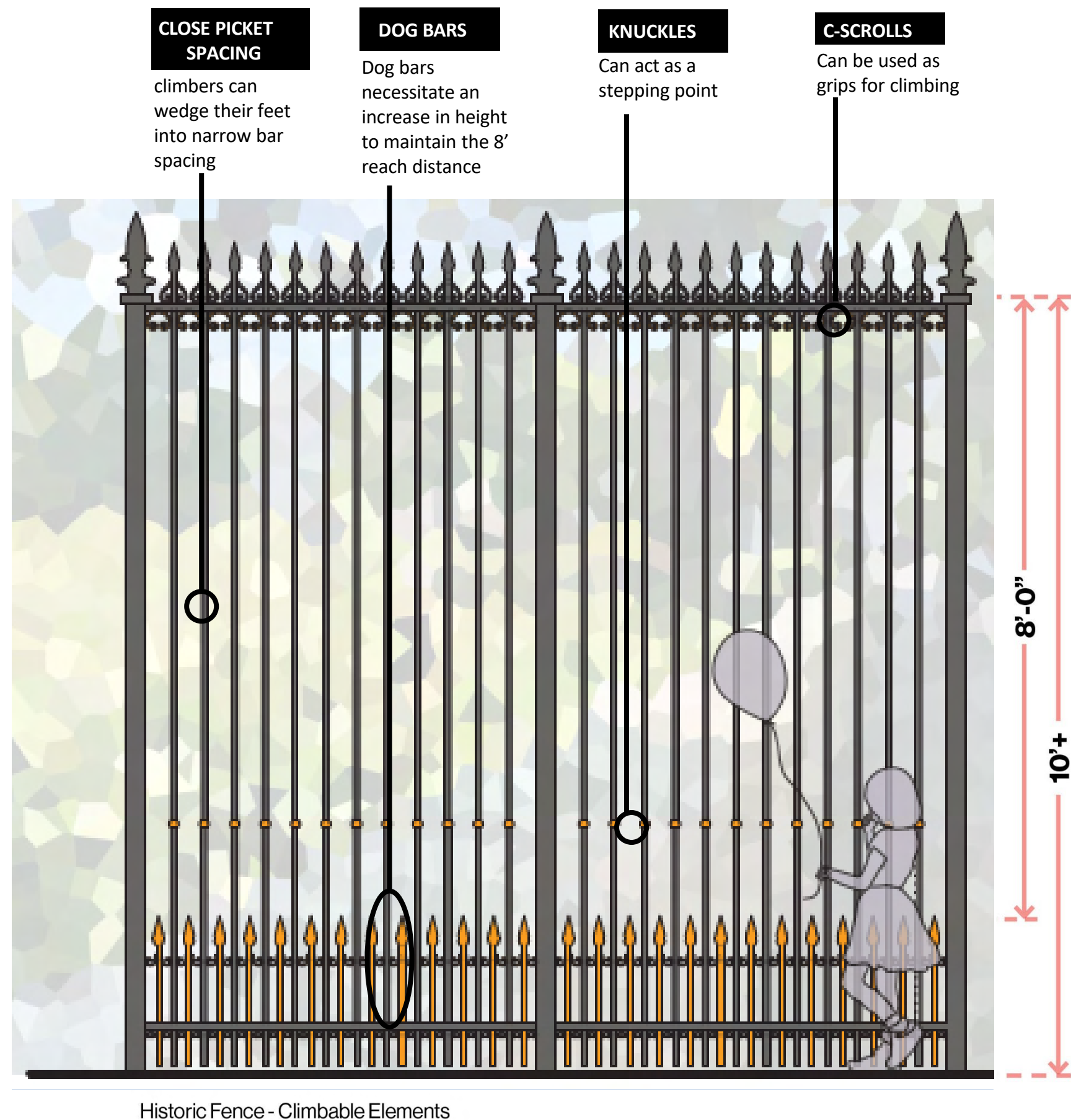


Historic Fence - At Required Height



# Security Considerations: Lafayette Park Fence Elements

In the past, Lafayette Park had a 5'-6" fence enclosing the park. An illustration below shows the historical fence with a reimagined design, including present day dimensions of 8'-10". Due to present day security needs, the proposed Lafayette Park fence would need to address the security needs noted below. This includes removing or altering climbable elements such as knuckles, c-scrolls, close picket spacing, and dog bars.

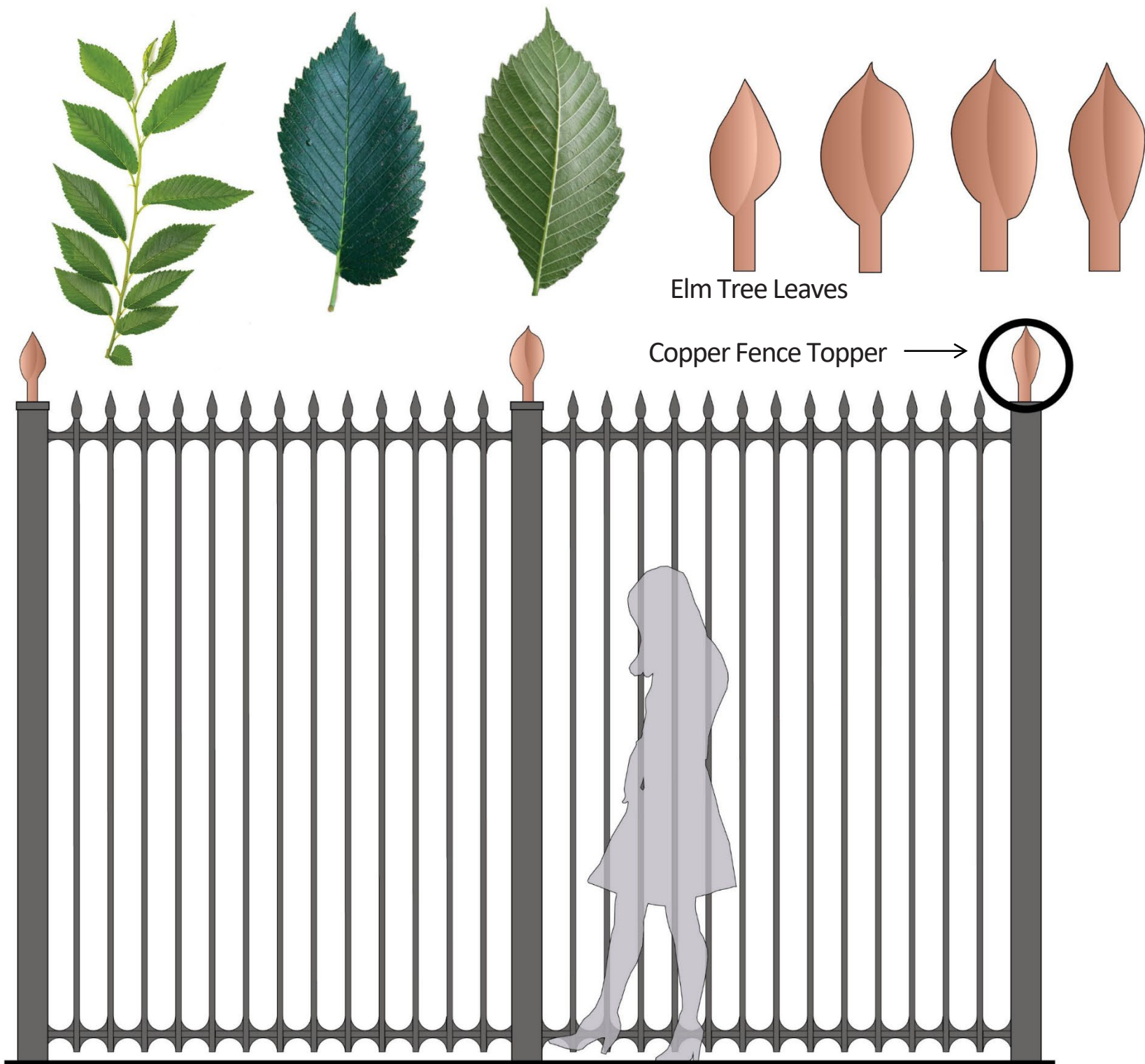




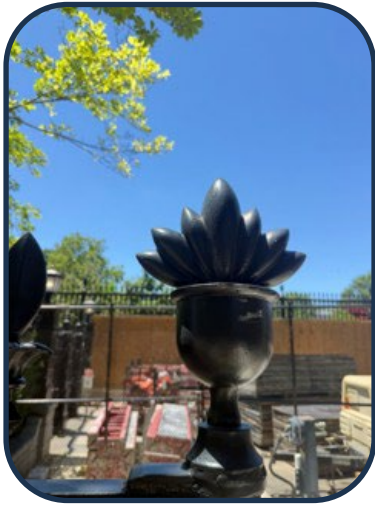
# Character Exploration: Lafayette Park Post Finials

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.



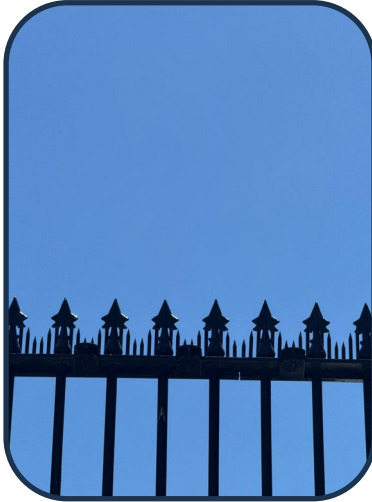
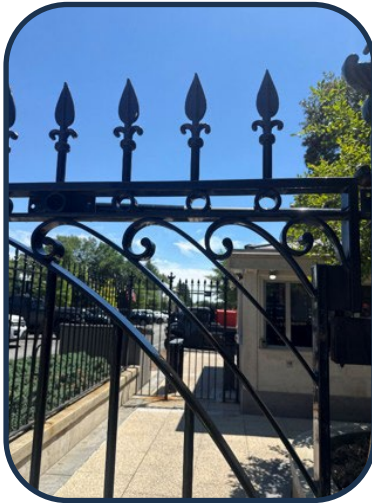
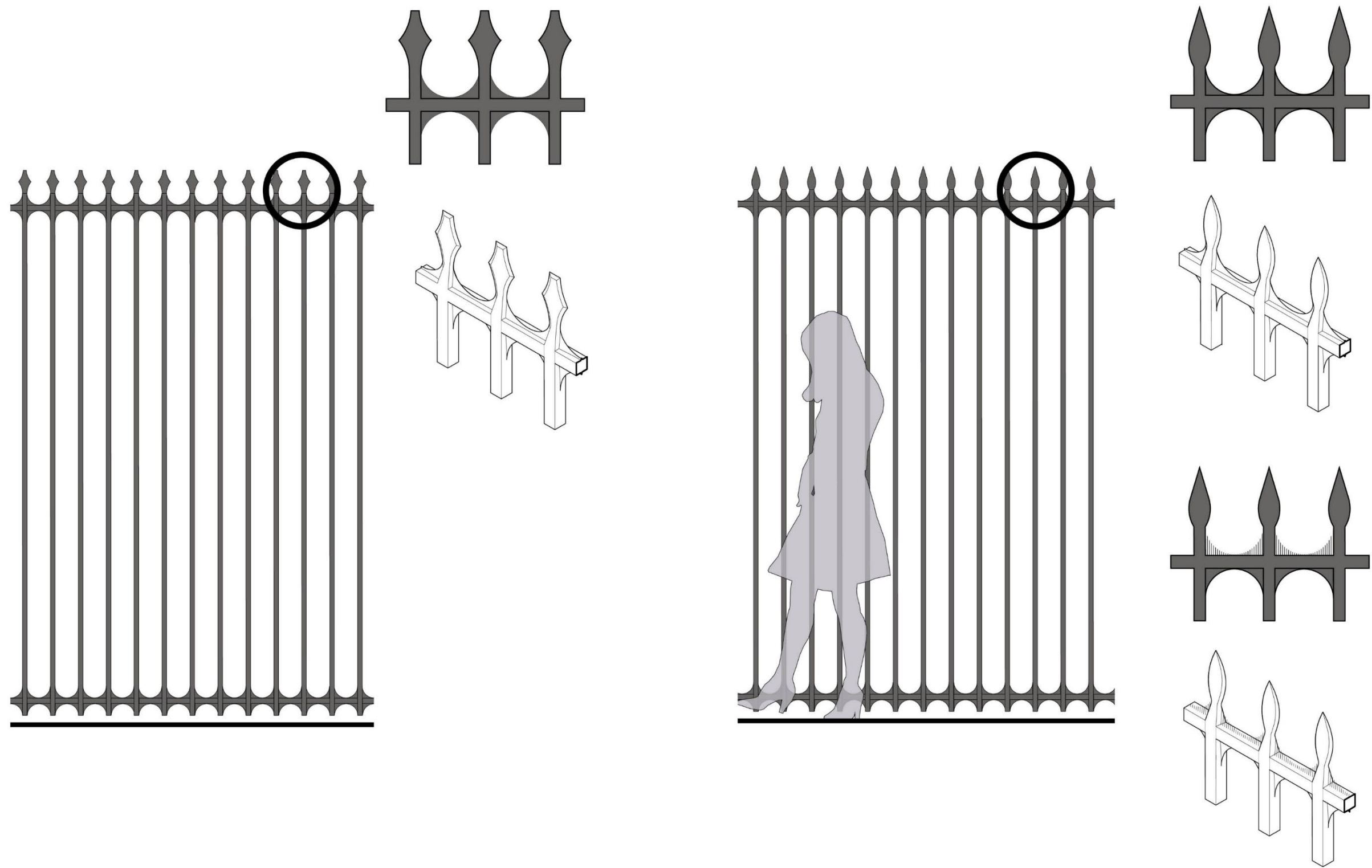
Historic Fence  
"Corn Cob" Topper





# Character Exploration: Lafayette Park Picket Finials

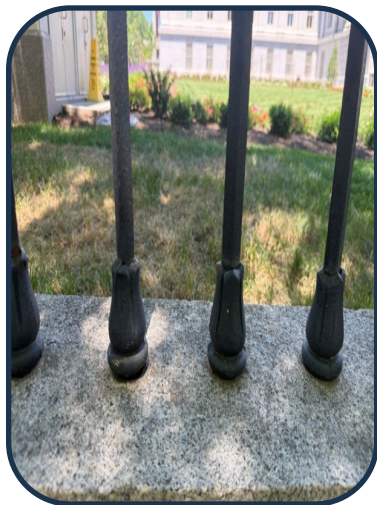
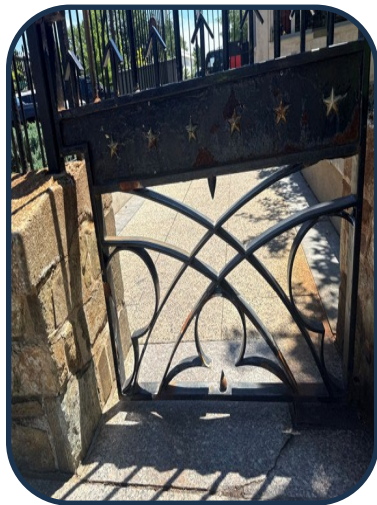
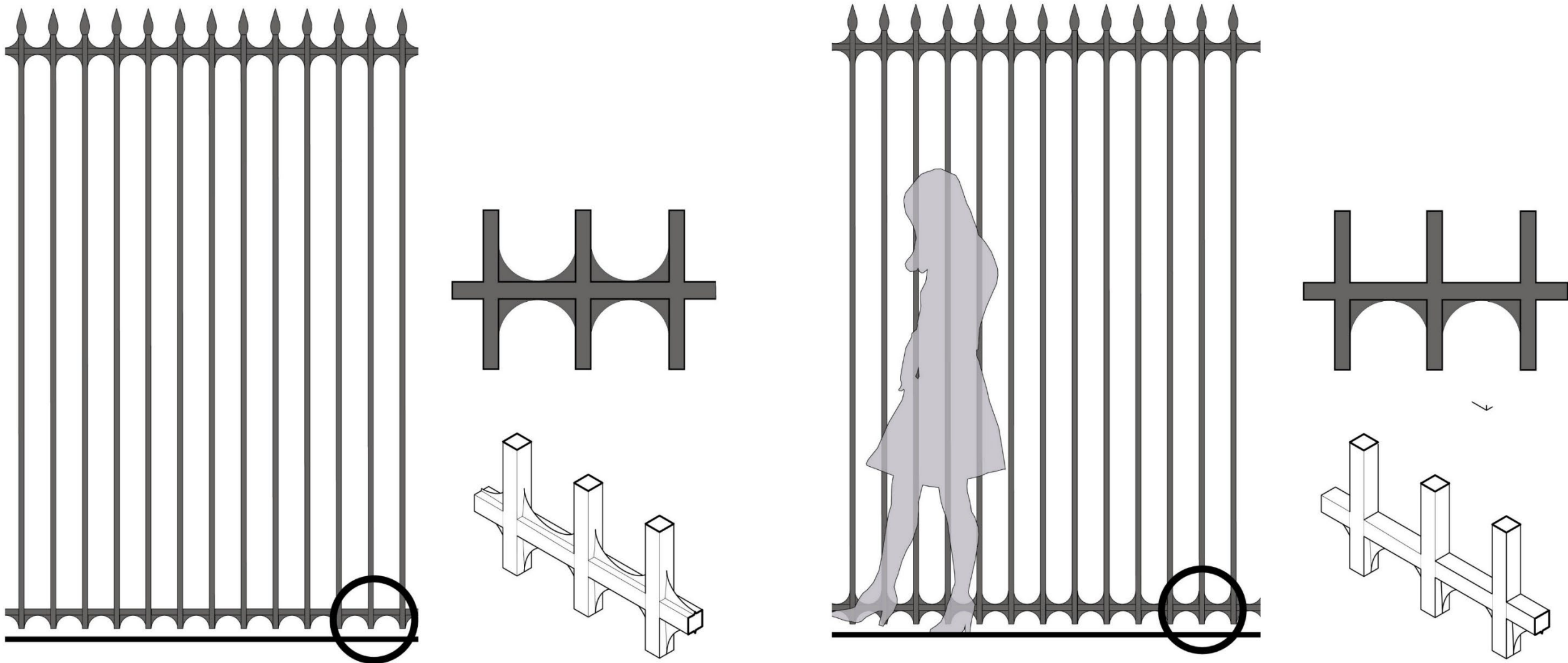
Various picket finials positioned throughout Lafayette Square and President's Park are displayed to the right. Below are some potential options for finials which will align with the character of the park as well as security standards.





# Character Exploration: Picket Elements

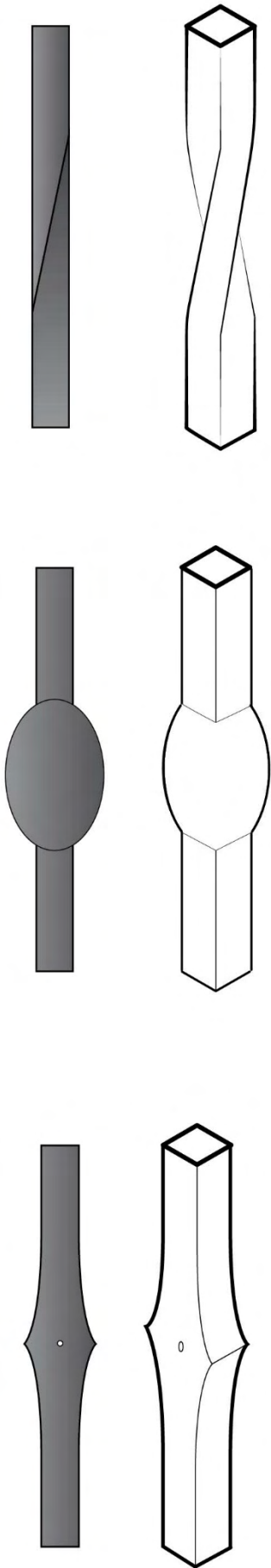
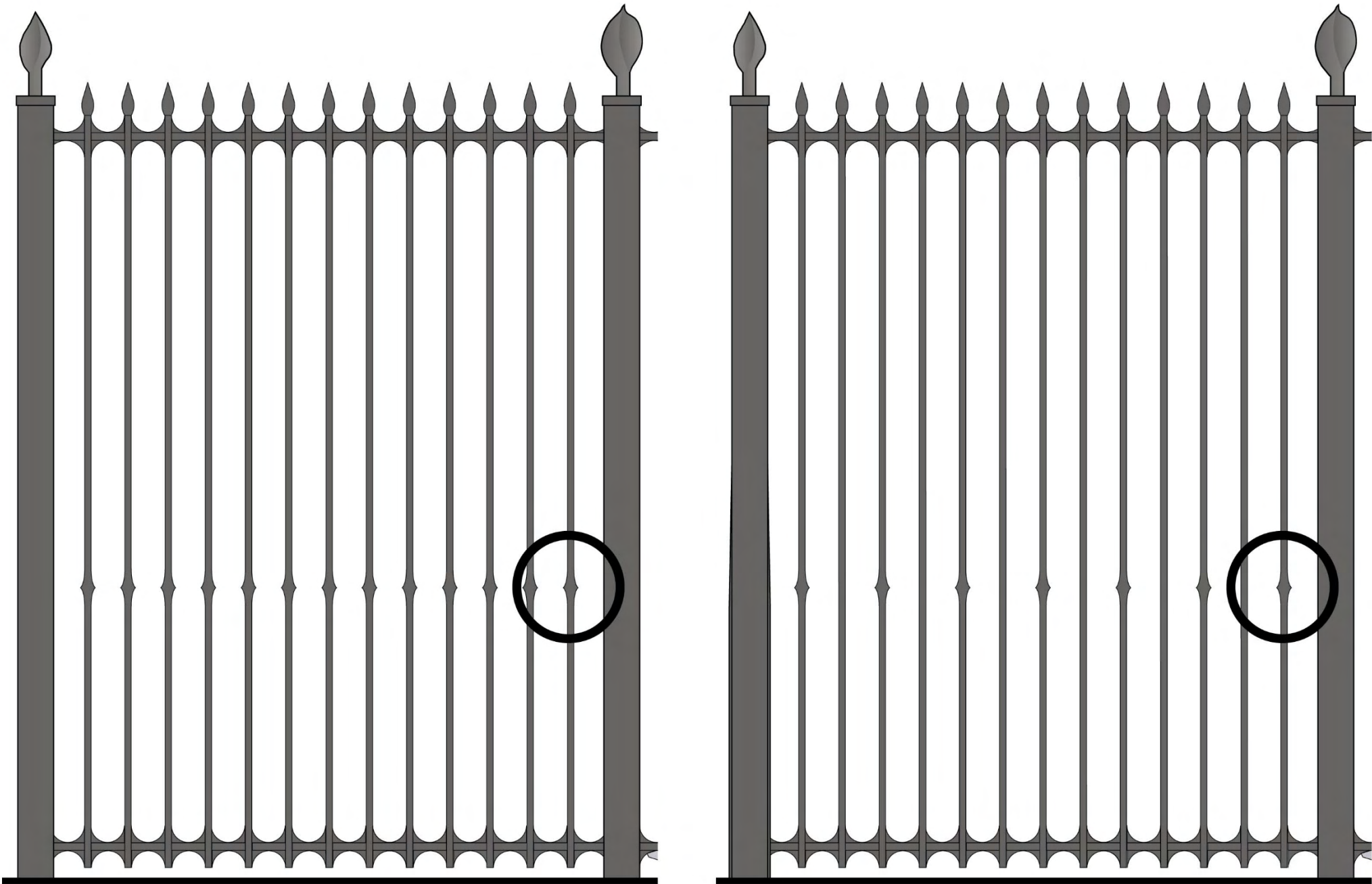
Various fence bases positioned throughout Lafayette Square and President's Park are displayed to the right Below are some potential options for fence bases which will align with the character of the park as well as security standards.





# 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.





# 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



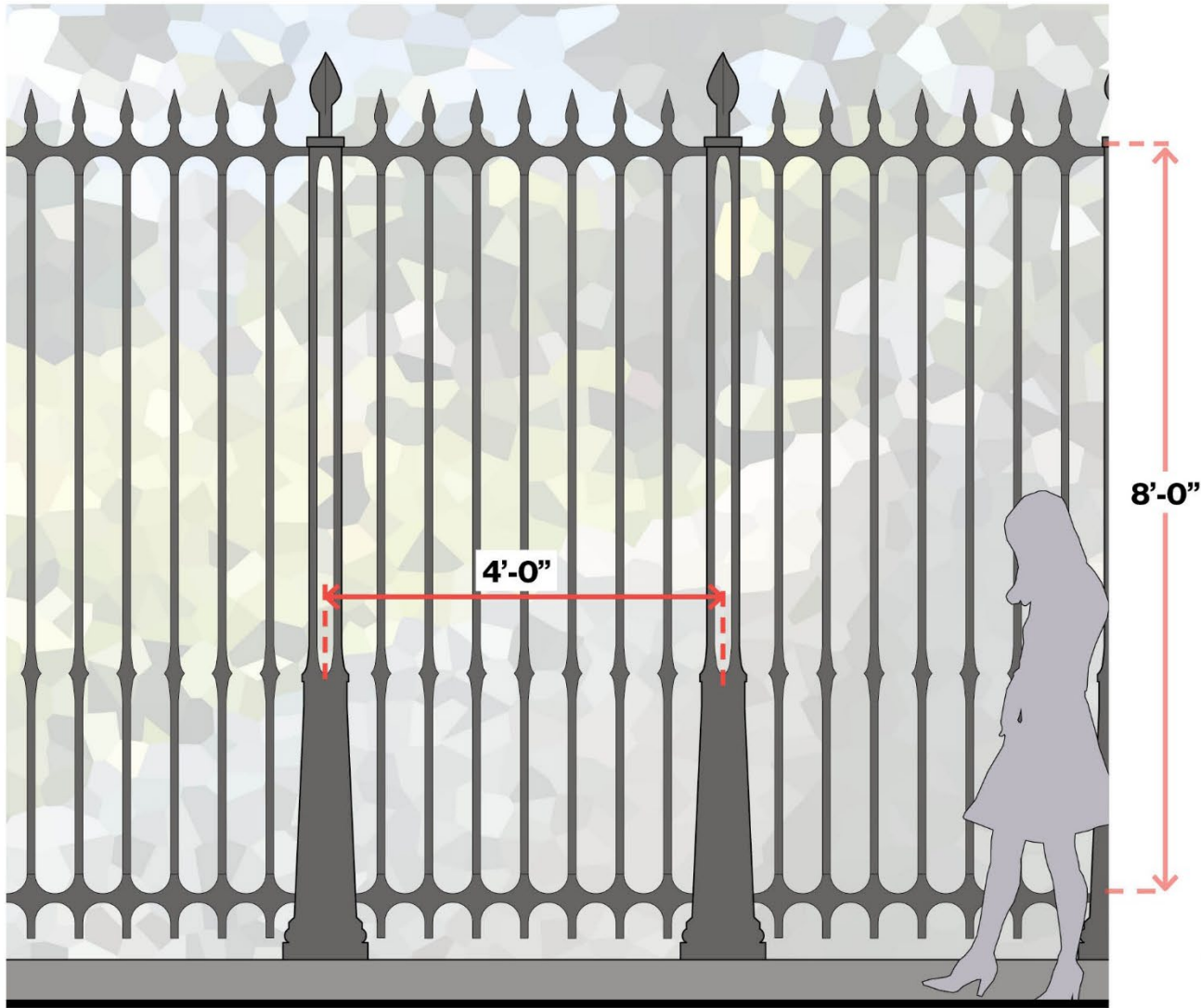
5" SPACING BETWEEN PICKETS

Spacing is too wide to  
create a secure fence

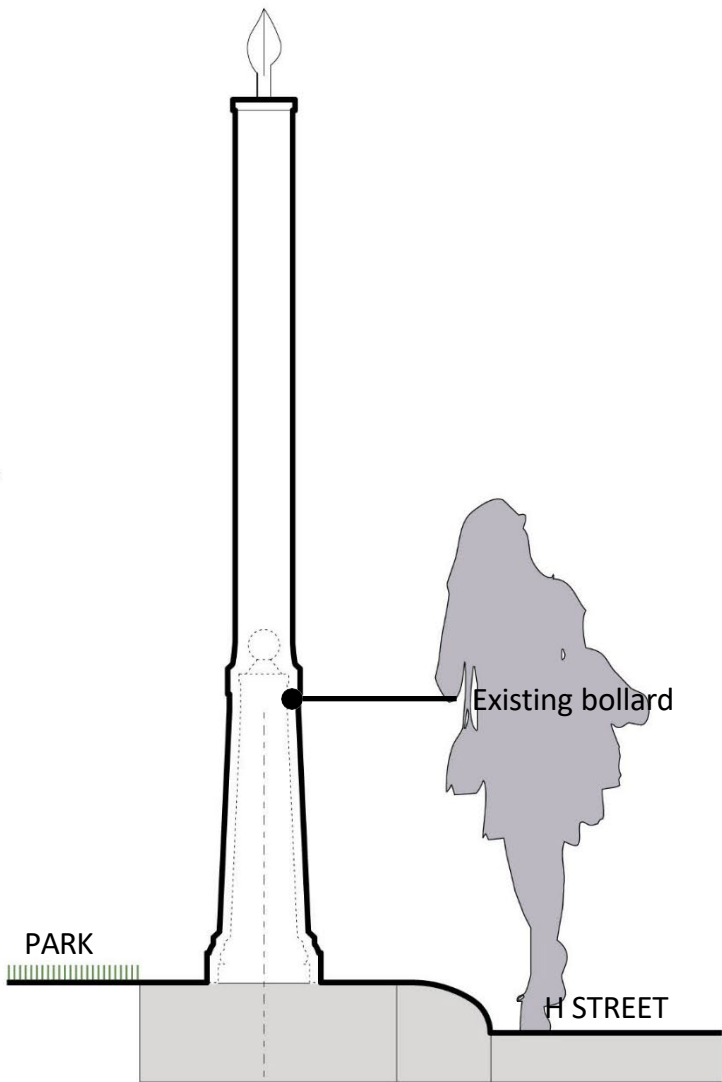


# H Street NW: Integrated Bollard

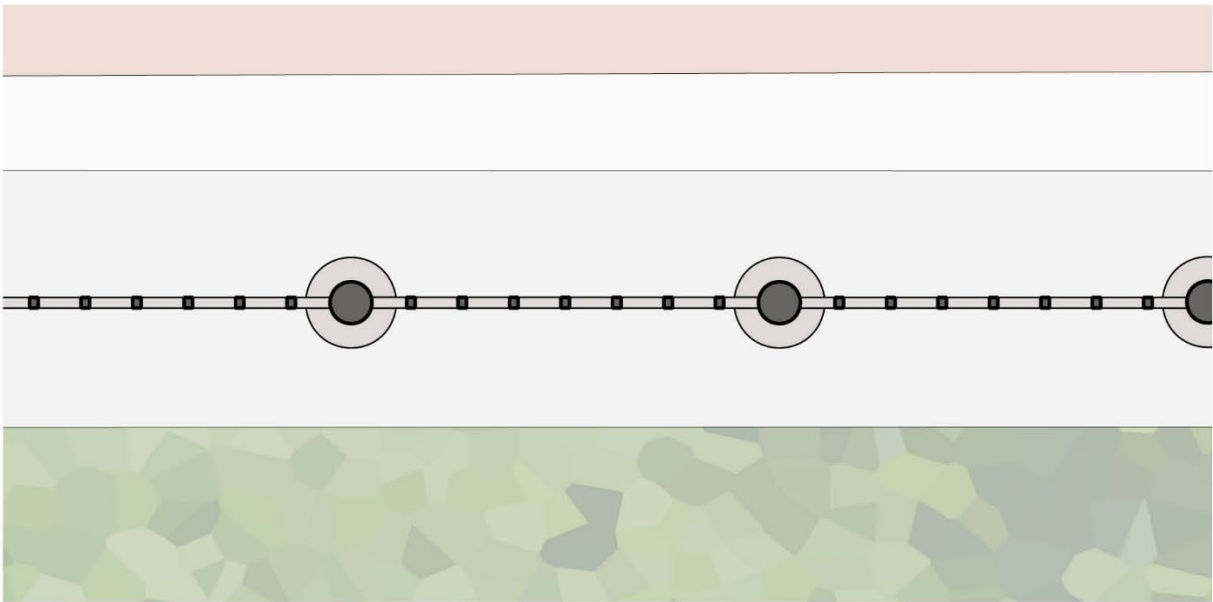
The recommended approach for Lafayette Park includes 4" spacing and incorporation of existing bollards, tapering towards the top of the fence. This option is the recommended alternative should the alignment follow the existing bollards.



FENCE ELEVATION AT H STREET



FENCE SECTION



FENCE PLAN



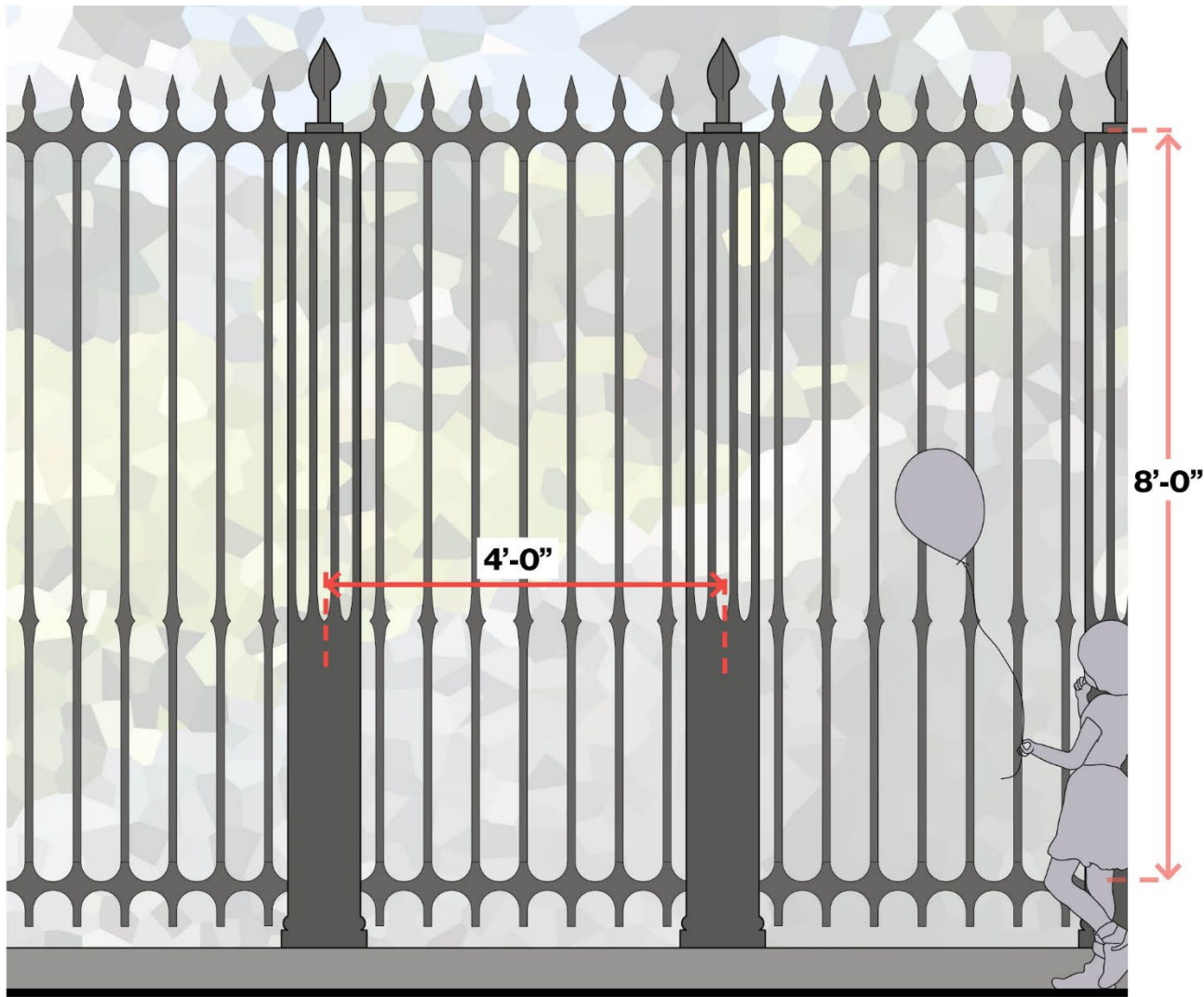
Painted steel

FENCE MATERIAL

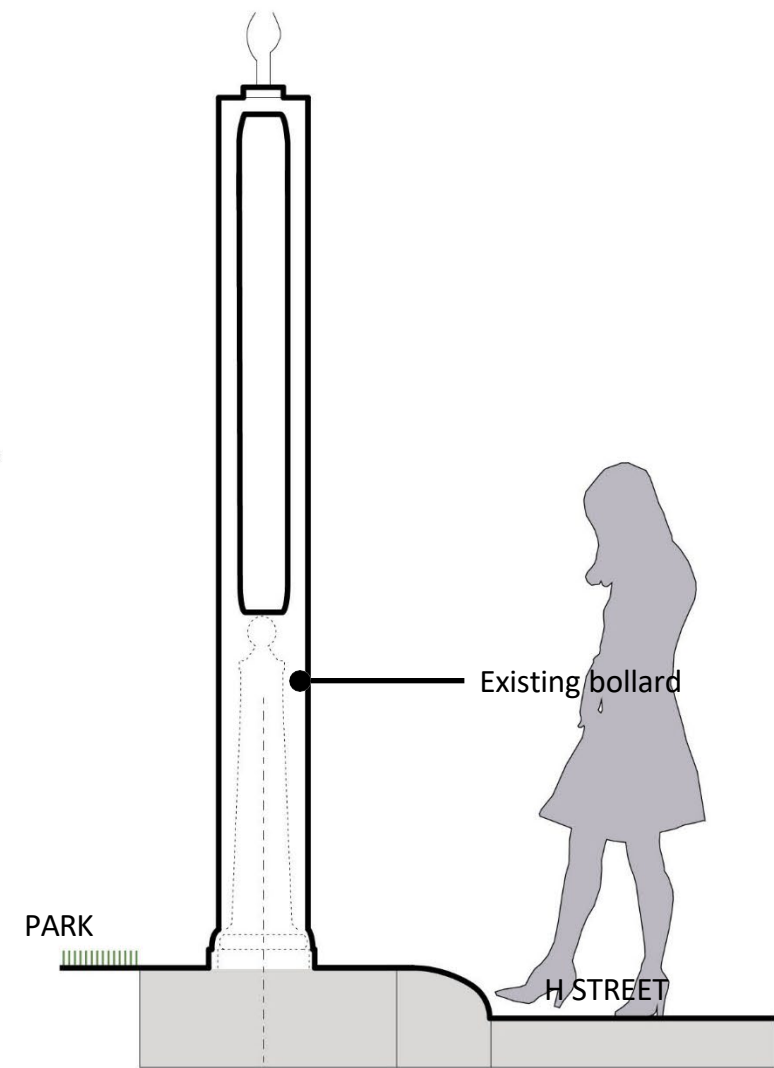


# H Street NW: Fence on Front Face of Bollard

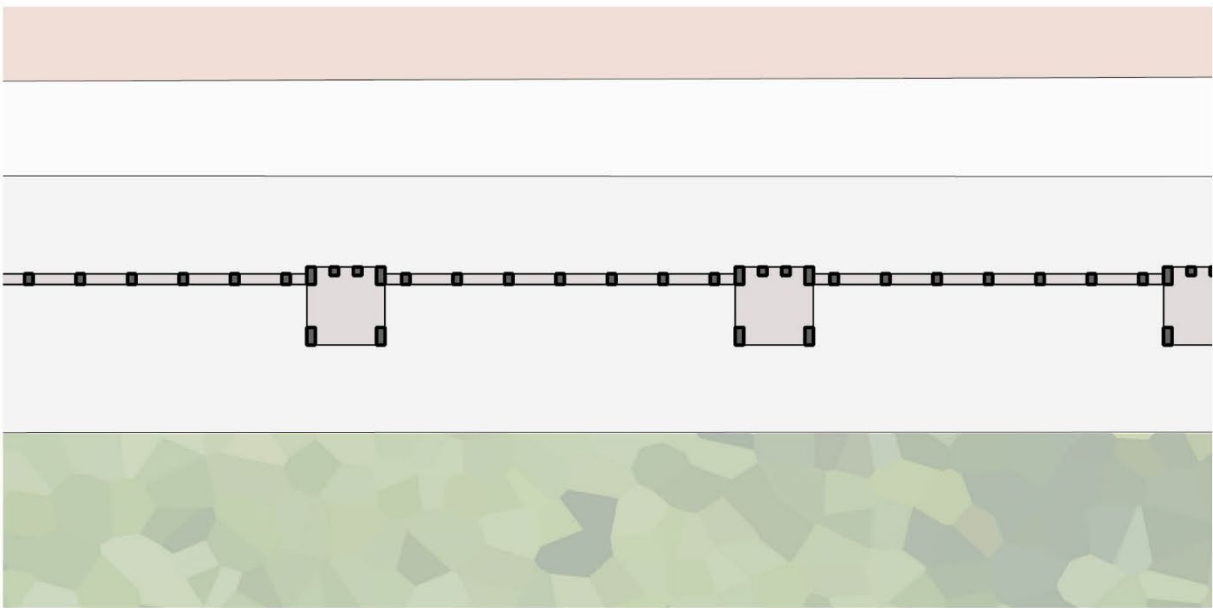
Other options for Lafayette Park included incorporation of existing bollards without tapering toward the top of the fence.



FENCE ELEVATION AT H STREET



FENCE SECTION

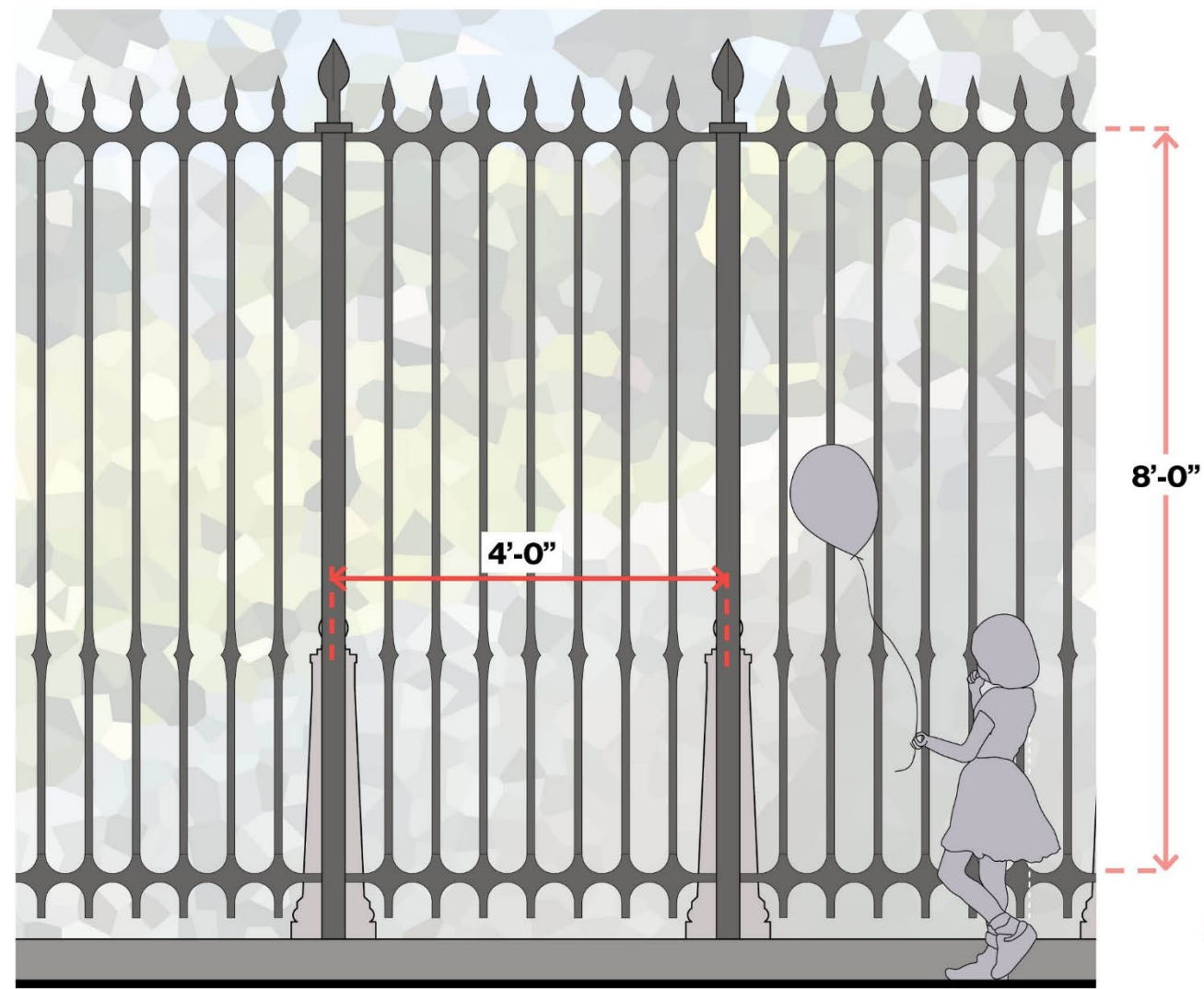


FENCE PLAN

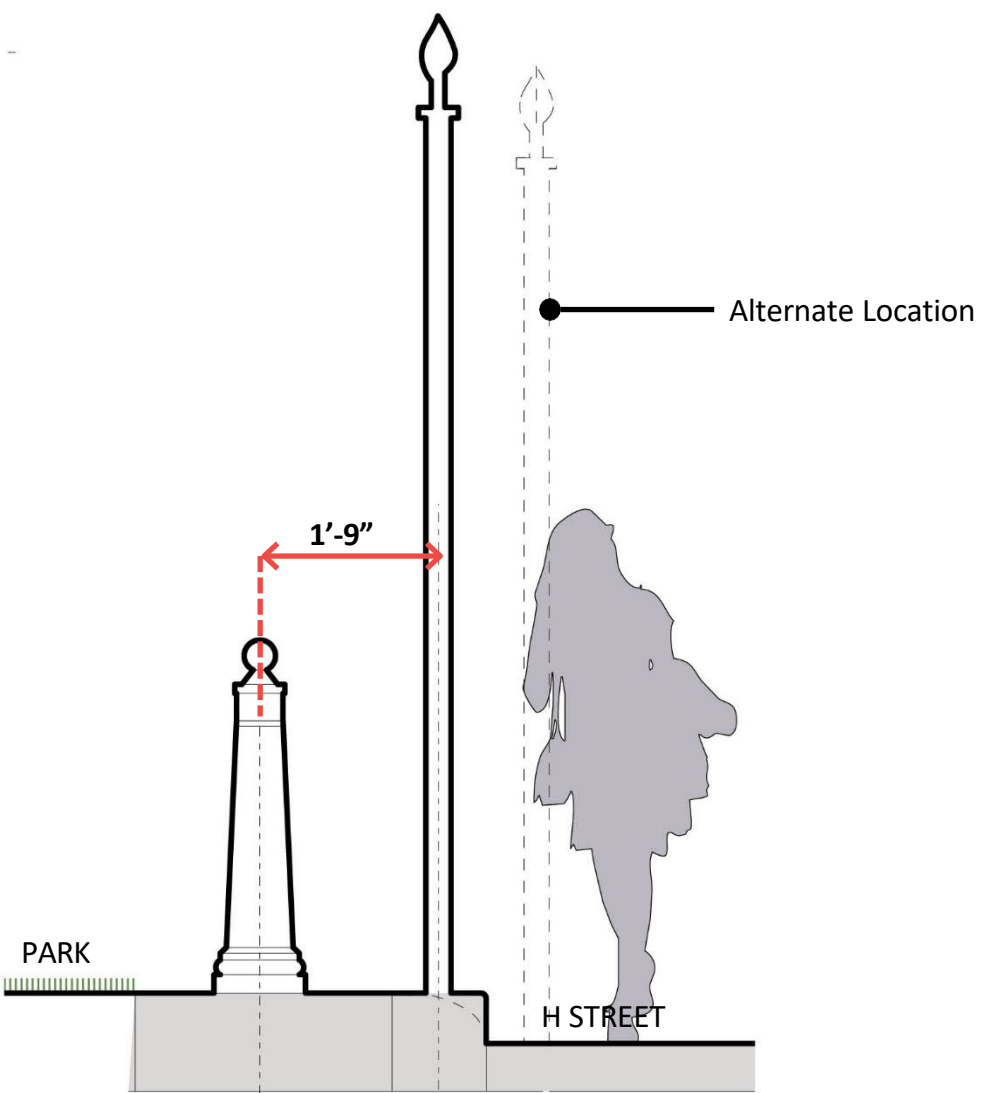


# H Street NW: Fence in Front of Bollard

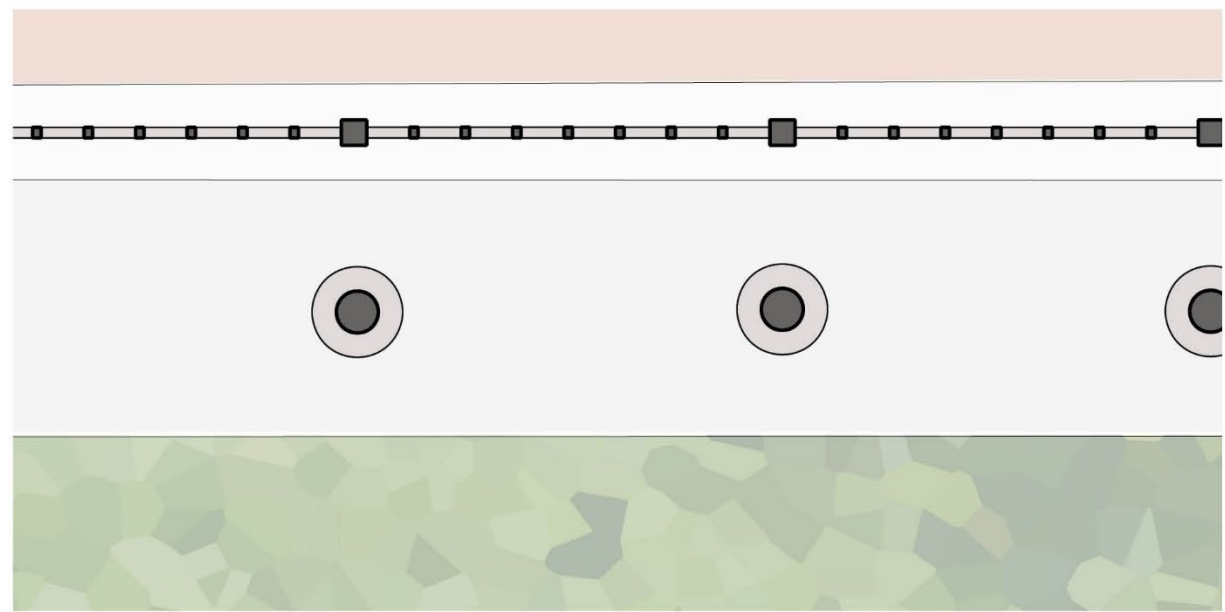
Other options for Lafayette Park included placing fencing in front of bollards.



FENCE ELEVATION AT H STREET



FENCE SECTION

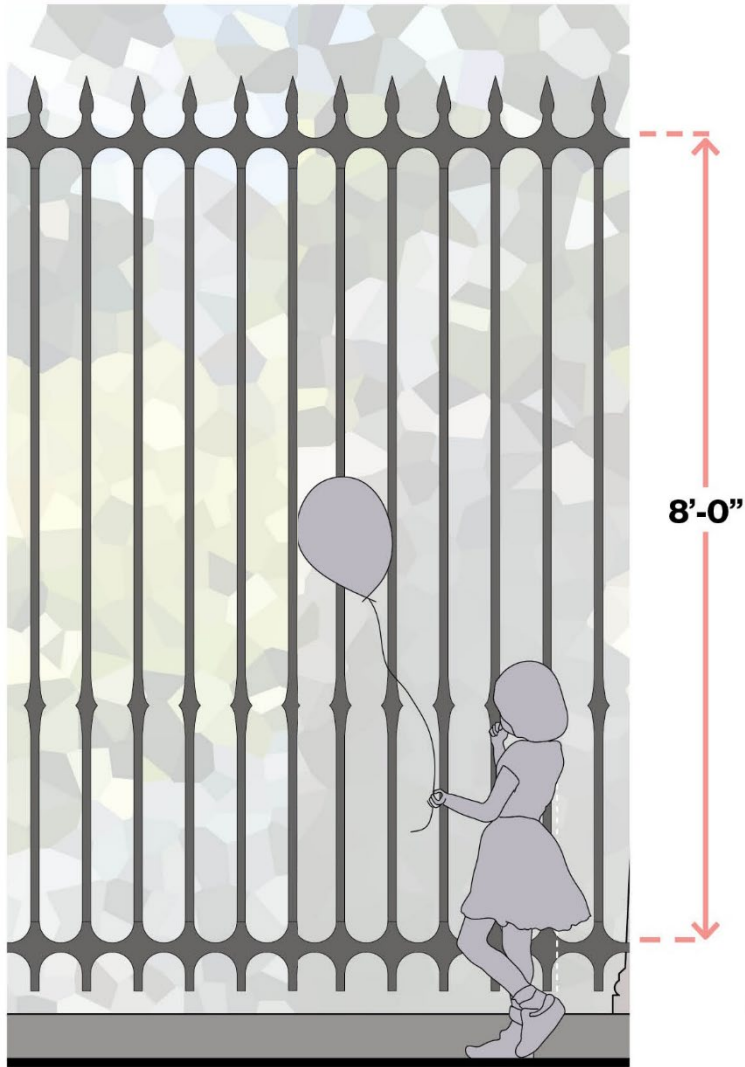


FENCE PLAN

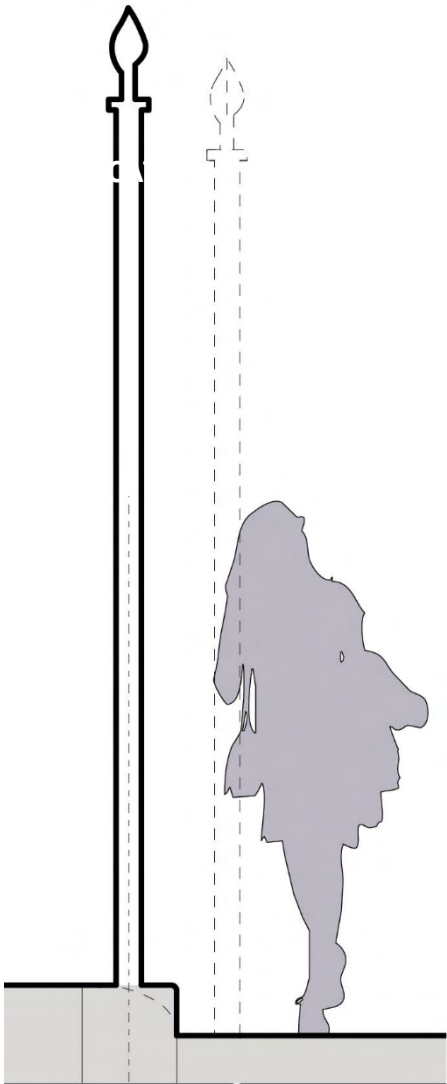


# Standard Fencing

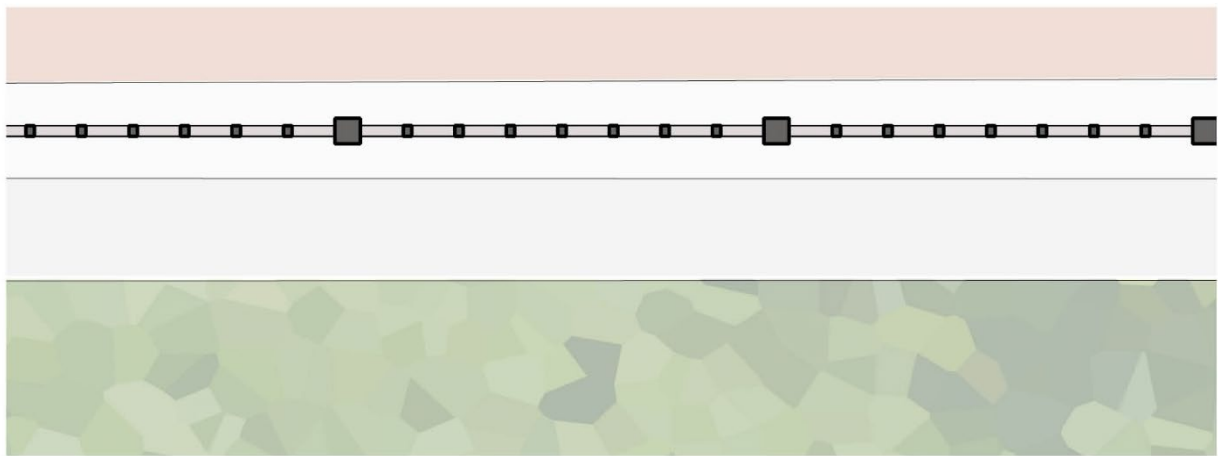
Standard fencing for Lafayette Park will apply to the east, west, and south sides of the park.



FENCE ELEVATION



FENCE SECTION



FENCE PLAN



# Existing Conditions: Temporary Barriers

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.



Site Visit Photos, 2026



## 6. Hardscape



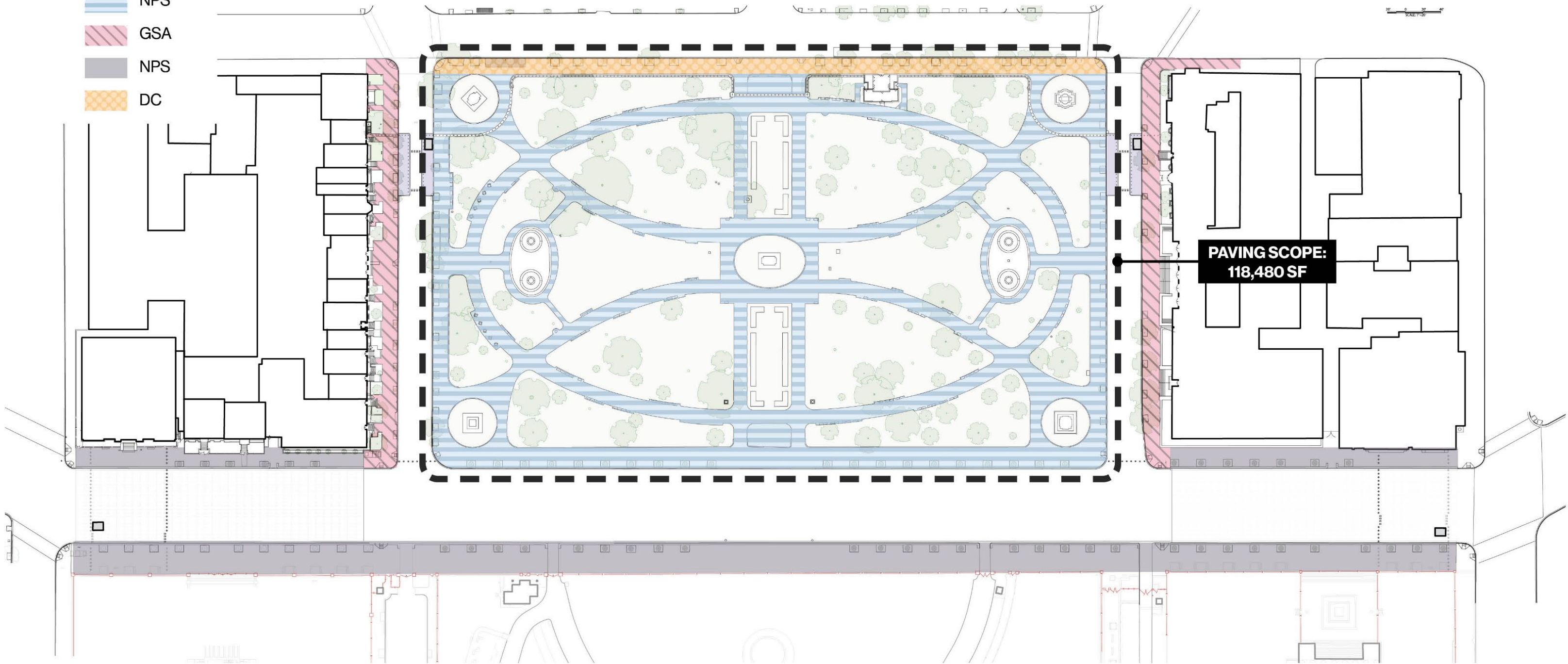
HARDSCAPE

# 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

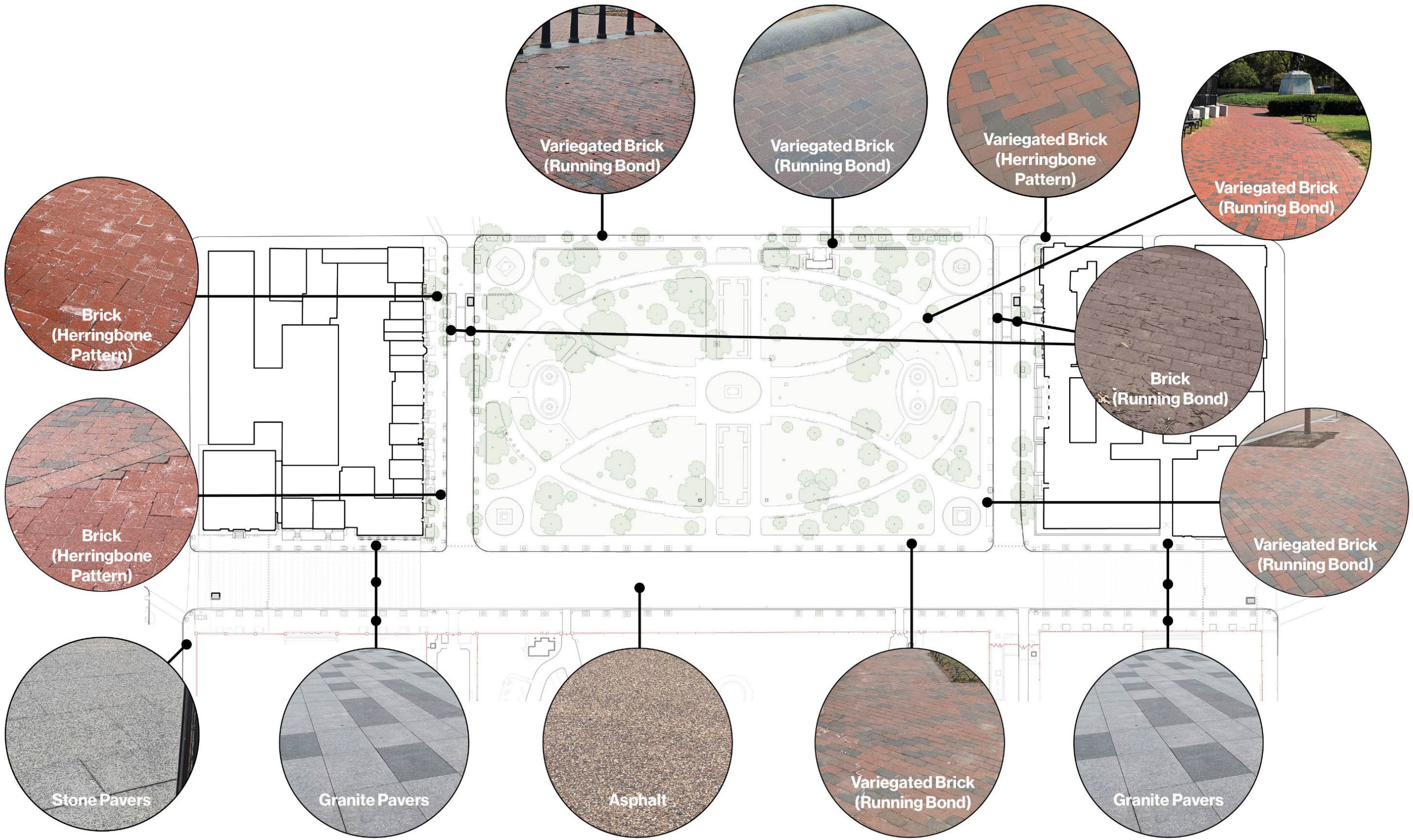
- NPS
- GSA
- NPS
- DC





# Existing Paving Types

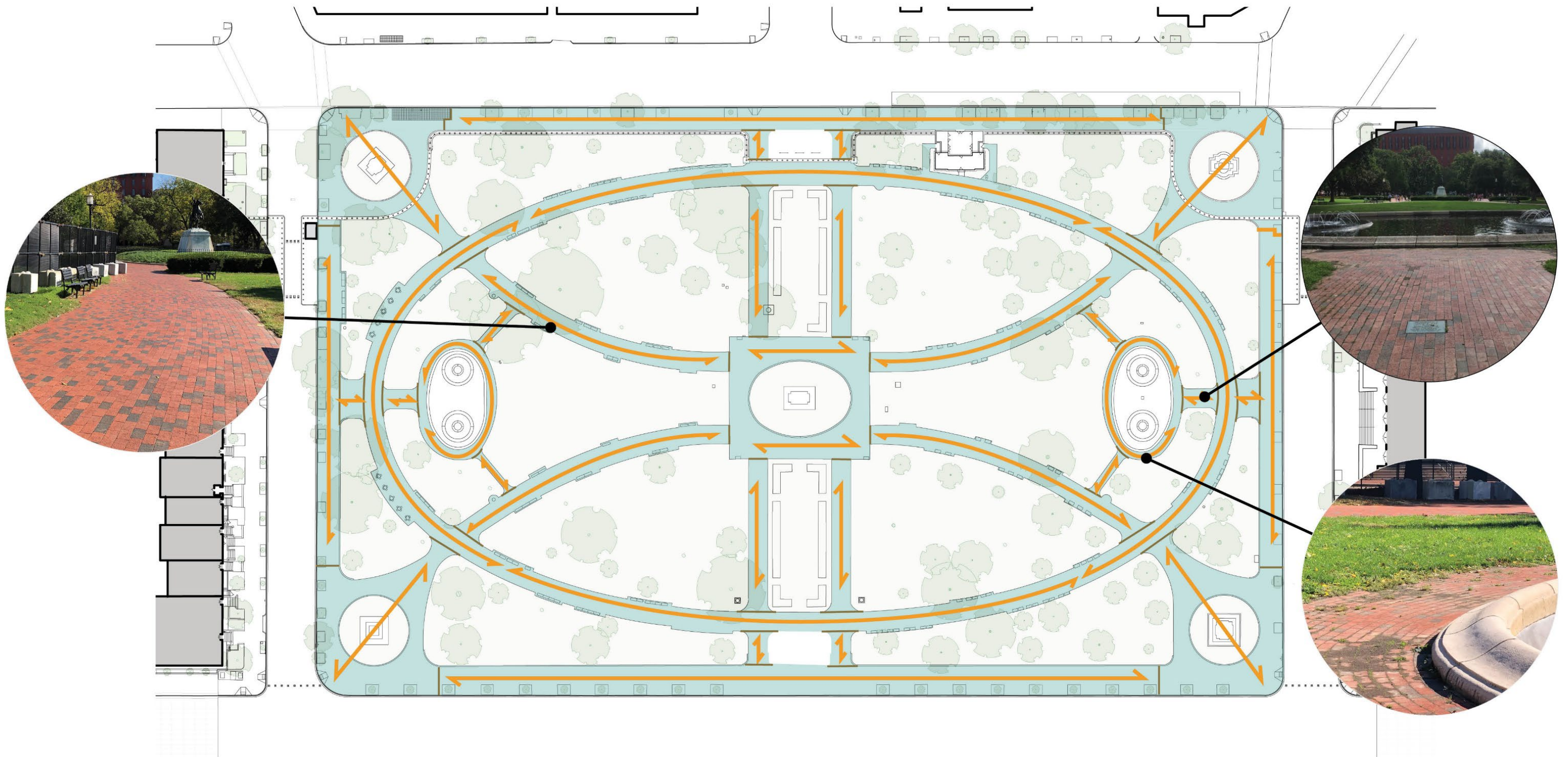
Multiple paving types are located throughout the project area. This variety of paving types can result in a disjointed look throughout the park and work against a unified look for the park.





# 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.

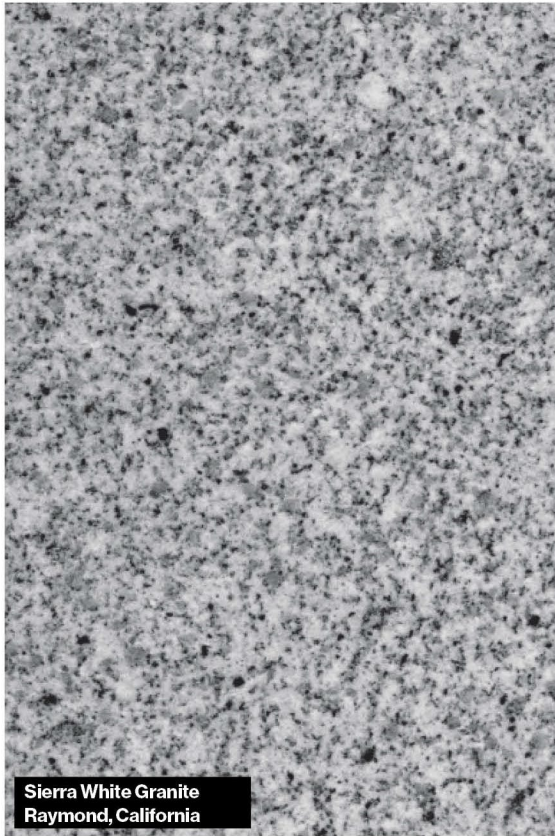




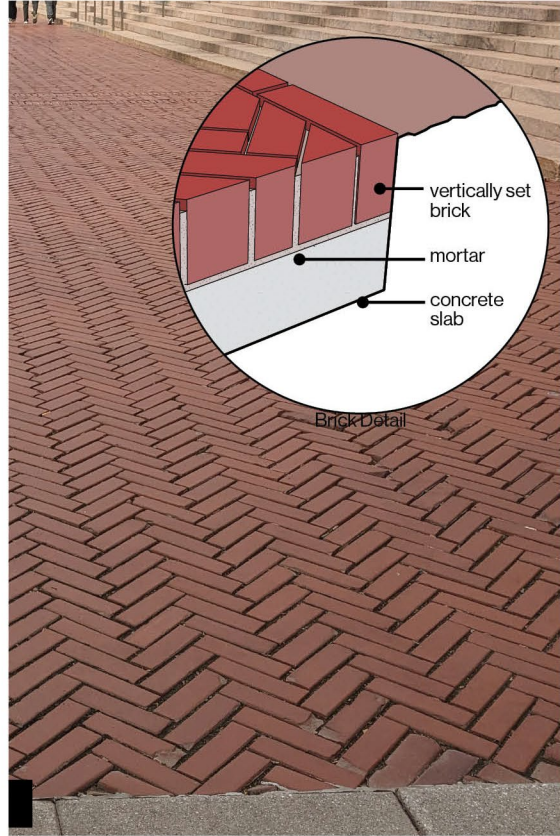
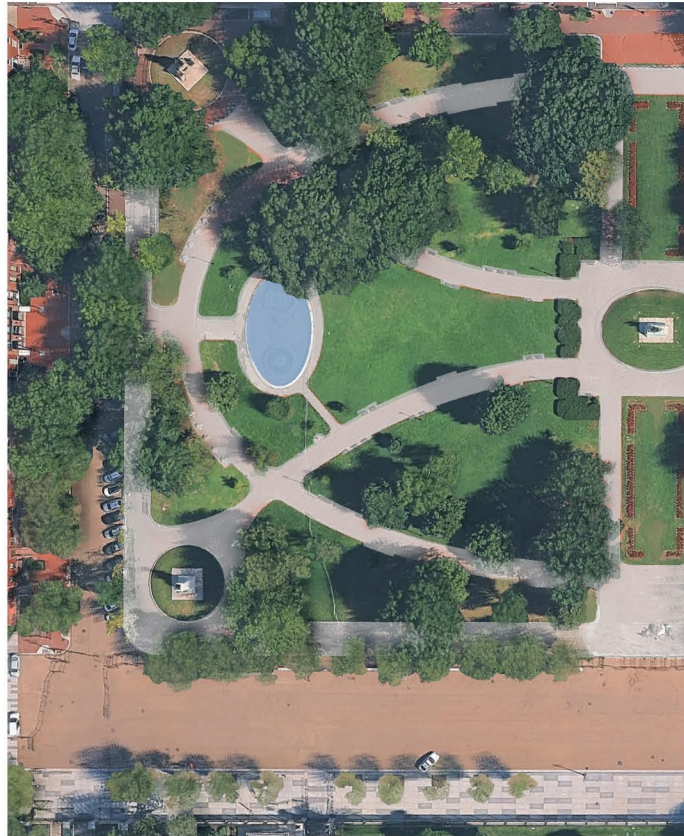
HARDSCAPE

# 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.



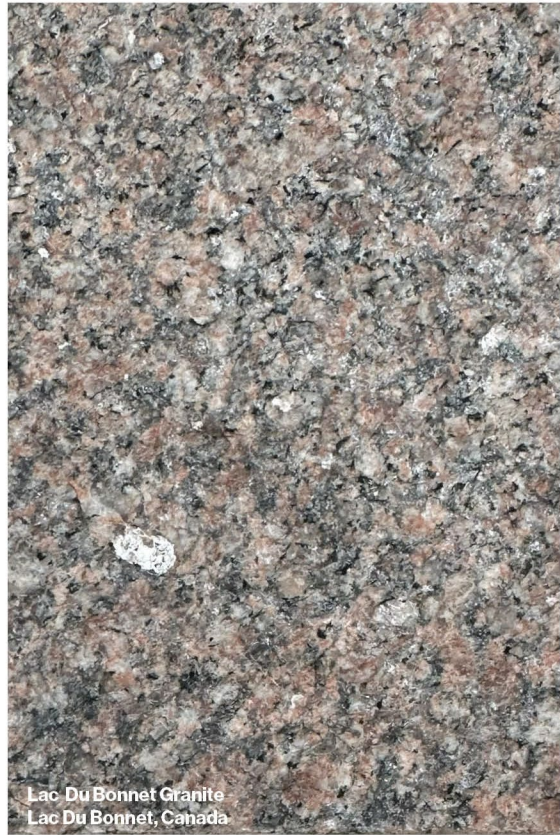
Sierra White Granite



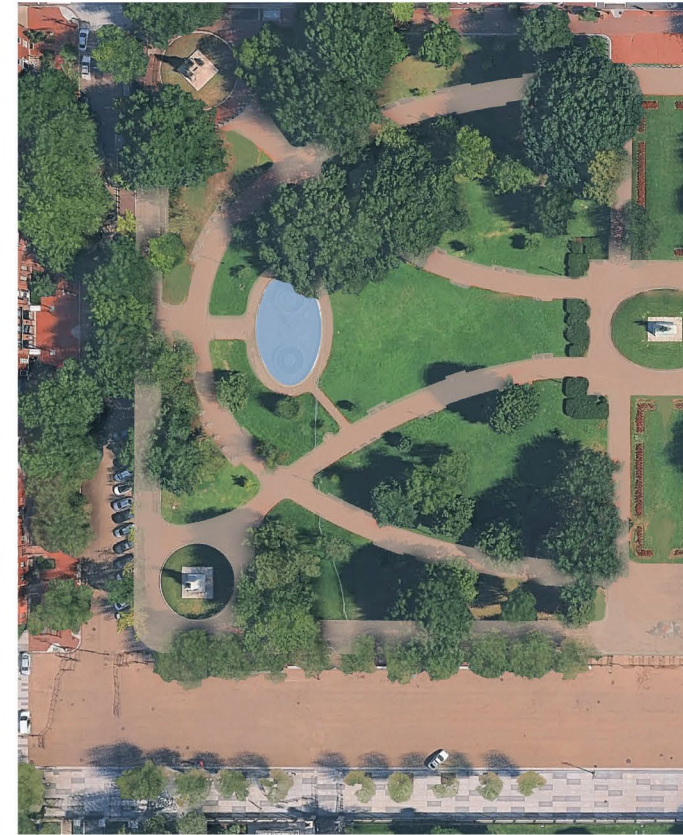
Red Brick



Radiant Red Granite



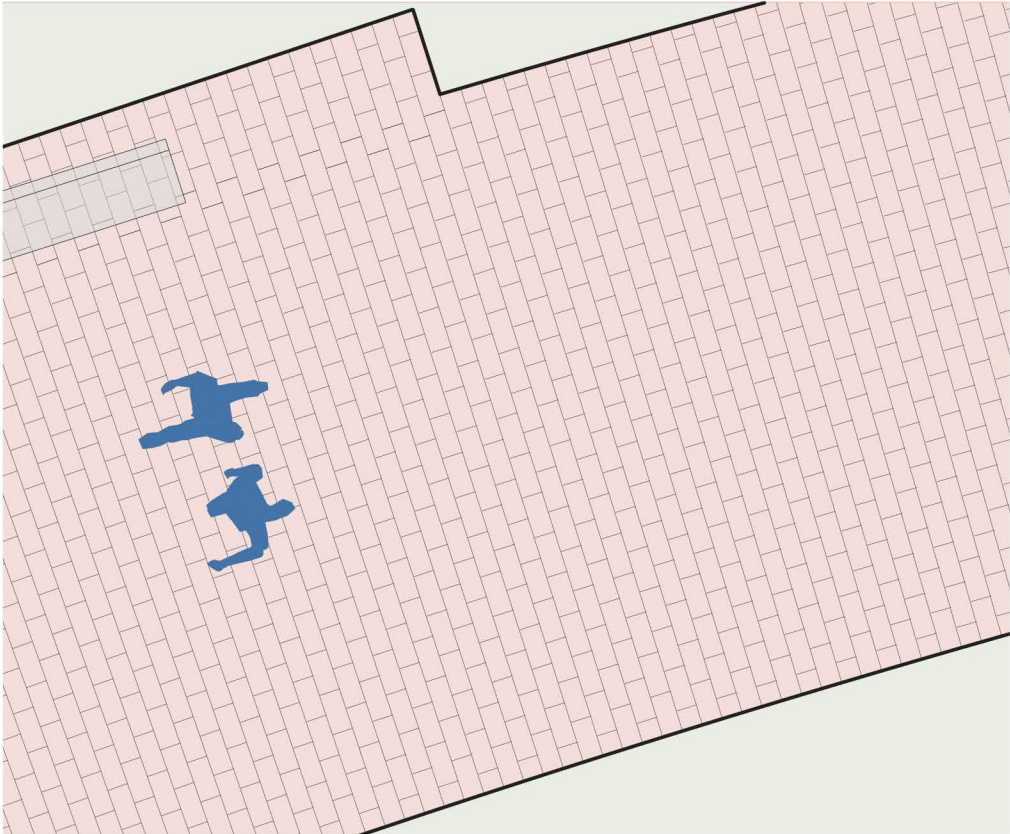
Lac Du Bonnet Granite



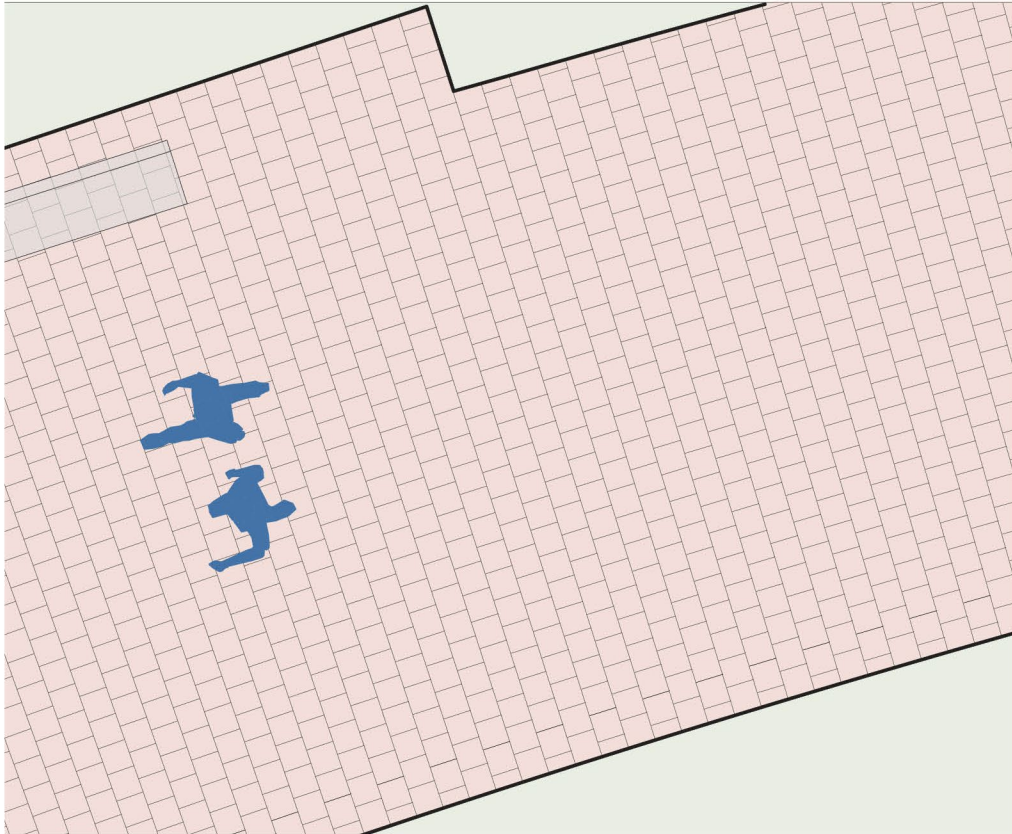


# Paving Sizing and Direction

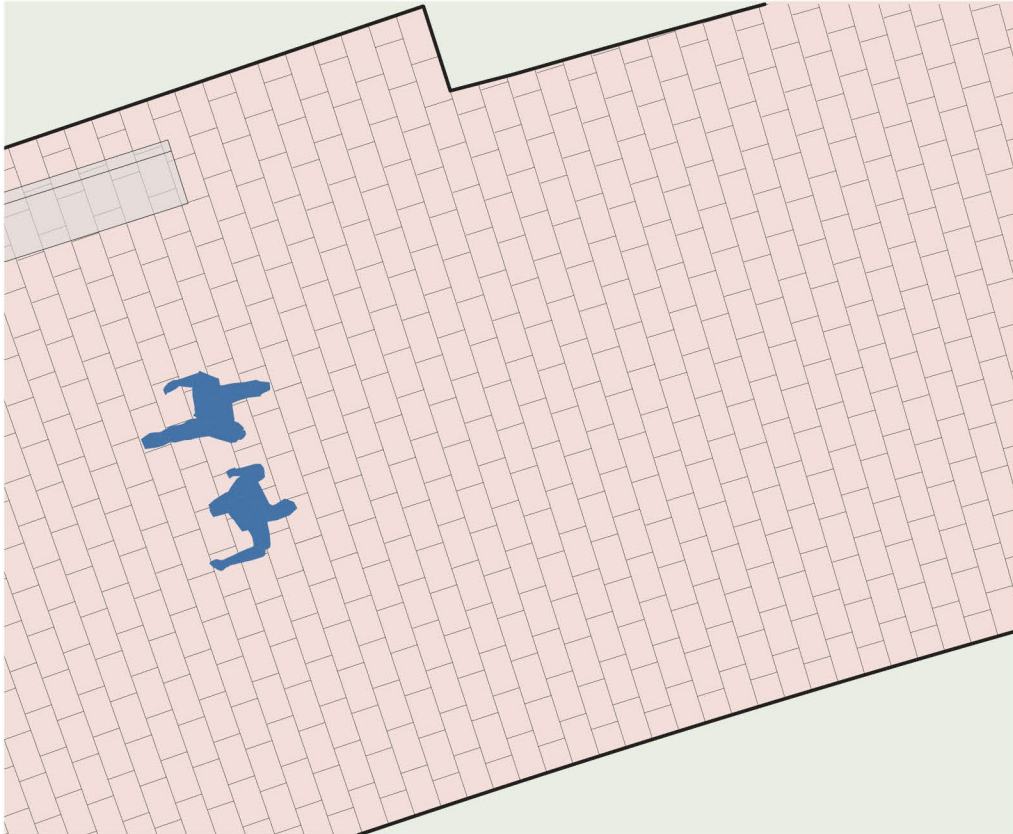
Multiple paving size and directions were evaluated. The material options on previous slides could be implemented in Lafayette Park in the below configurations. These uniform configurations will help institute a cohesiveness to the park’s walkways, regardless of the layout structure or material selected.



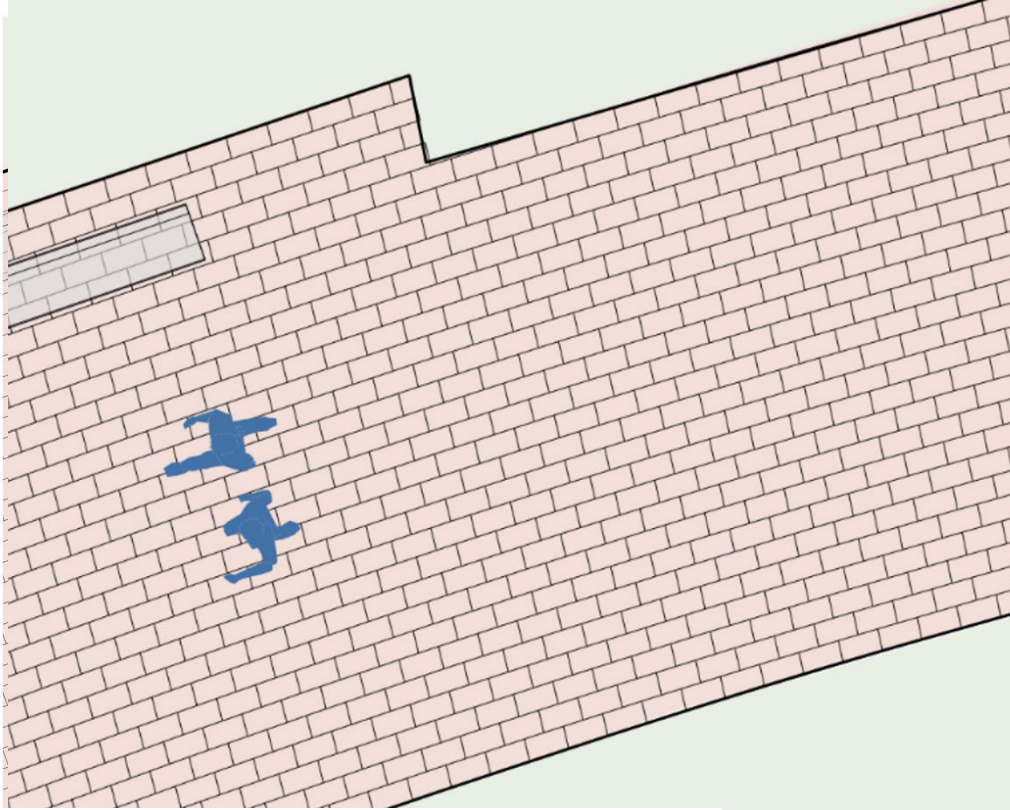
6x12 Pavers - Perpendicular to Path



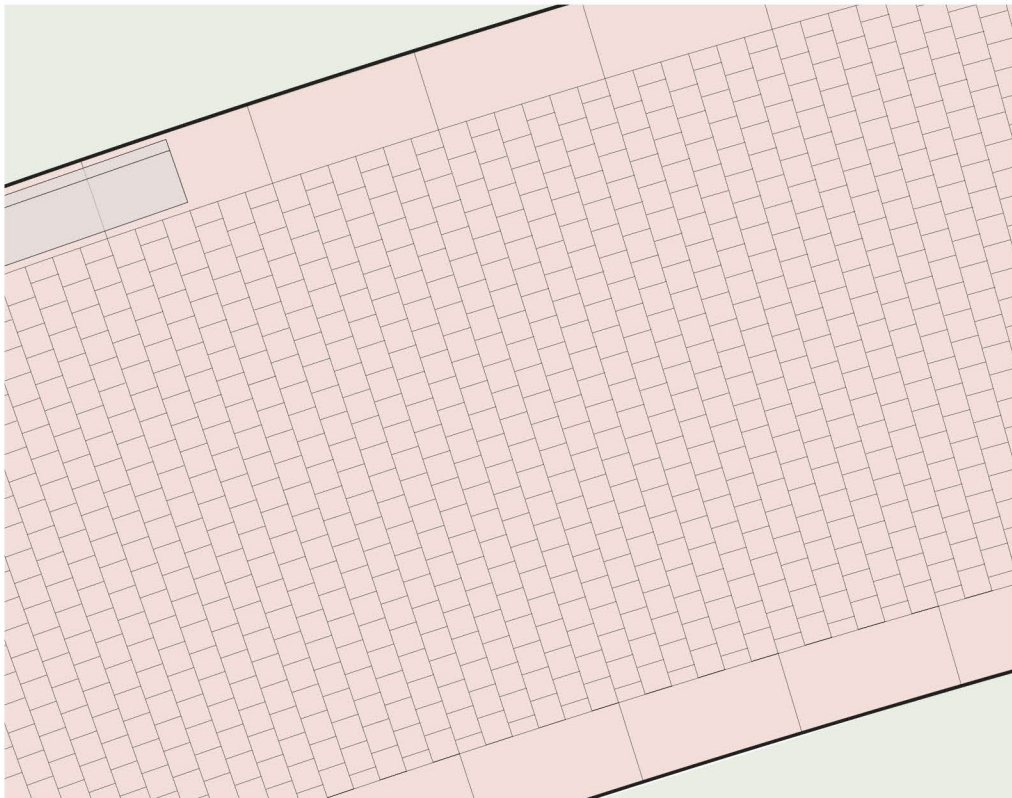
8x8 Pavers



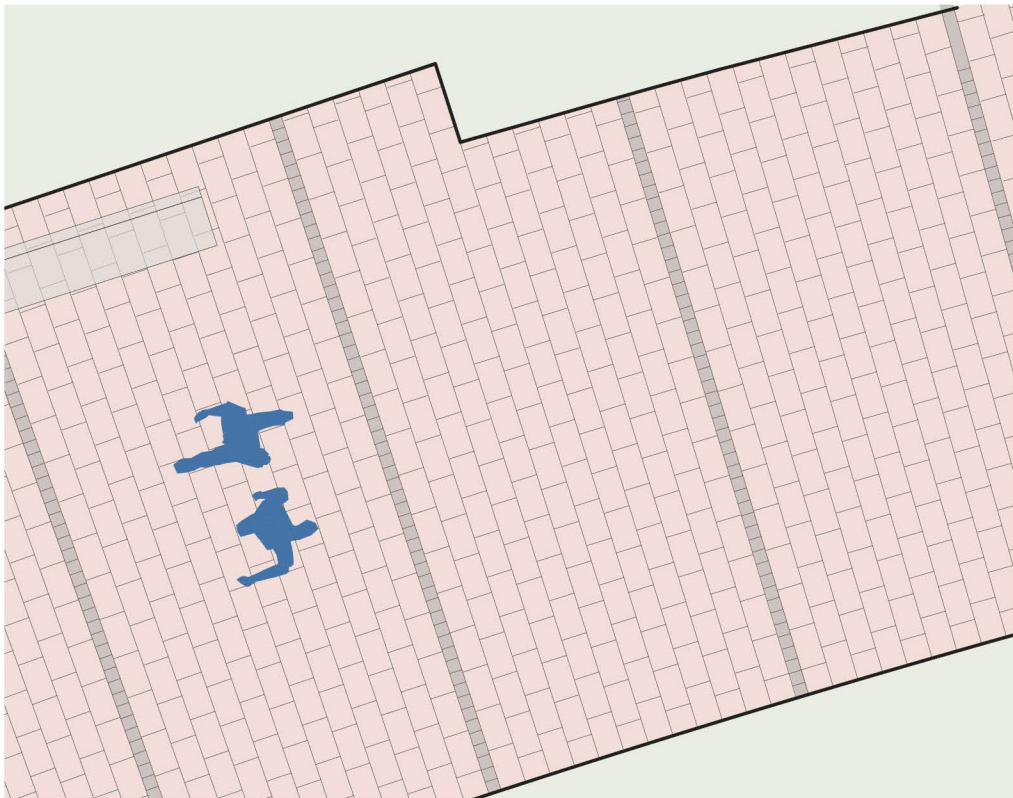
8x13 Pavers (golden ratio)



8x13 Pavers – Along Path



8x8 Pavers with Border



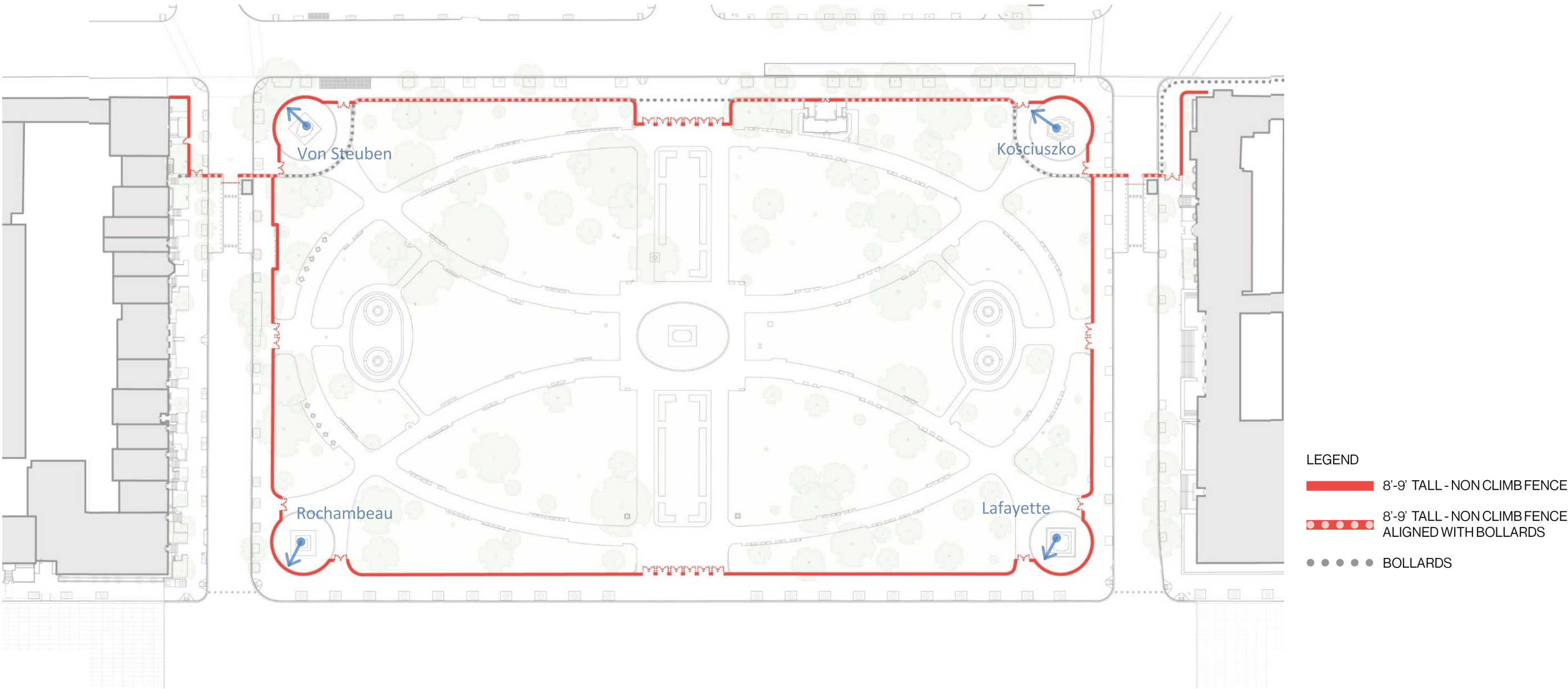
8x13 Pavers Alternate



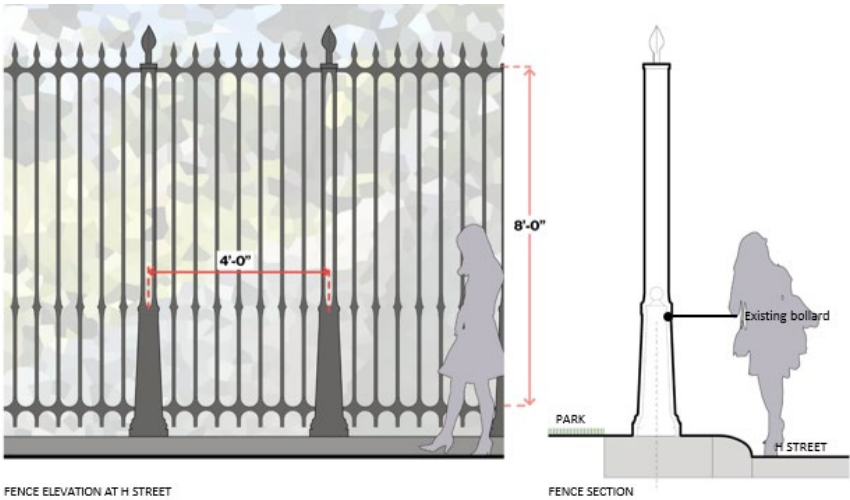
# 7. Appendix



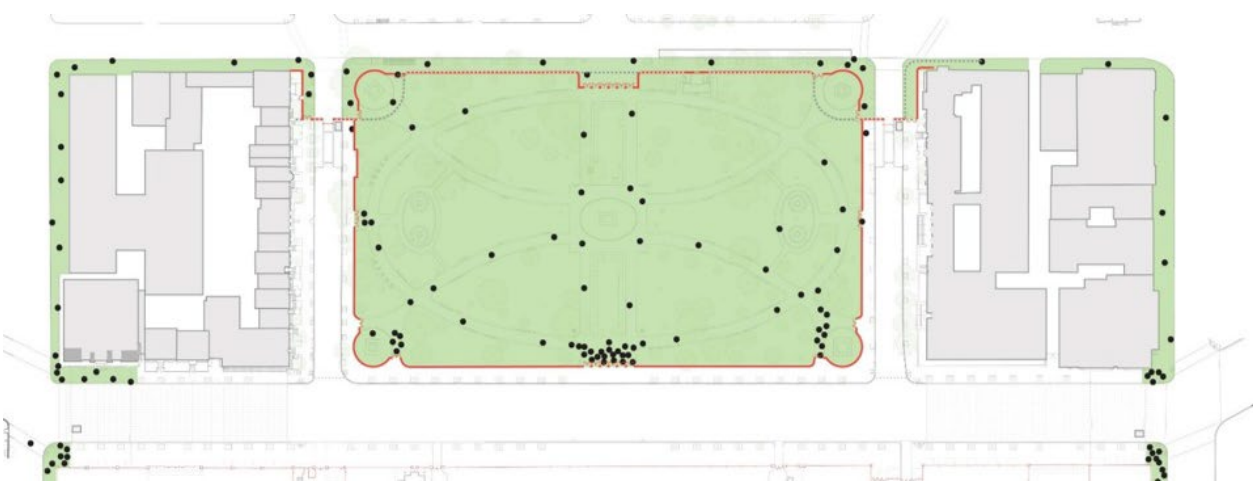
# Composite: Alignment 1



Entrance at 16<sup>th</sup> and H Streets NW



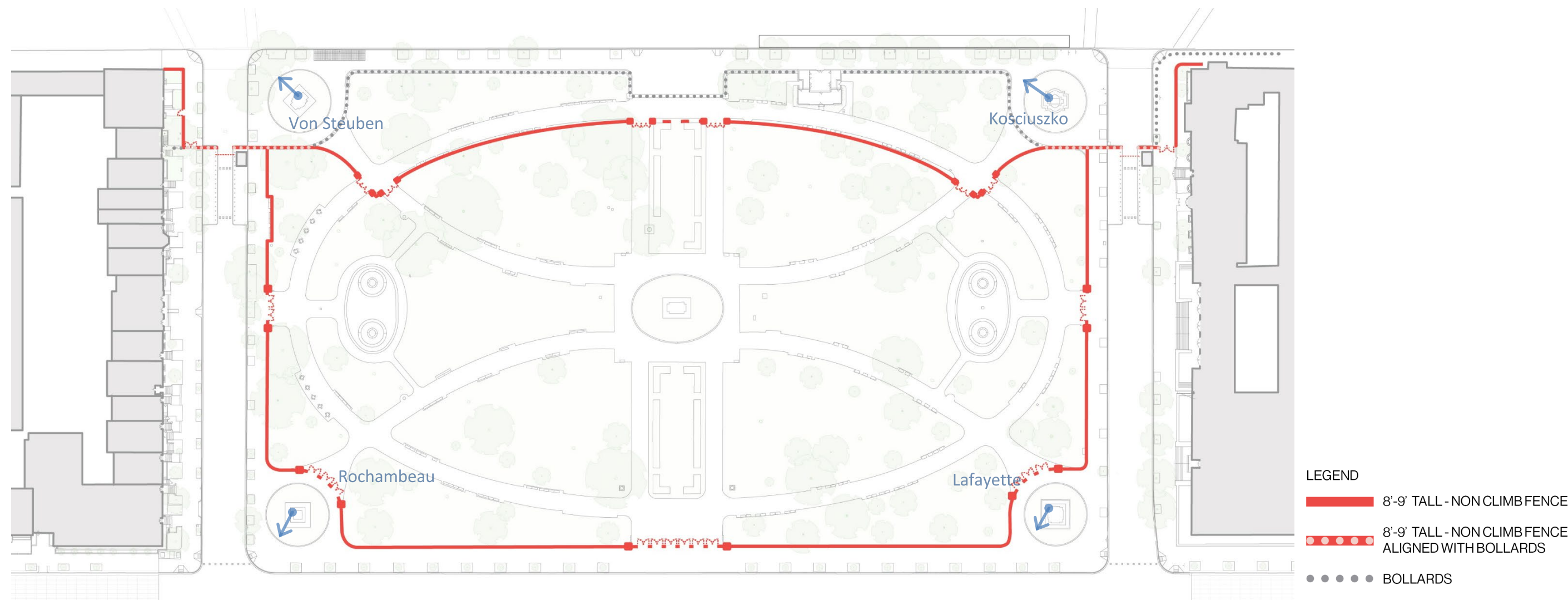
Fence alignment with bollards requires narrower picket spacing at those locations



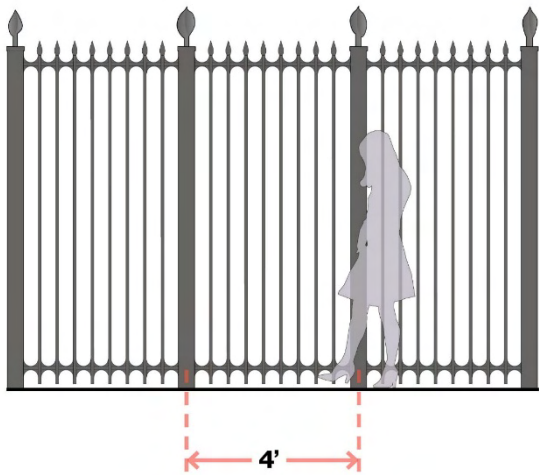
Access to park when south gates are closed



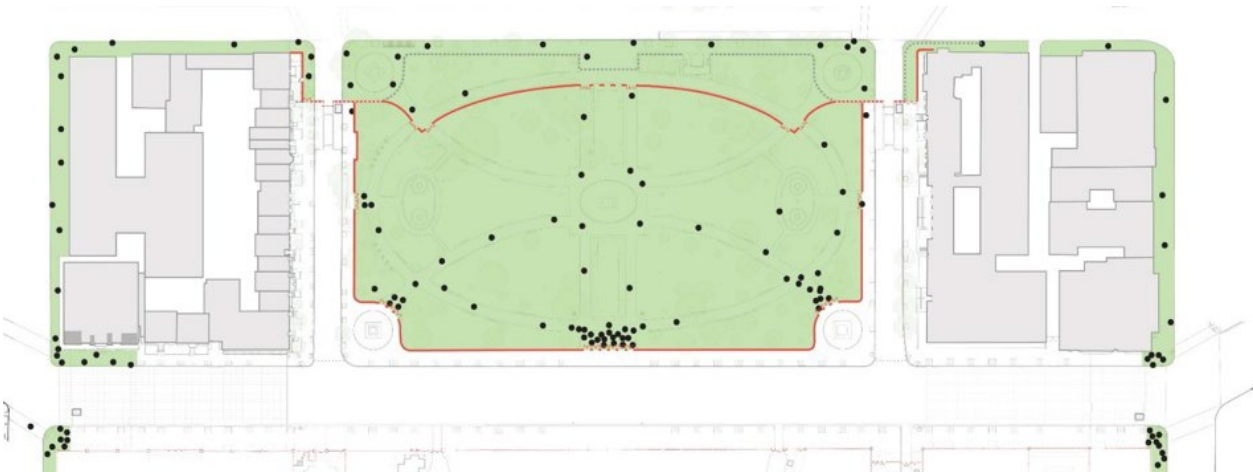
# Composite: Alignment 2



Entrance at 16<sup>th</sup> 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**

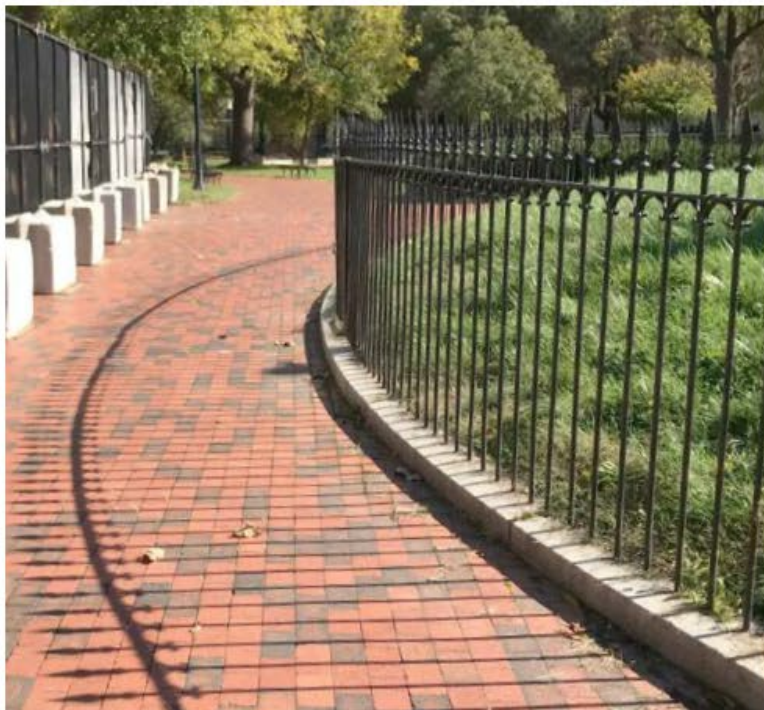
- 8' tall
- Temporary
- Visual Porosity: Low
- Visual Aesthetic: Not appropriate
- Operations: Requires significant staff numbers, assembly time and machinery to deploy



**Bike Barrier**

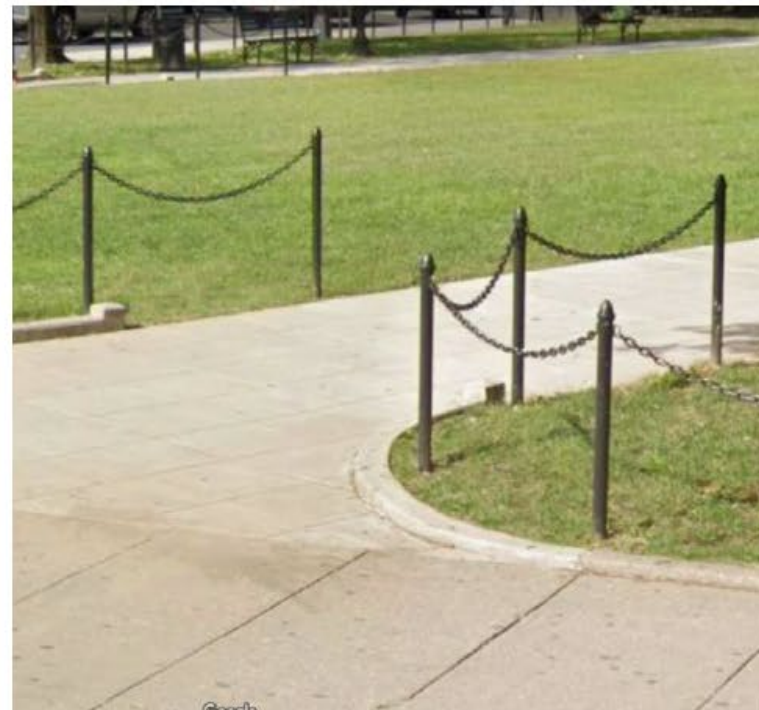
- 42" tall, 6 - 8' wide
- Temporary
- Visual Porosity: High
- Visual Aesthetic: Not appropriate - associated with police security, No historic reference
- Operations: requires significant staff numbers to deploy

## 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



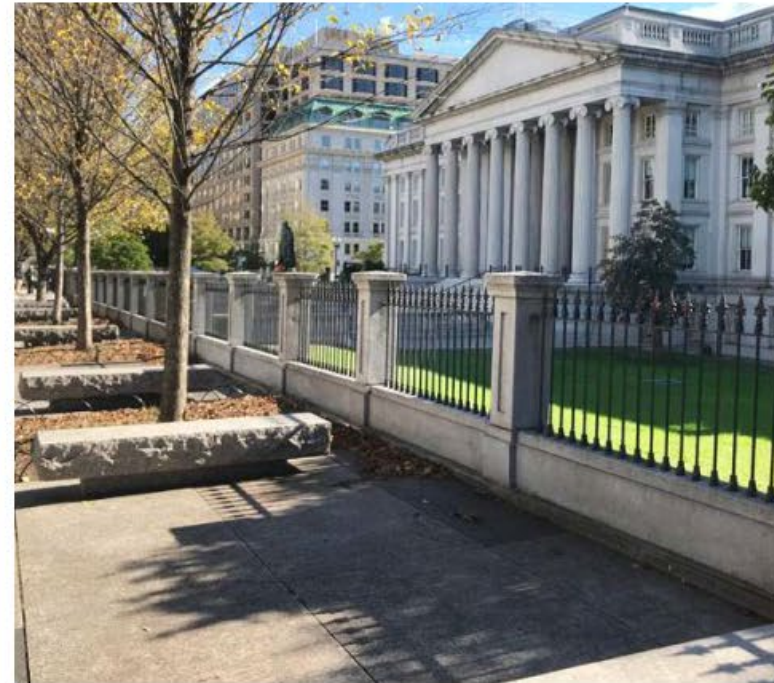
# Local Barrier Precedents

## 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

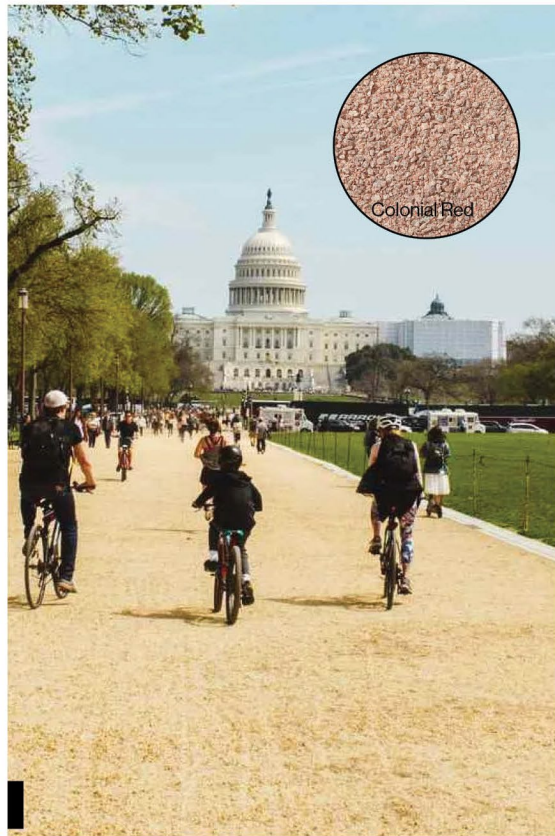
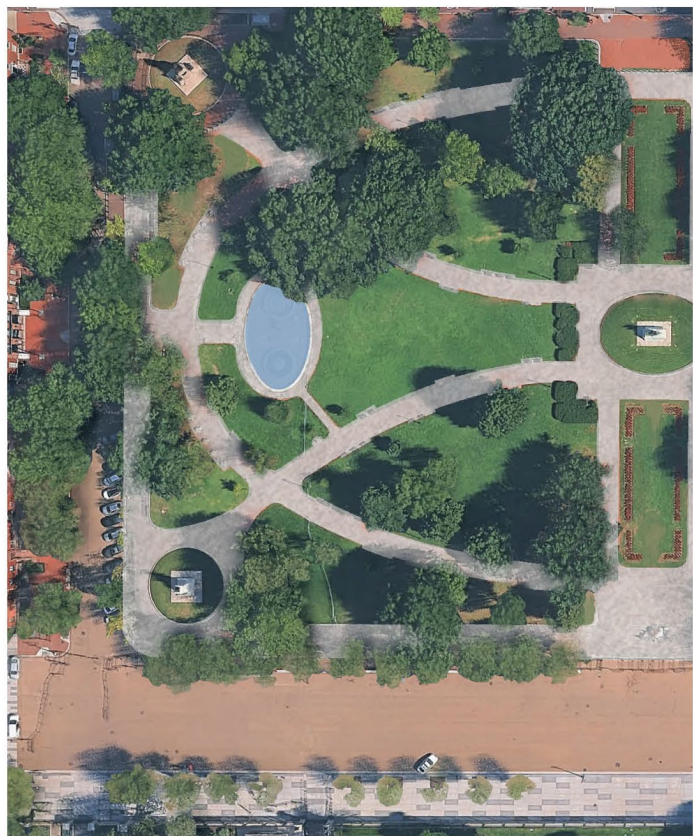


# Paving Options Considered

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.



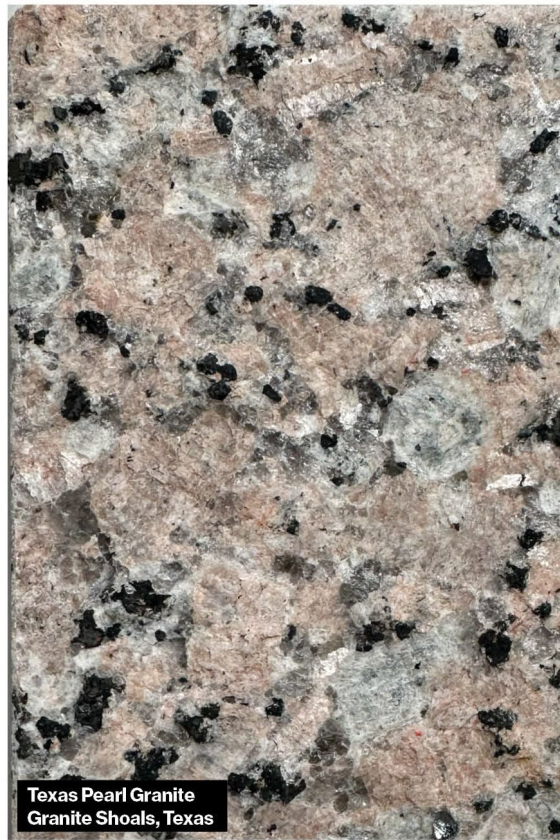
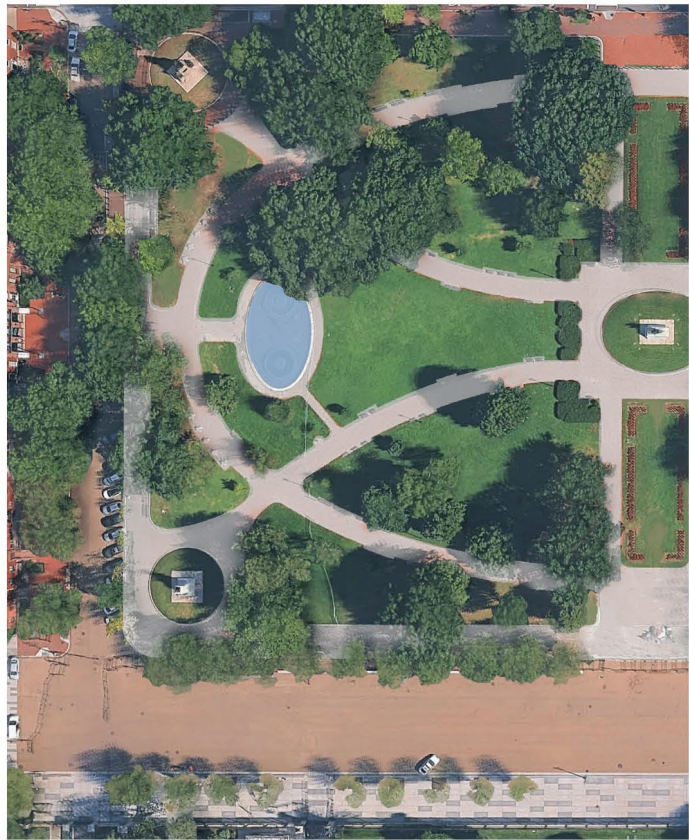
Rockville Beige Granite



Crushed Granite



Chelmsford Grey Granite



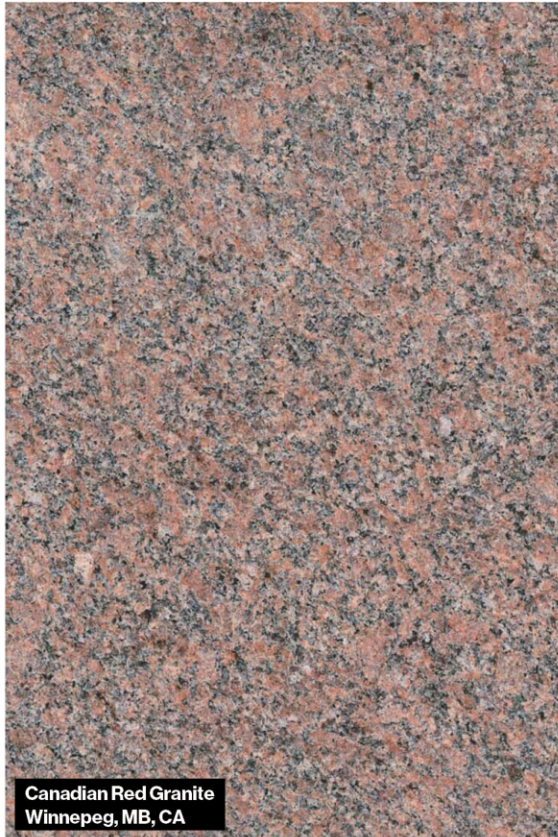
Texas Pearl Granite





# 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.



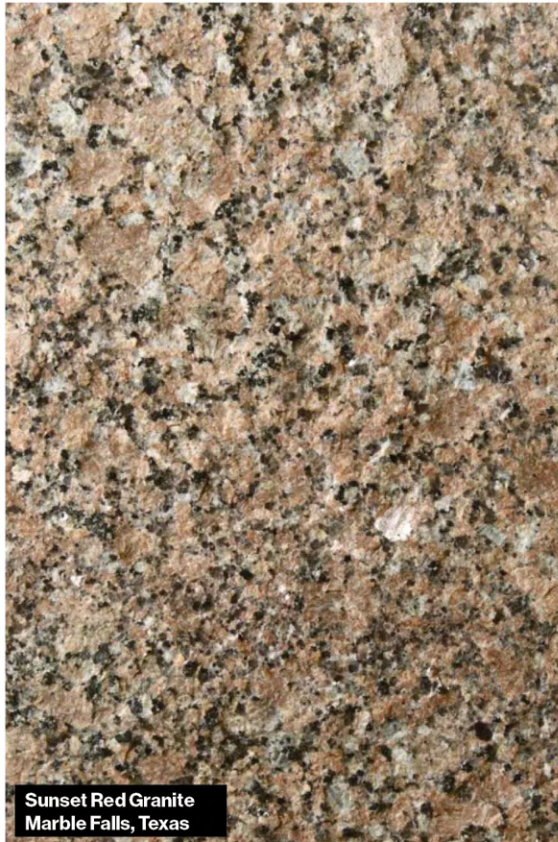
Canadian Red Granite  
Winnipeg, MB, CA

Canadian Red Granite



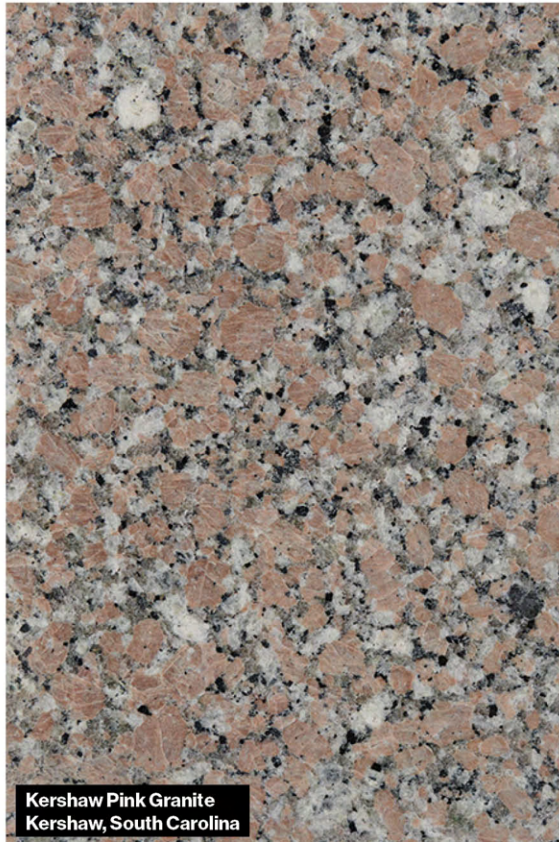
Carnelian  
Milbank, South Dakota

Carnelian Granite



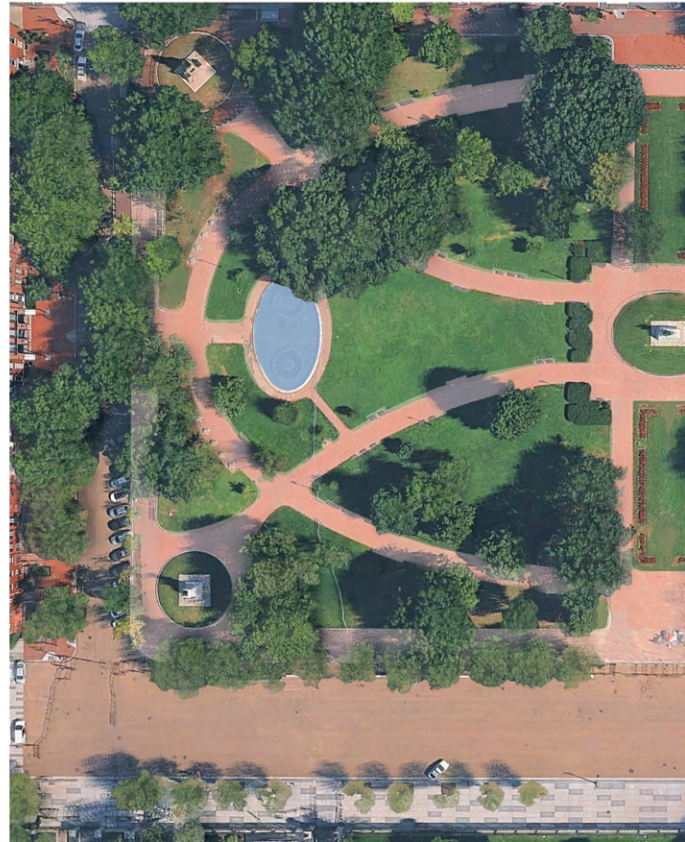
Sunset Red Granite  
Marble Falls, Texas

Sunset Red Granite



Kershaw Pink Granite  
Kershaw, South Carolina

Kershaw Pink Granite





# Visualization- Sierra White





# Visualization- Lac Du Bonnet





# Visualization- Red Granite

