

An aerial photograph of Lafayette Park in Washington, D.C. The park is a large green space with many trees, a central fountain, and a large open area. 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.

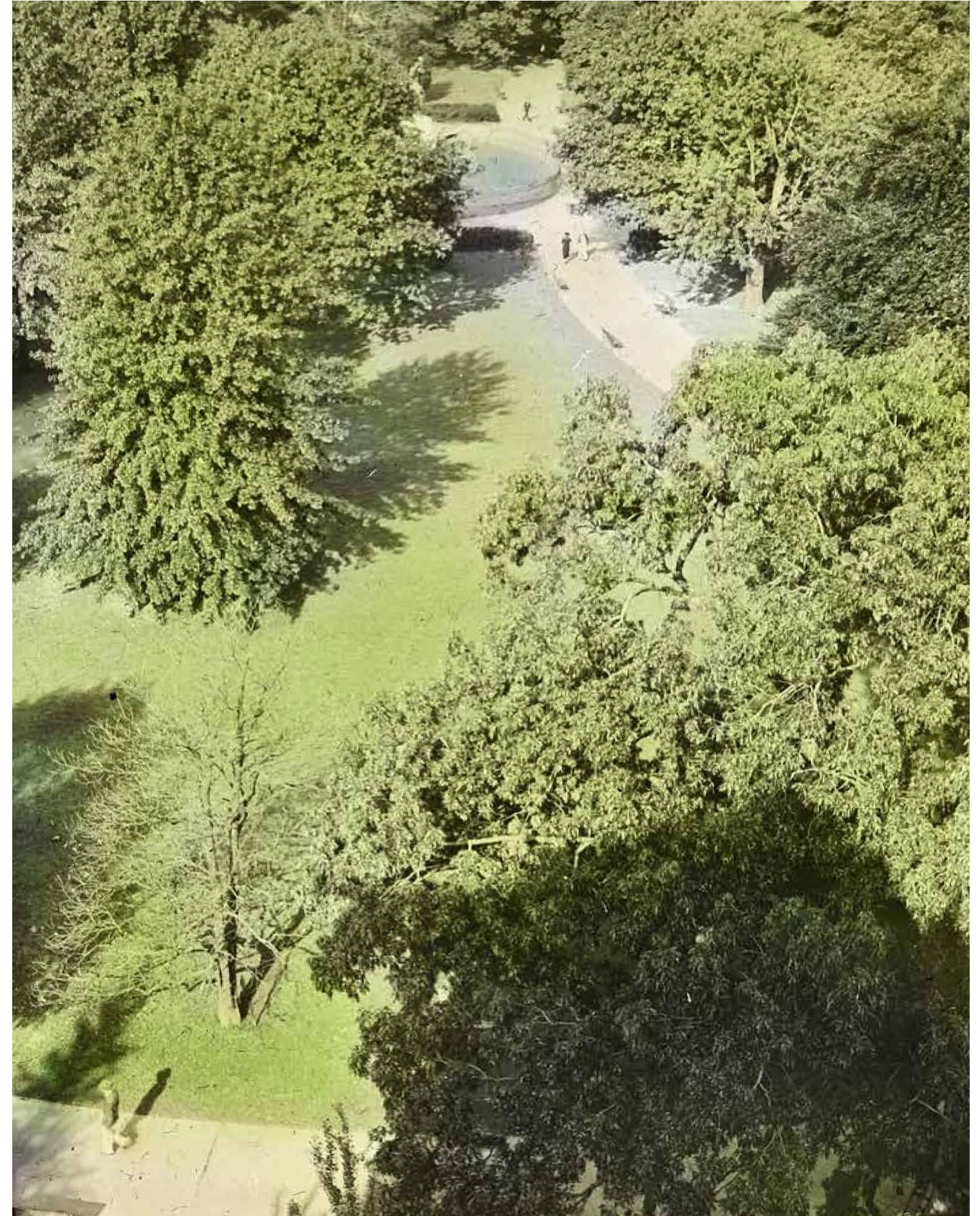
Lafayette Park Security Modifications

Consulting Parties Meeting #2

September 21, 2026

Agenda

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



1. Introduction and Background

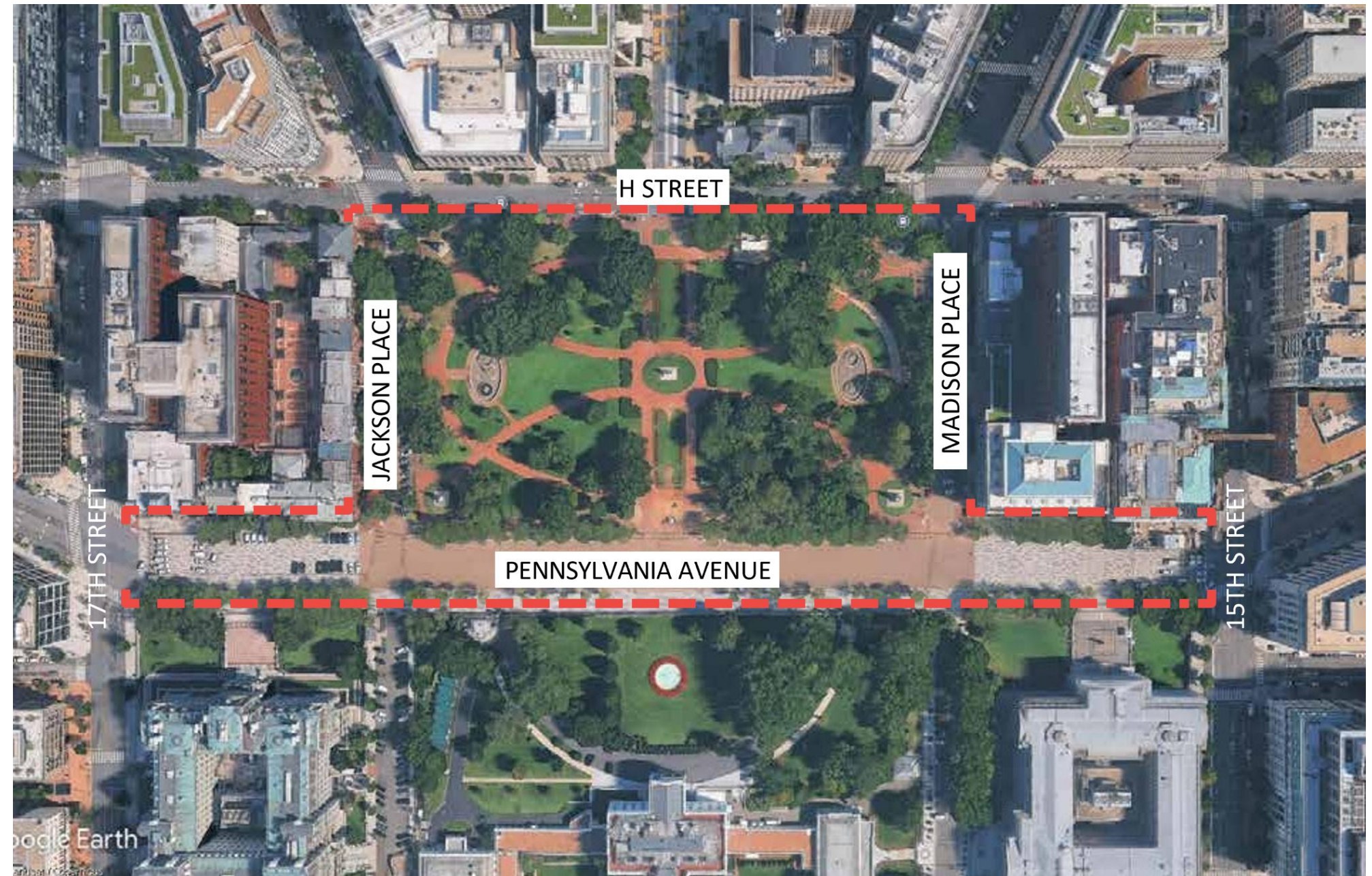
INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

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



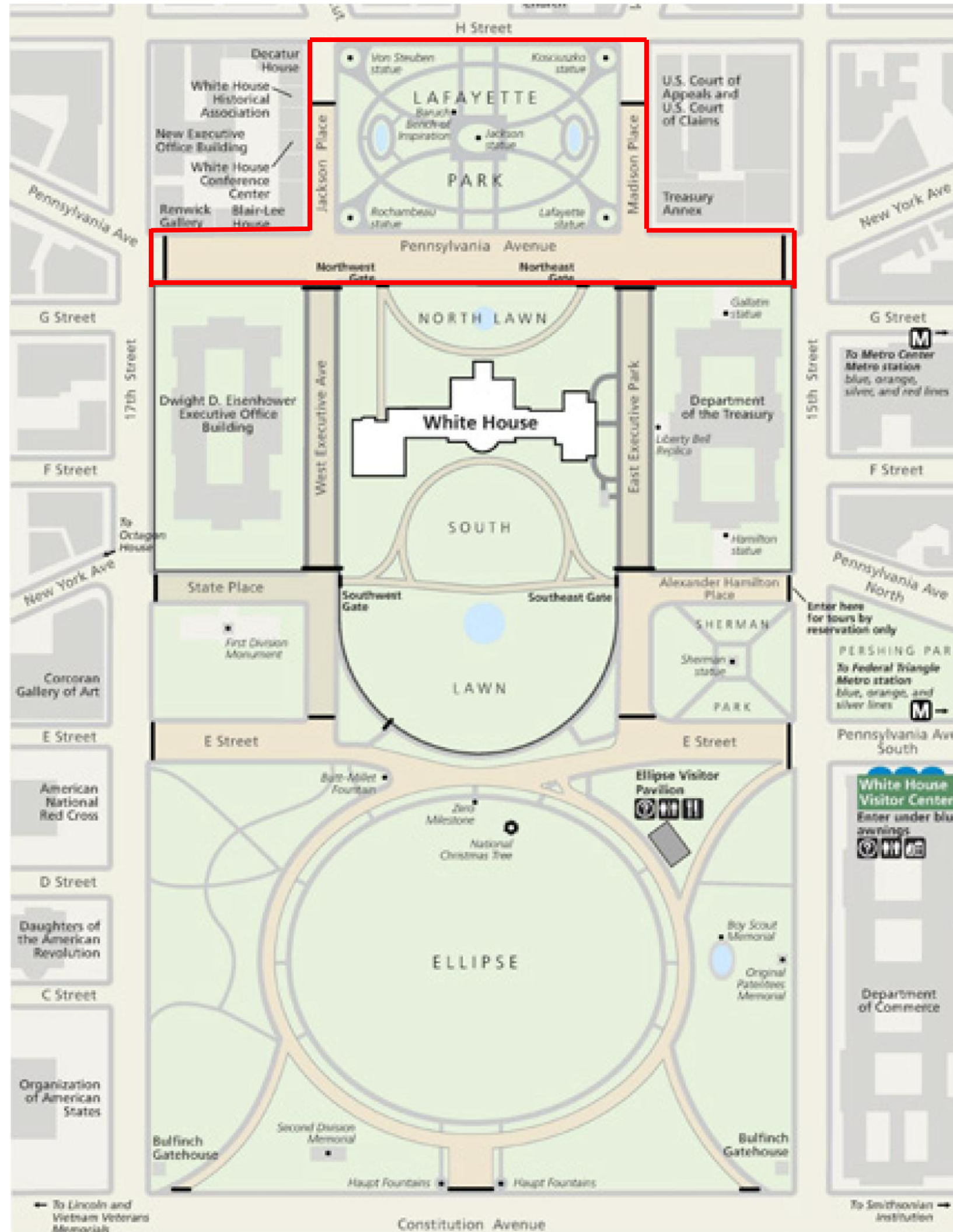
Purpose of Meeting

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



Lafayette Park, 2026

Project Area



Legend

 Project Area

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



Lafayette Park, 2026

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Security Need: Permanently Anchored Pedestrian Barrier Solution

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

Many demonstrations result in the peaceful public gathering in Lafayette Park and on Pennsylvania Avenue where attendees follow the law and express their views on many topics. There are however several examples of assemblies that elevate into non-peaceful demonstrations 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 enhance public safety for visitors in the area and ensure that crowds gather to demonstrate safely in view of the White House.

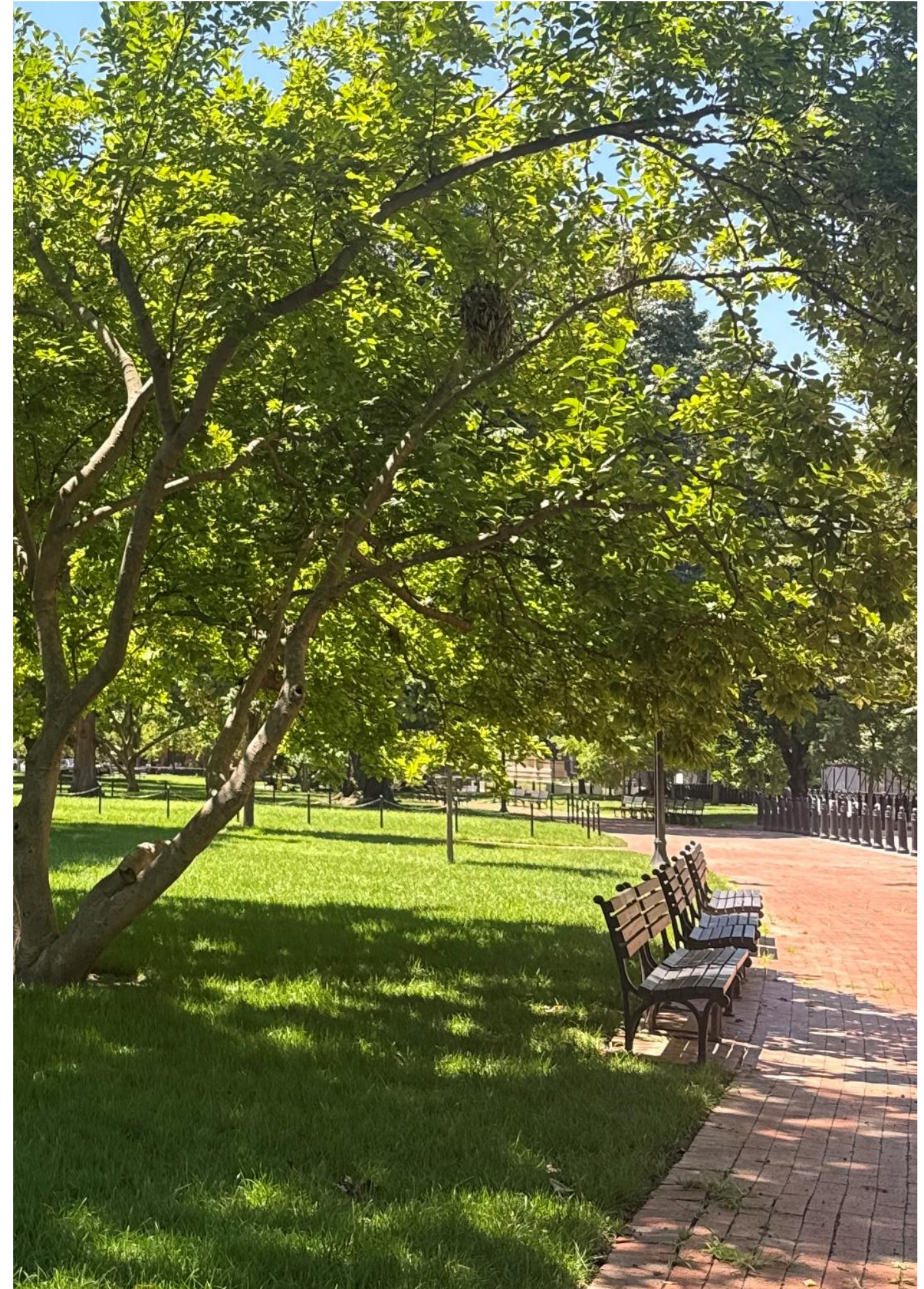
In the future, the project will continue to evaluate visitor experience and safety, including access and egress.



Balancing Project Considerations

The proposed security improvements seek to balance multiple, and sometimes competing, needs. These include:

- Security requirements that respond to flexible operational needs and protect park resources
- Minimization of adverse effects on historic properties
- Assurance of timely public access and First Amendment use
- Open character of the park space
- Operational concerns of adjacent buildings



Lafayette Park, 2026

What We Heard: Part 1

Security Context

- Provide clearer justification for permanent security measures
 - Note which areas need to be secured often, how often closures will occur, minimum fence height needed, and duration of average closures
- Identify security impacts on nearby property owners

Proposed Fencing and Paving Alternatives

- Incorporate bollards into fencing design to minimize adverse visual effects
 - Maintain sight lines for adjacent institutions and visitors
- Develop alternative alignment for a north only fence line
- Develop alternative alignments that avoid the park's perimeter
- Explore additional temporary fencing solutions
- Reduce visual impacts through design refinement and alternatives
- Determine alternatives for the southern fence to provide a southern viewing area when the gates along Pennsylvania Avenue are closed
- Confirm red brick paving as preferred paving material

Comprehensive Precinct Security

- Develop a comprehensive approach for the area, such as a master plan



Lafayette Park, 2026

What We Heard: Part 2

Historic Documentation/ Adverse Effects

- Complete/update historic documentation to inform decisions
- Address concerns about impacts to historic character and cultural landscape
- Remove the use of “potential” to describe adverse effects
- Indicate National Historic Landmark (NHL) properties in project materials

Public Access Considerations

- Establish directives for park closures when a clear identifiable threat is present
- Preserve public access and First Amendment activities
- Provide additional graphics including closure graphics, pedestrian level graphics, and closed fencing visuals

Adjacent Properties and Continued Operations

- Maintain pedestrian and vehicular access to adjacent properties to support operations and coordinate activities with applicable federal agencies and adjacent properties
- Develop detailed plan for fence anchoring on adjacent buildings



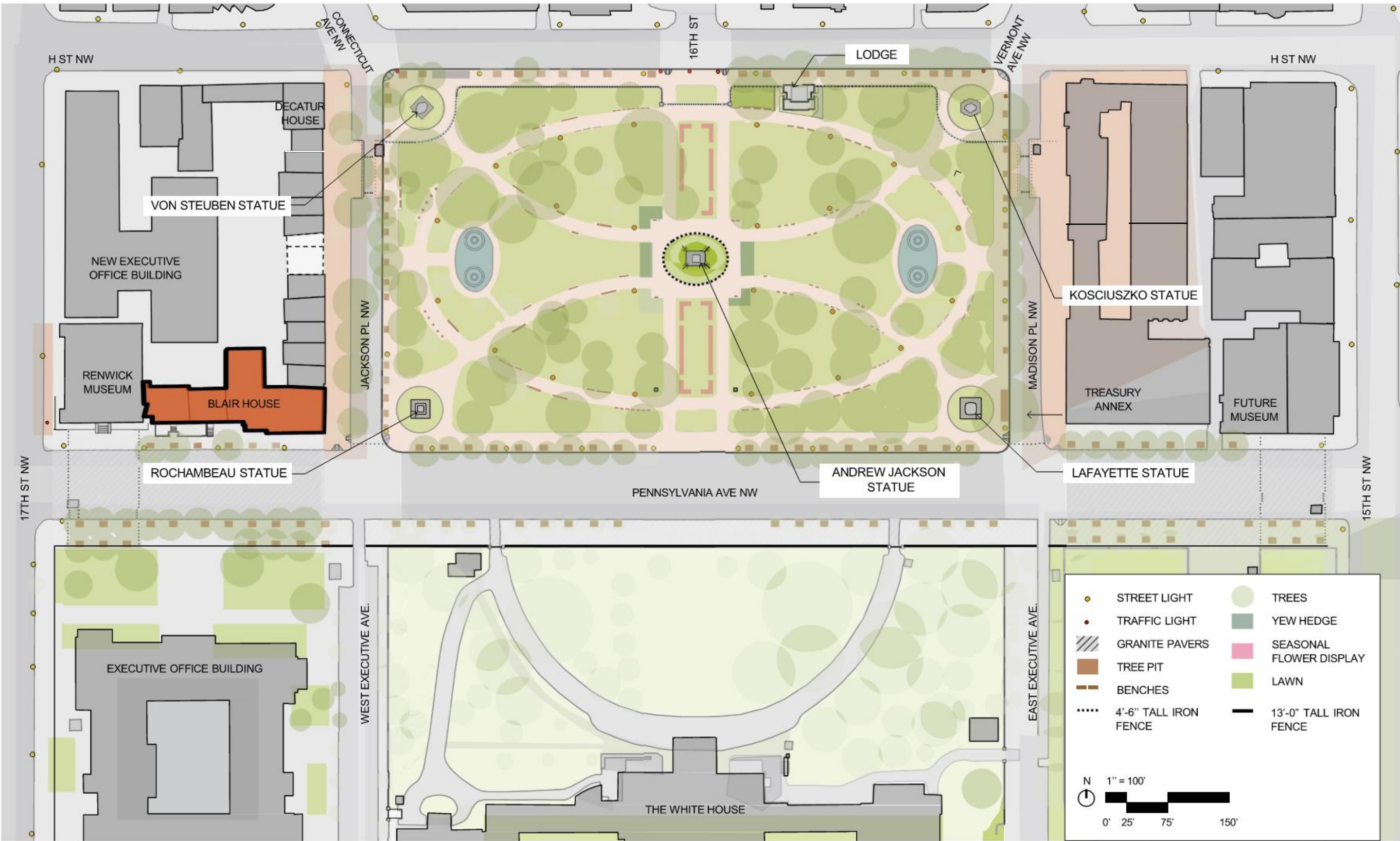
Lafayette Park, 2026

2. Representative Conditions

REPRESENTATIVE CONDITIONS

Site Plan

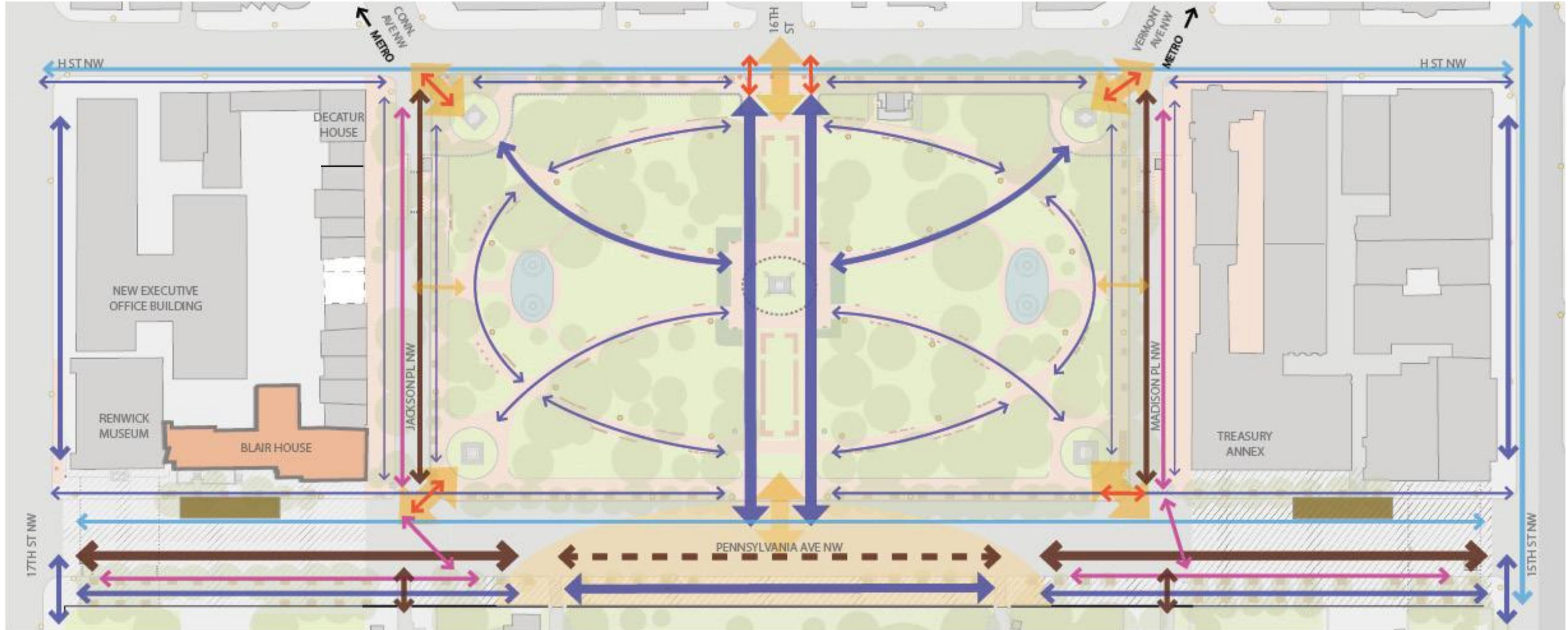
The 8-acre Lafayette Park project site comprises the entire block bounded by H Street NW, Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Madison Place NW, and Jackson Place NW.



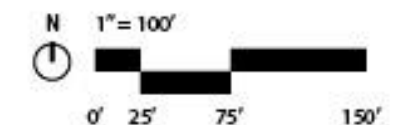
REPRESENTATIVE CONDITIONS

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. Sally port entrances are located on the northern end of Jackson Place NW and Madison Place NW.



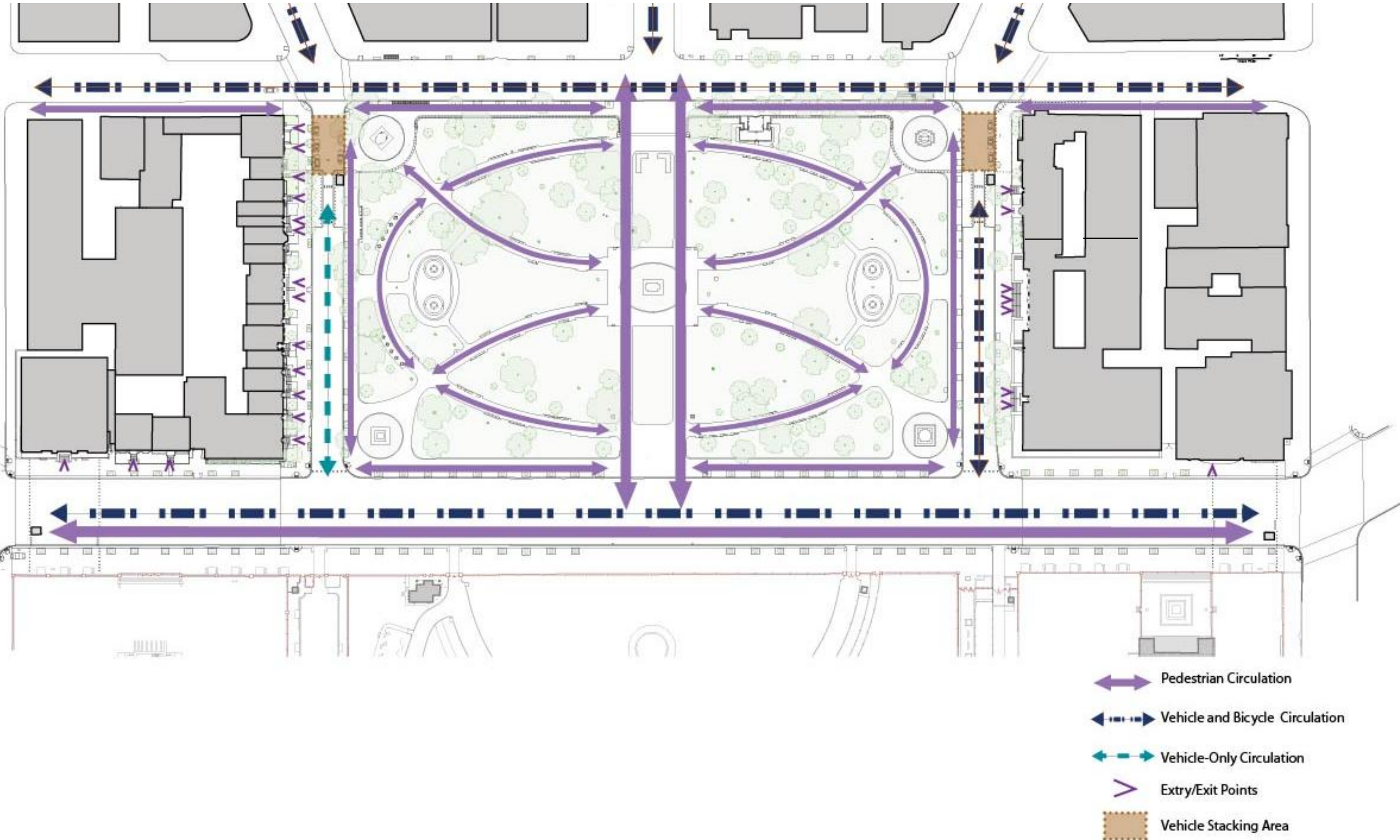
- PRIMARY DESTINATION
- VEHICLE PARKING
- VEHICLE TRAVEL PATHS
- PRIMARY ENTRANCES
- PEDESTRIAN TRAVEL PATHS
- STAFF PATH
- BIKE PATH (designated)
- CURB CUT (ADA)



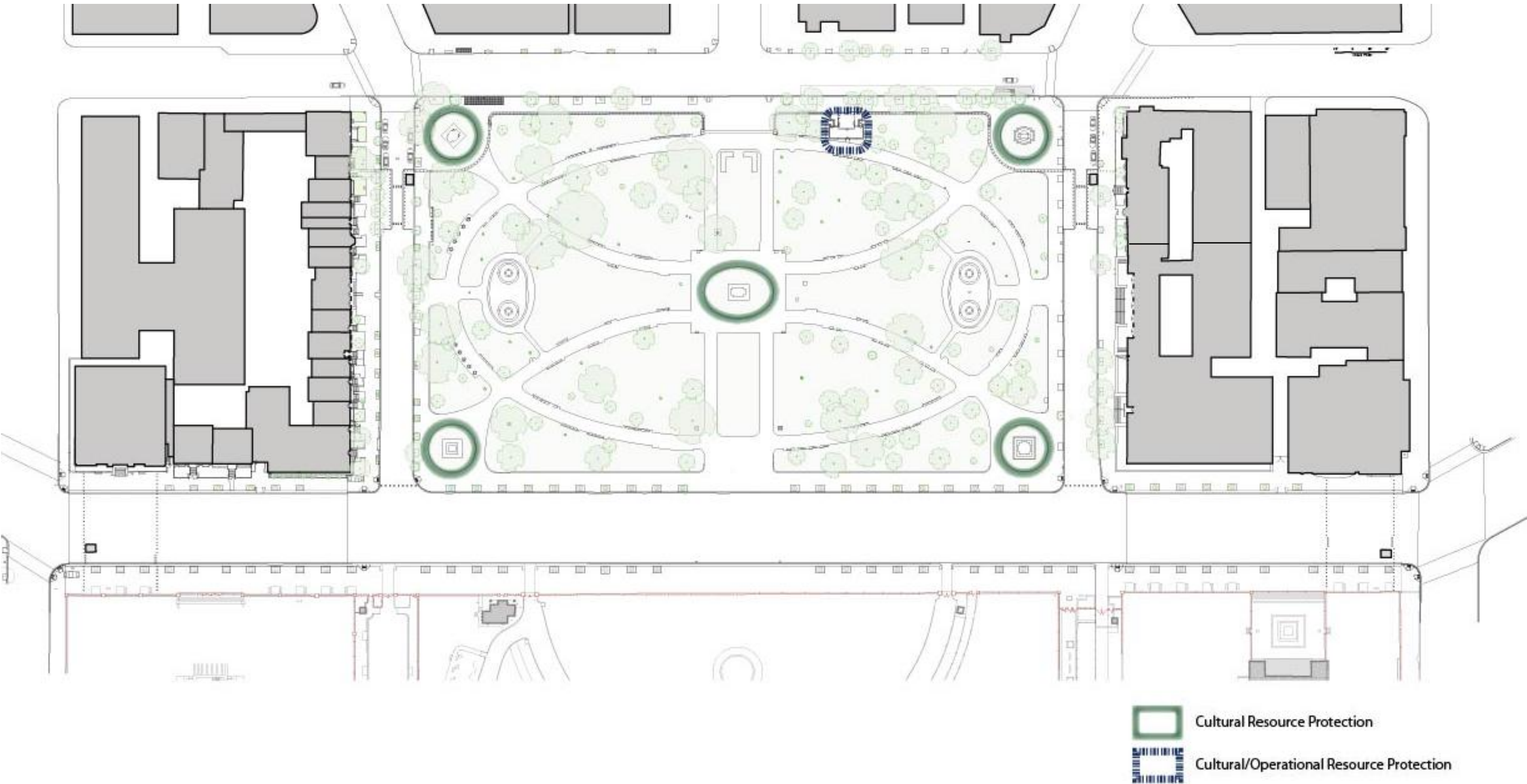
REPRESENTATIVE CONDITIONS

Site Plan: Mobility Map

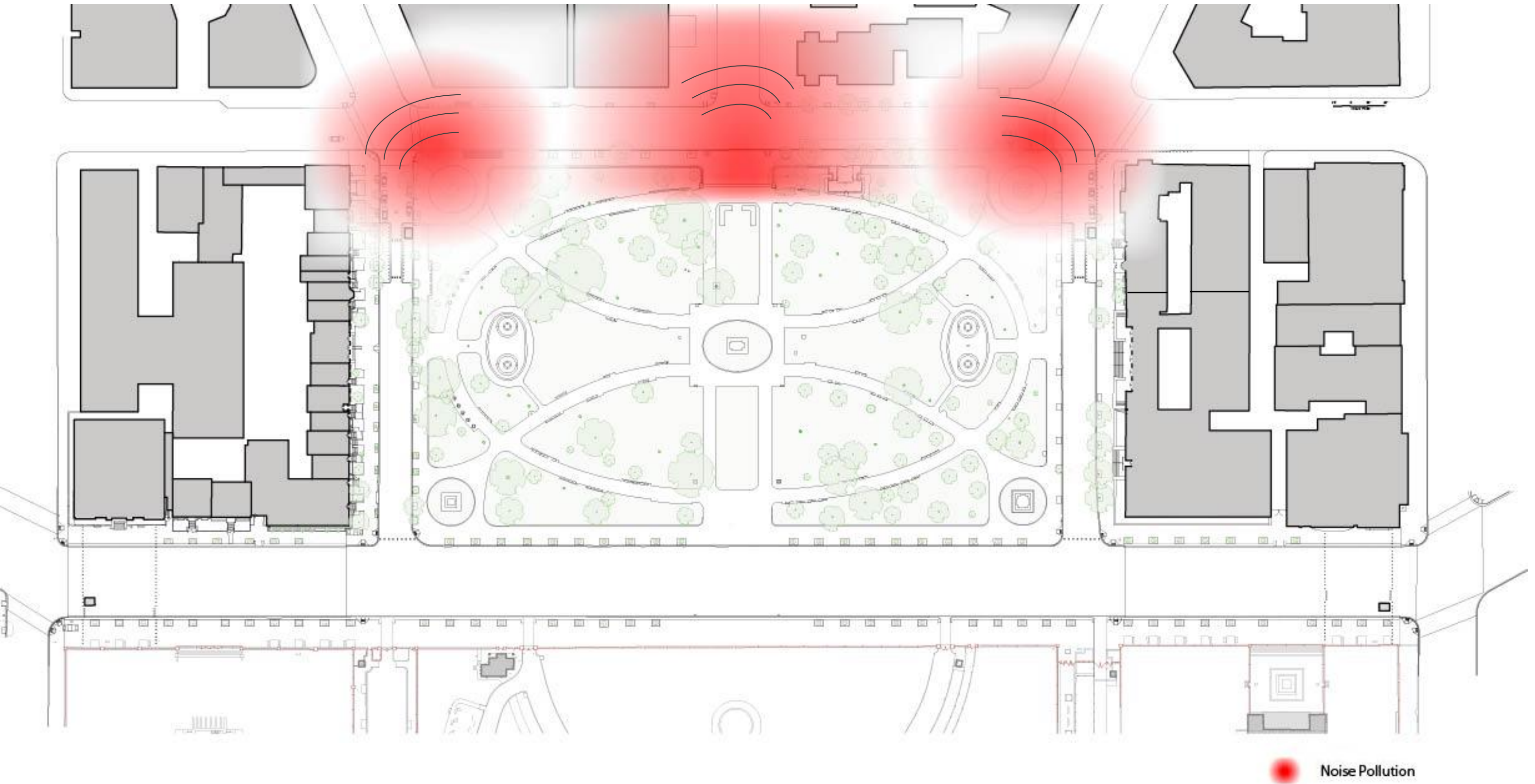
Lafayette Park currently allows vehicular, pedestrian, and bike traffic on H Street. Pedestrian, vehicular, and bike traffic are also allowed on Pennsylvania Avenue NW and Jackson Place NW; only vehicular traffic is allowed on Madison Place NW. Vehicle stacking areas are located on the northern end of Jackson Place NW and Madison Place NW.



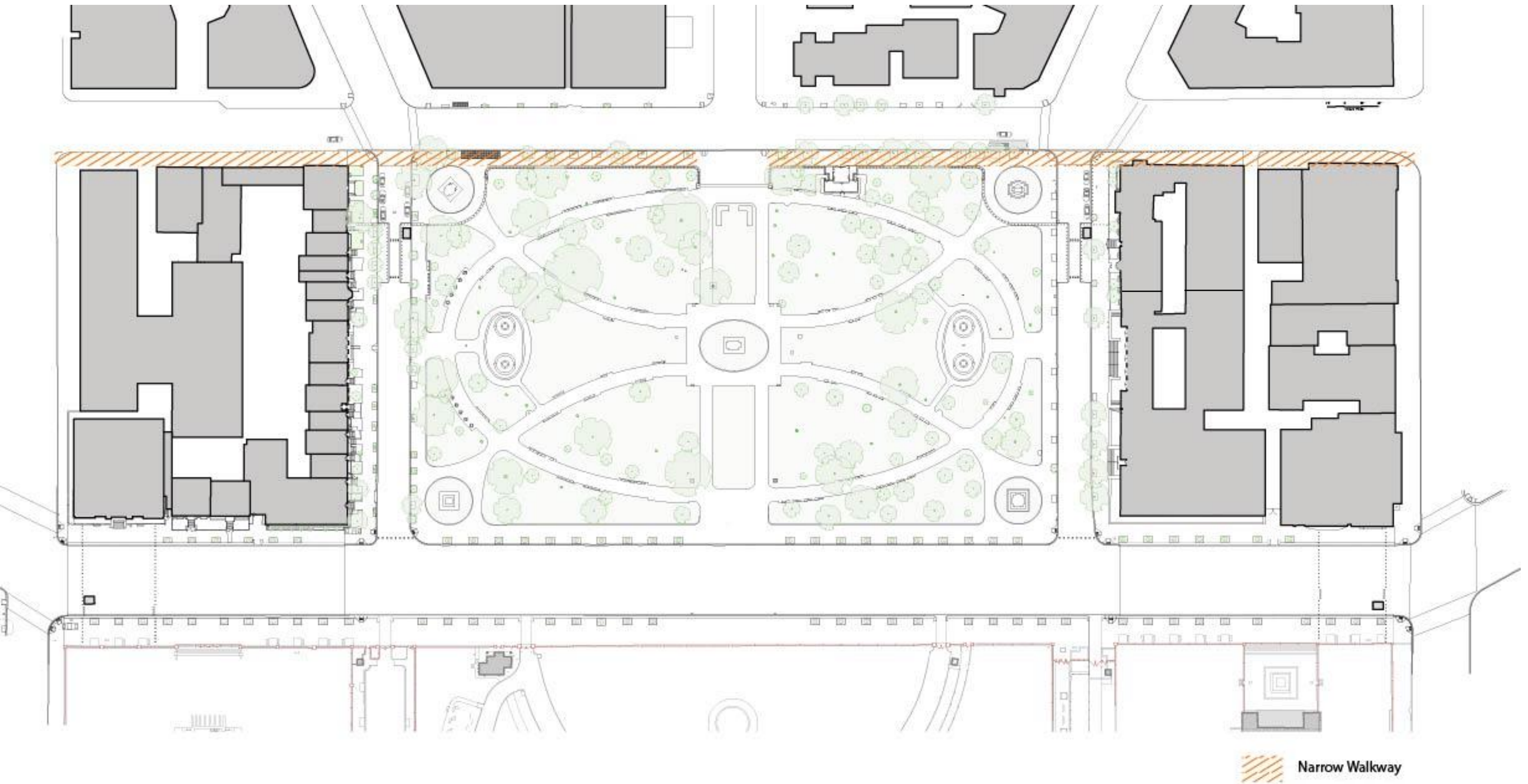
Site Plan: Cultural Resource Protection within Lafayette Park



Site Plan: Noise



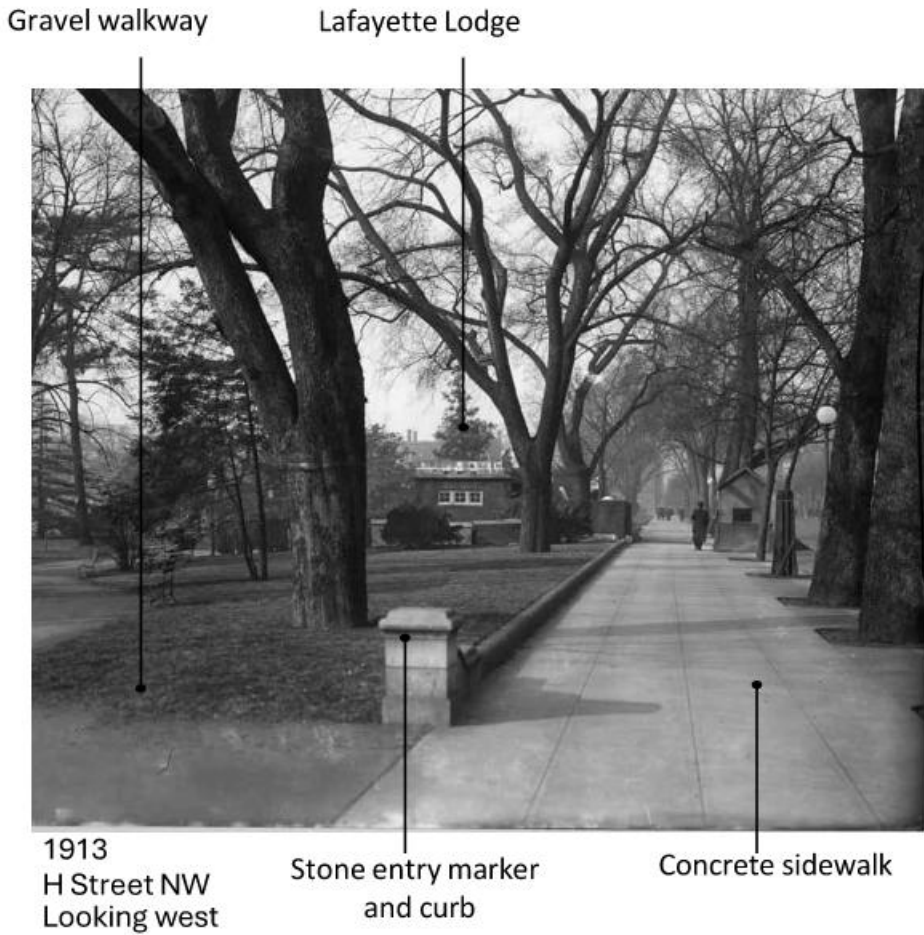
Site Plan: Narrow Walkways



REPRESENTATIVE CONDITIONS

H Street NW and Pennsylvania Avenue NW Corridors

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.



REPRESENTATIVE CONDITIONS

Lafayette Park Pathways and Von Steuben Statue



1933-1936
Gravel paths with metal edging



1990
Brick paths



2020
Temporary security fencing
Brick paths with brick pads under benches



1924
Concrete sidewalk



2018
Brick sidewalk
Bike rack barriers



2026
Bike rack barriers
Temporary fencing

REPRESENTATIVE CONDITIONS

Jackson and Madison Places NW

Jackson Place NW



2024
Looking south from H Street NW



2024
Looking north

Madison Place NW



2024
Looking south from H Street NW

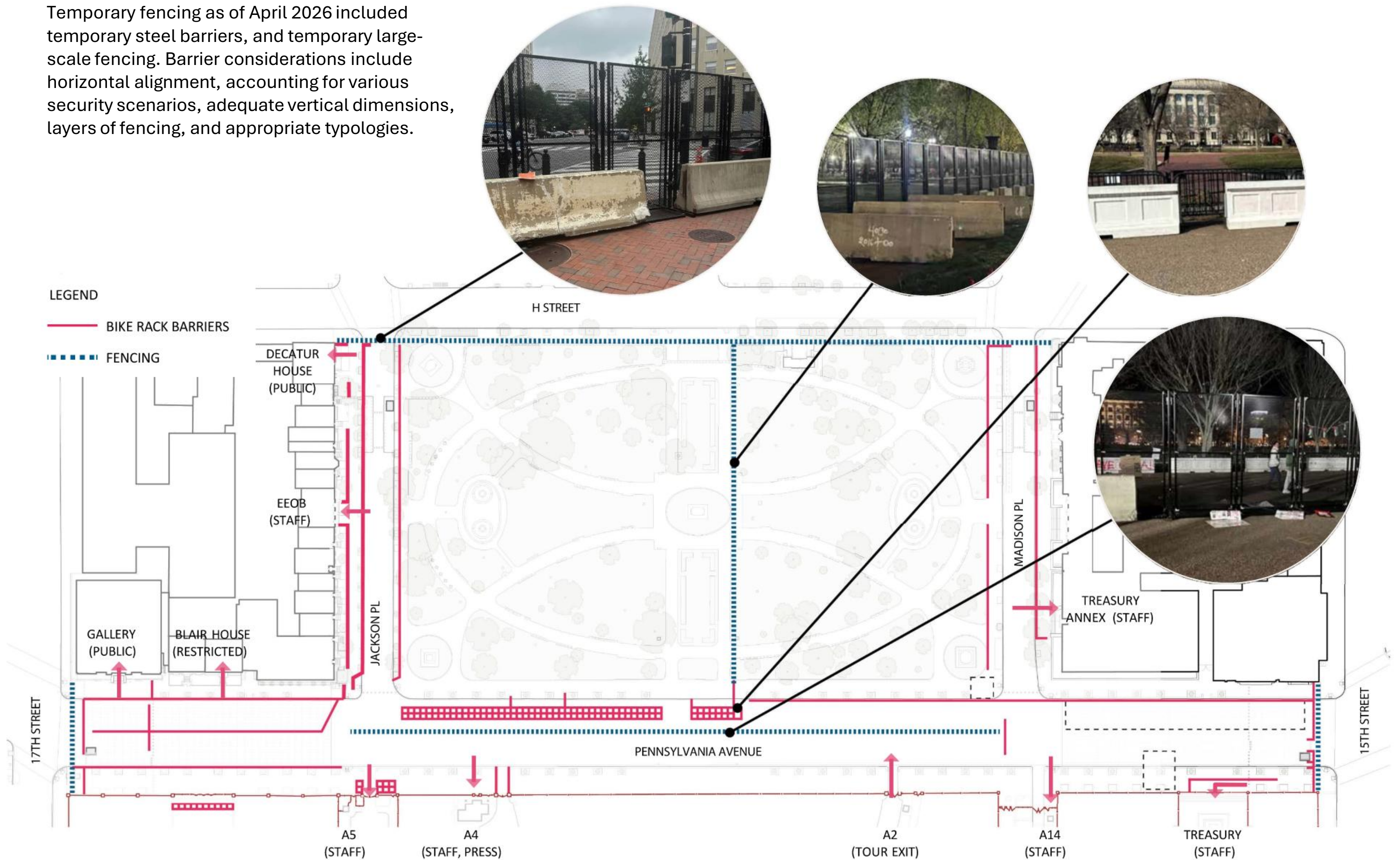


2024
Looking north

3. Security Considerations

Temporary Barriers

Temporary fencing as of April 2026 included temporary steel 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.



Existing Conditions: Temporary Barriers

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



Anti-scale fencing on H Street NW, June 2026



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



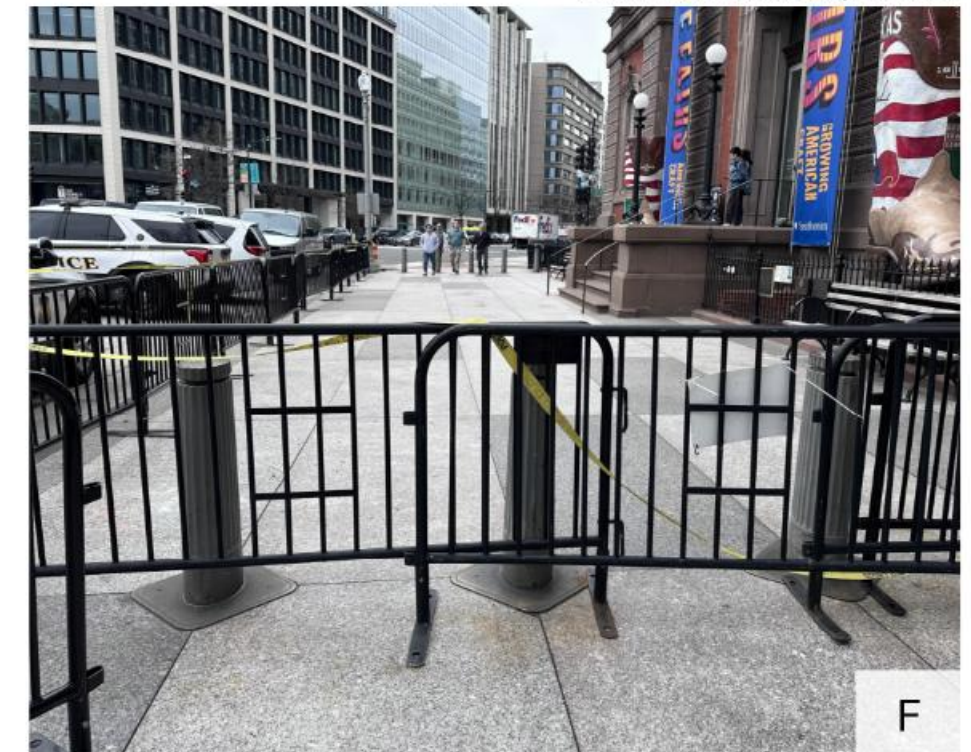
Bike rack barriers on Pennsylvania Avenue NW near the White House, April 2026



Chain link fencing on Jackson Place NW, April 2026



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



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

Existing Conditions: Temporary Barriers - 2026

Currently, Lafayette Park has temporary fencing enclosing the park. Pictures below show temporary fencing surrounding the park, with fence heights ranging from 4’ steel barriers and concrete barriers to 10’ 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.



2026



2026

4. Historic Properties

HISTORIC PROPERTIES

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

President James Monroe authorizes separation of President’s Park from White House Grounds

Architect Andrew Jackson Downing hired to design park grounds



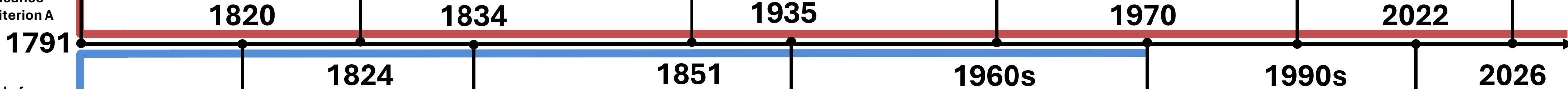
John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Boston

President Kennedy implements additional security measures at the park

Pennsylvania Avenue NW closed to vehicular traffic following the Oklahoma City Bombing
America’s 250 Anniversary

Period of Significance for Criterion A

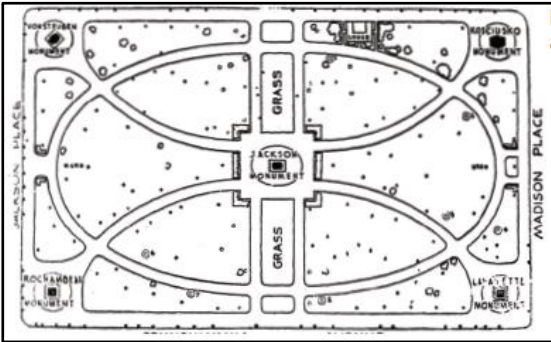
Period of Significance for Criterion B, C, and D



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



Library of Congress

National Register of Historic Places is updated for Lafayette Square* as a draft

Period of Significance Criteria

Criterion A: Politics/ Government, Social History

Criterion B, C, D: Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning and Development, Archeology, and Art

National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)

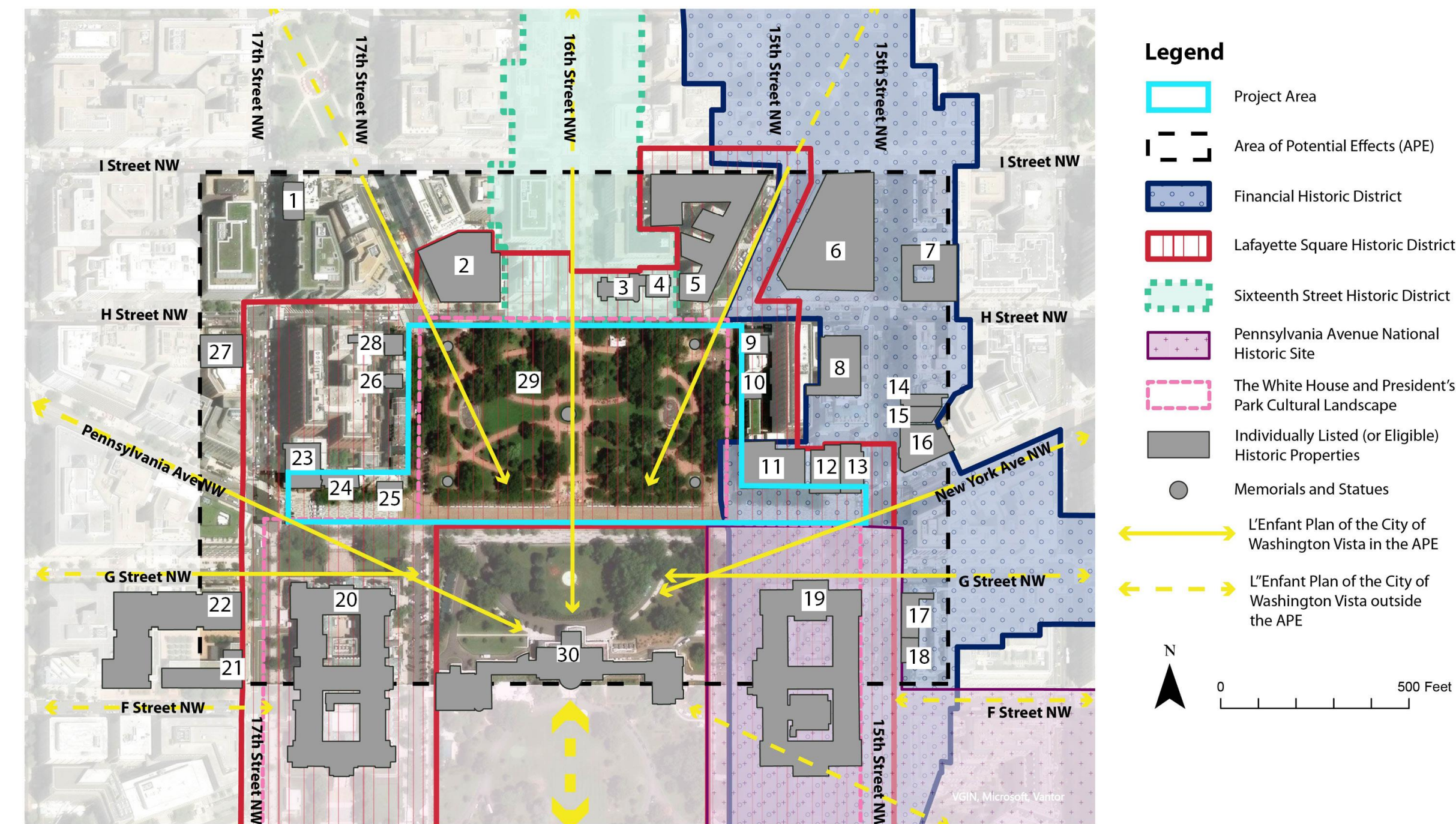
The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) establishes a national preservation program and a system of procedural protections, which encourage both the identification and protection of historic resources, including archeological resources.

- Section 106
 - Requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their projects on historic properties either listed in or eligible to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places
- Section 110
 - Delineates broad historic preservation responsibilities for federal agencies to ensure that historic preservation is fully integrated into their ongoing programs
 - Requires the agency, "to the maximum extent possible," undertake planning and actions as may be necessary to minimize harm to any National Historic Landmark (NHL) that may be directly or indirectly affected by an undertaking.
 - Should consider all prudent and feasible alternatives to avoid an adverse effect on the NHL



Revised Proposed APE Map

The proposed APE includes multiple historic properties and four Historic Districts and Sites, as well as the White House* and President’s Park Cultural Landscape.



Individually Listed (or Eligible) Historic Properties * Indicates a National Historic Landmark

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

Historic Properties Within the Project Area

Lafayette Square Historic District (LSHD)*

- NRHP: 1970; Draft NRHP: 2022 ; NHL: 1970
- 7 contributing structures
- 17 contributing objects
- 35 contributing buildings include:
 - Decatur House*
 - Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Headquarters*
 - Benjamin Ogle Tayloe House
 - American Security and Trust Company Building
- Periods of Significance
 - Criterion A: 1791 to Present
 - Includes politics/government, social history, and community planning
 - Criteria B, C, D: 1791 to 1970
 - Includes architecture, landscape architecture, archeology, important individuals, and art
 - Criteria Consideration G

The White House and President's Park Cultural Landscape

- Potential contributing elements include:
 - Views and Vistas
 - Small-Scale Building Features
 - Constructed Water Features
 - Spatial Organization
 - Buildings and Structures

* Indicates an NHL



Lafayette Statue, 2026



Lafayette Lodge, 2026



East Water Feature, 2026

Historic Properties Within the Project Area (continued)

L'Enfant Plan of the City of Washington

- Period of Significance: 1790 to 1942
- Contributing features include:
 - Reservation No. 1: Presidents Park
 - Reservation No. 10: Lafayette Square [President's Square]
 - Pennsylvania Avenue
 - Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, and Vermont Avenues (White House Precinct) Vistas
 - 16th Street NW (White House) Vista

American Revolutionary Statuary

- 14 bronze statues of Revolutionary War figures
- Statues within Project Area include:
 - General Marquis de Lafayette
 - General Comte de Rochambeau
 - General Baron von Steuben
 - General Thaddeus Kosciuszko



Kosciuszko Statue, 2026



Von Steuben Statue, 2026

Historic Properties Within the APE

Sixteenth Street Historic District

- NRHP: 1978; Amended in 2007
- Period of Significance: 1875 to 1930

Financial Historic District

- NRHP: 2006; Amended in 2016
- Period of Significance: 1836 to 1950
- 36 contributing resources throughout the historic district

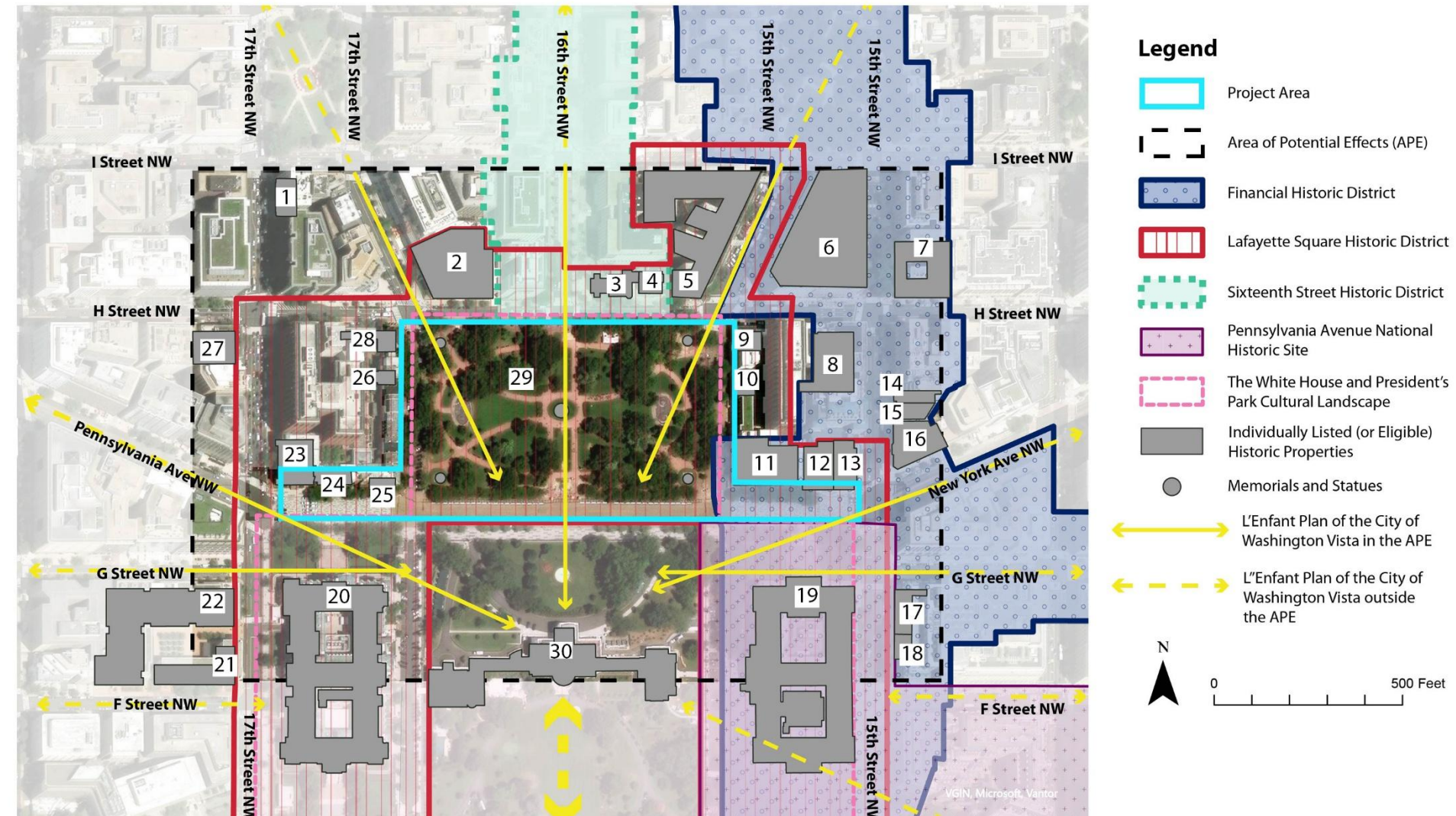
Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site & Cultural Landscape

- NRHP: 1966; Amended in 2007

Individual Resources

Additionally, 24 individual resources located in the APE are eligible or listed in the NRHP.

- Individual resources include the following:
 - American Peace Society*
 - St. John's Church*
 - U.S. Chamber of Commerce
 - Saint John's Parish House*
 - Stephen Decatur House*
 - Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Headquarters*
 - Benjamin Ogle Tayloe House
 - American Security and Trust Company Building

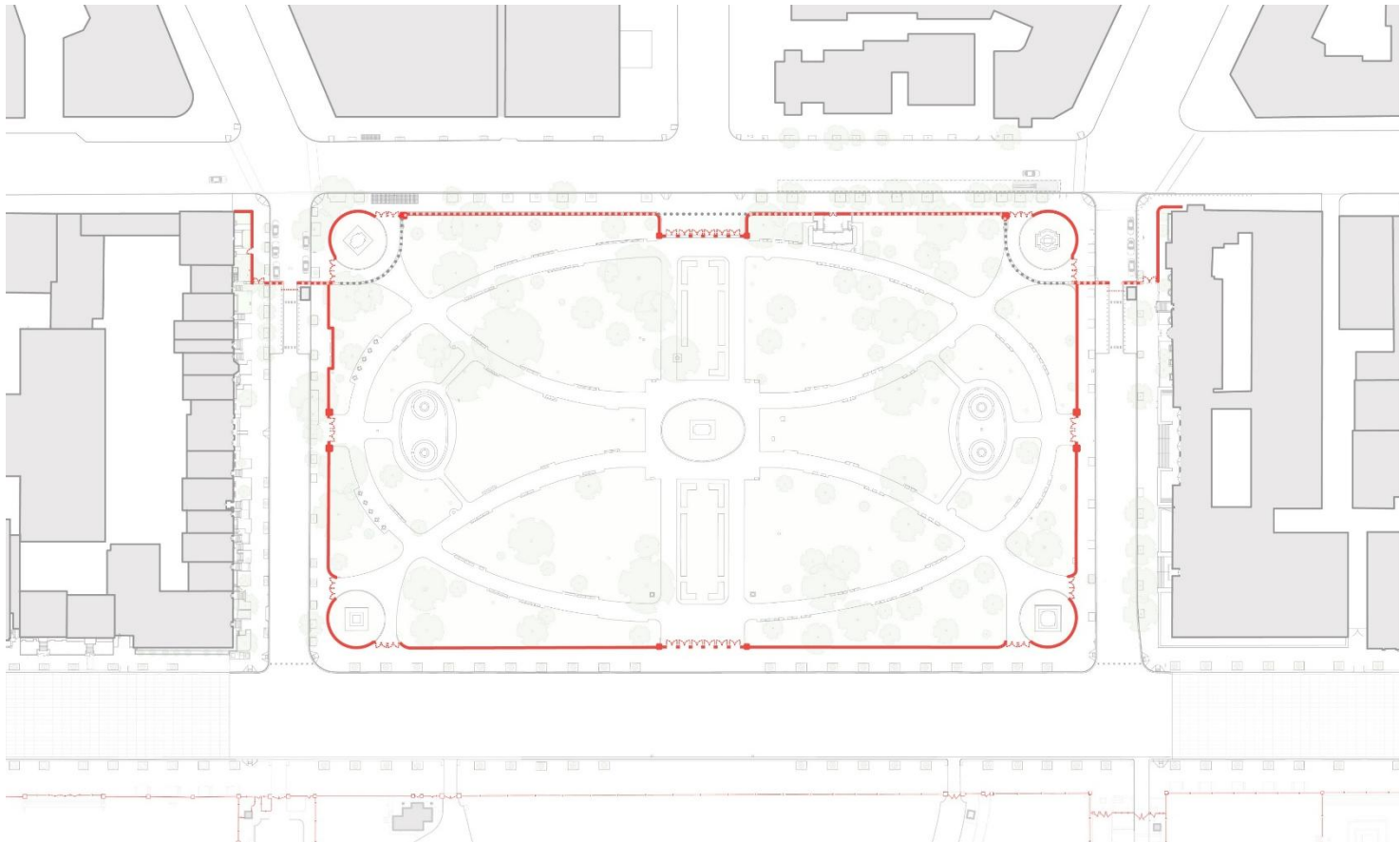


Individually Listed (or Eligible) Historic Properties * Indicates a National Historic Landmark

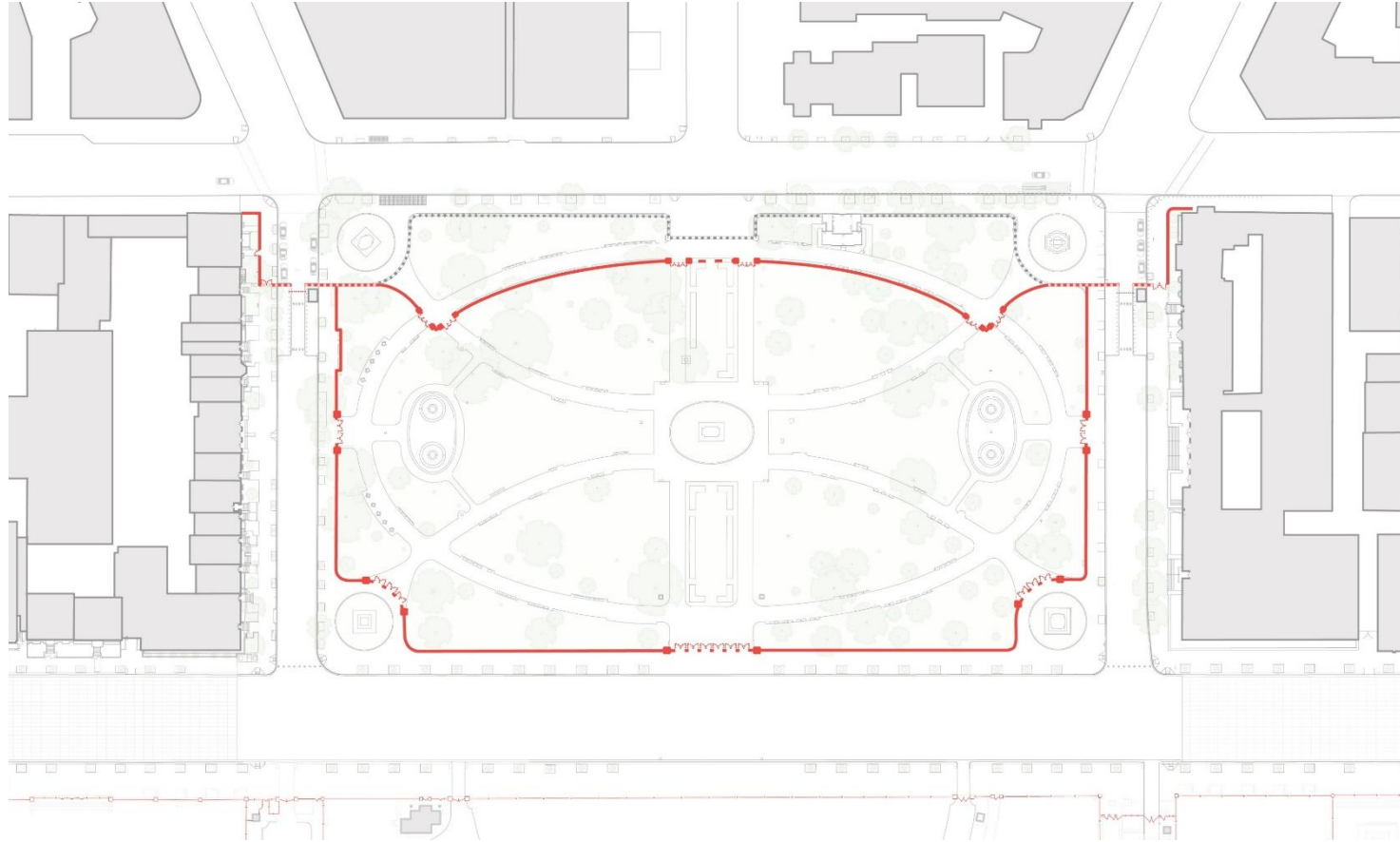
- | | | | |
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5. Alternatives

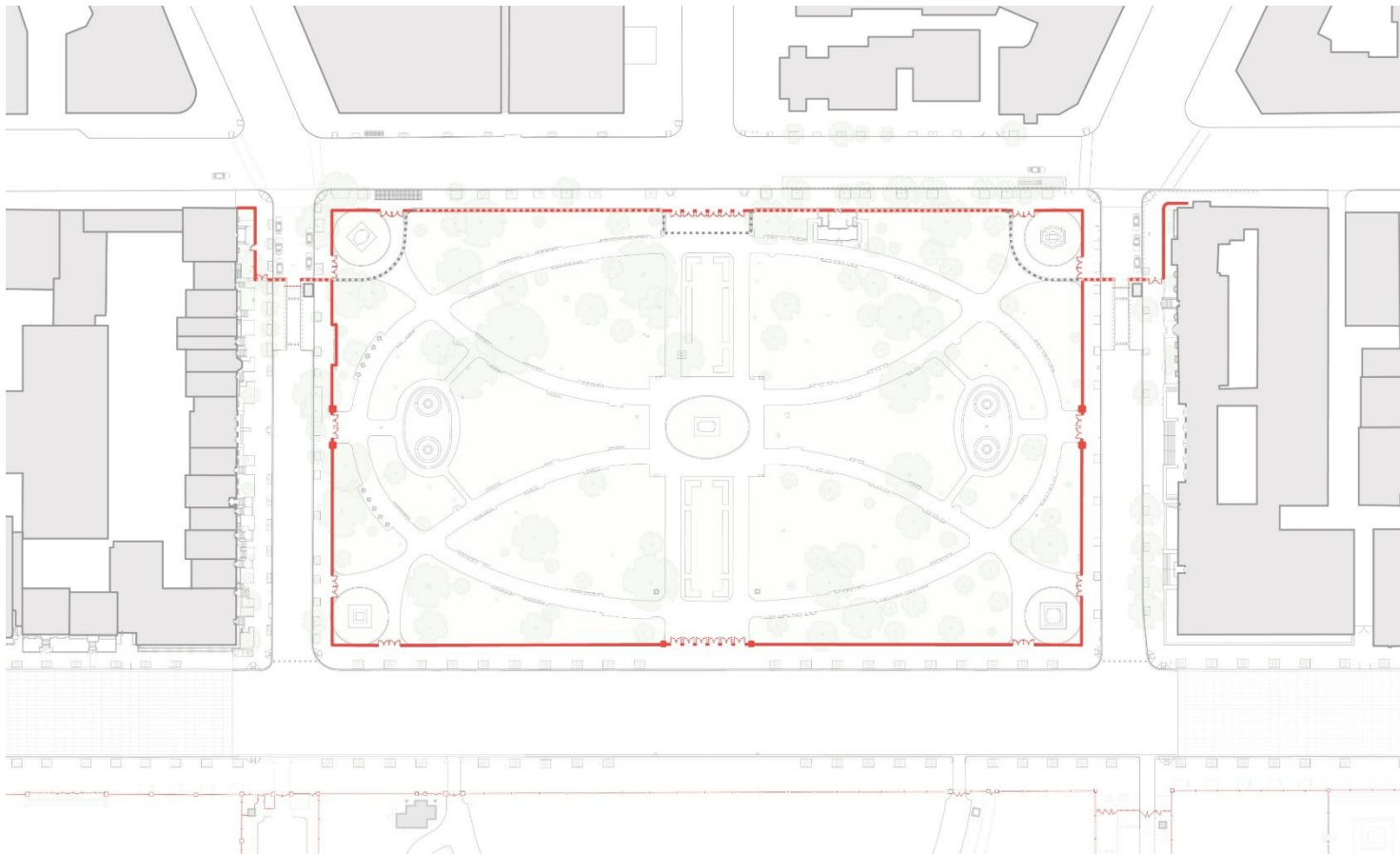
Alignments Shown at Consulting Parties Meeting #1



Alignment 1: Preferred Alignment



Alignment 2



Alignment 3

ALTERNATIVES

16th Street NW at H Street NW looking South



ALTERNATIVES

16th Street NW Corridor at Pennsylvania Avenue looking North



Alignment 1A: Lafayette Park Perimeter Alignment (Open Plaza)



ALTERNATIVES

Alignment 1B: Lafayette Park Perimeter Alignment (Consistent H Street)



Alignment 2: Lafayette Park Pathway Alignment (Outer Path)



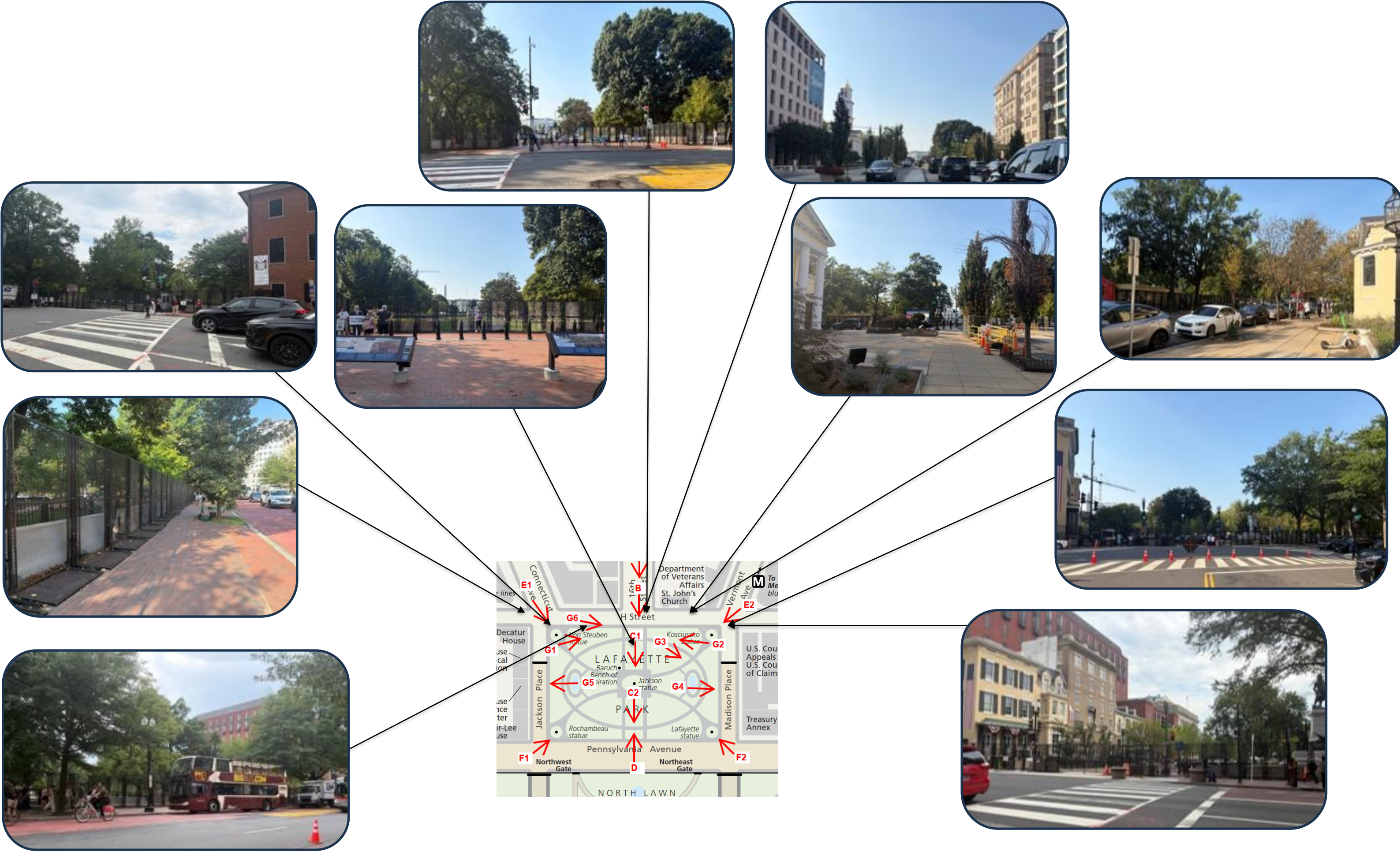
Alignment 3: Lafayette Park Pathway Alignment (Inner Path)



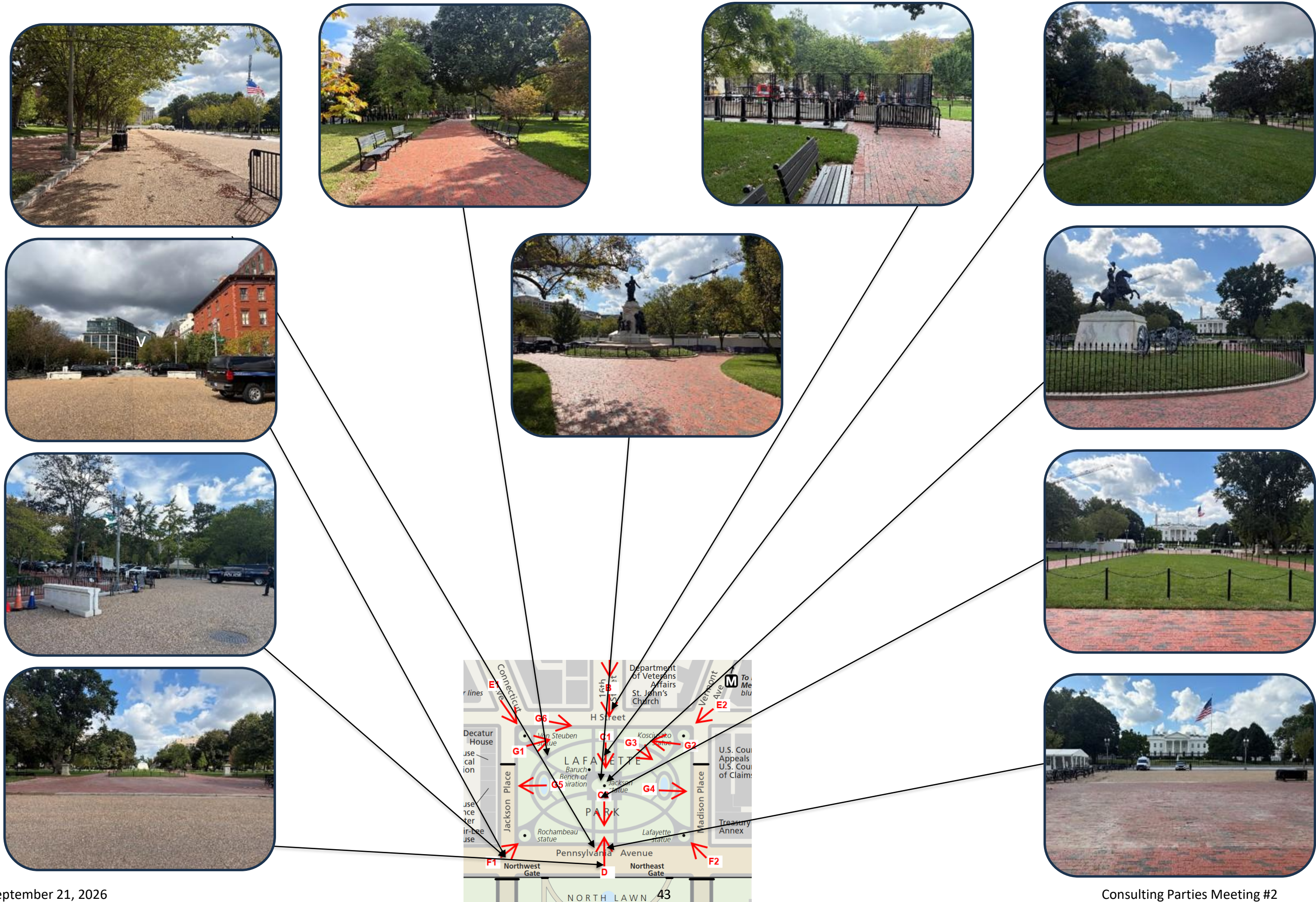
Alignment 4: Lafayette Park Hybrid Alignment



Views for Future Renderings (Outside Park)

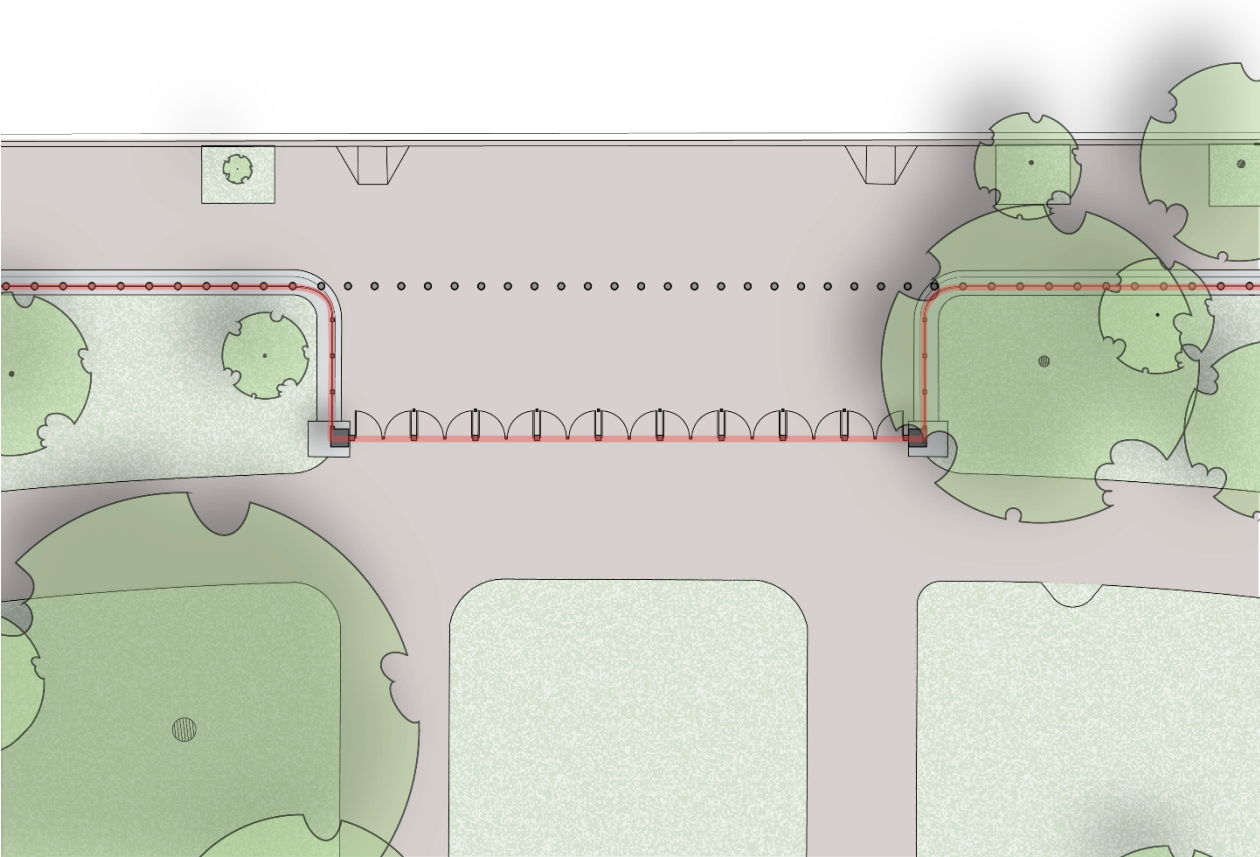


Views for Future Renderings (Inside Park)

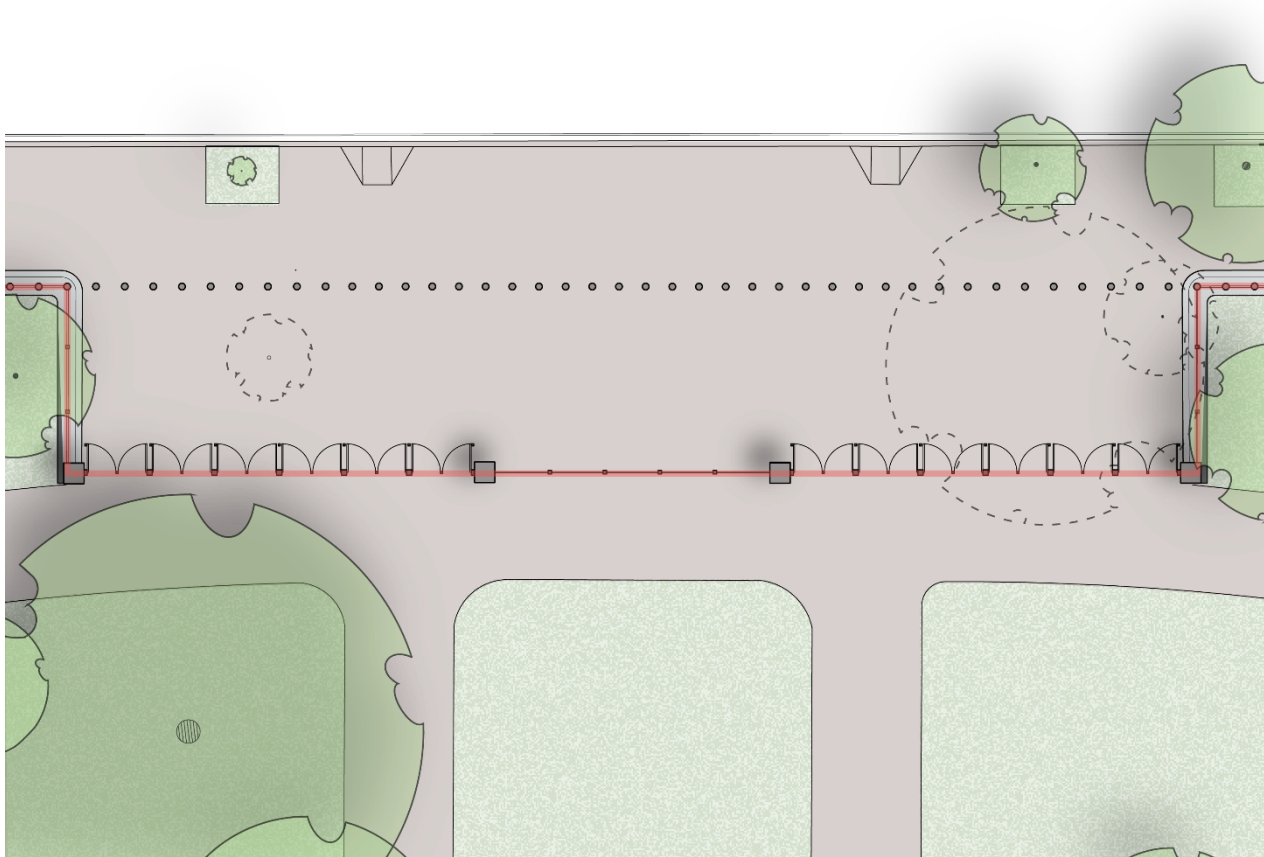


North Entry Treatments

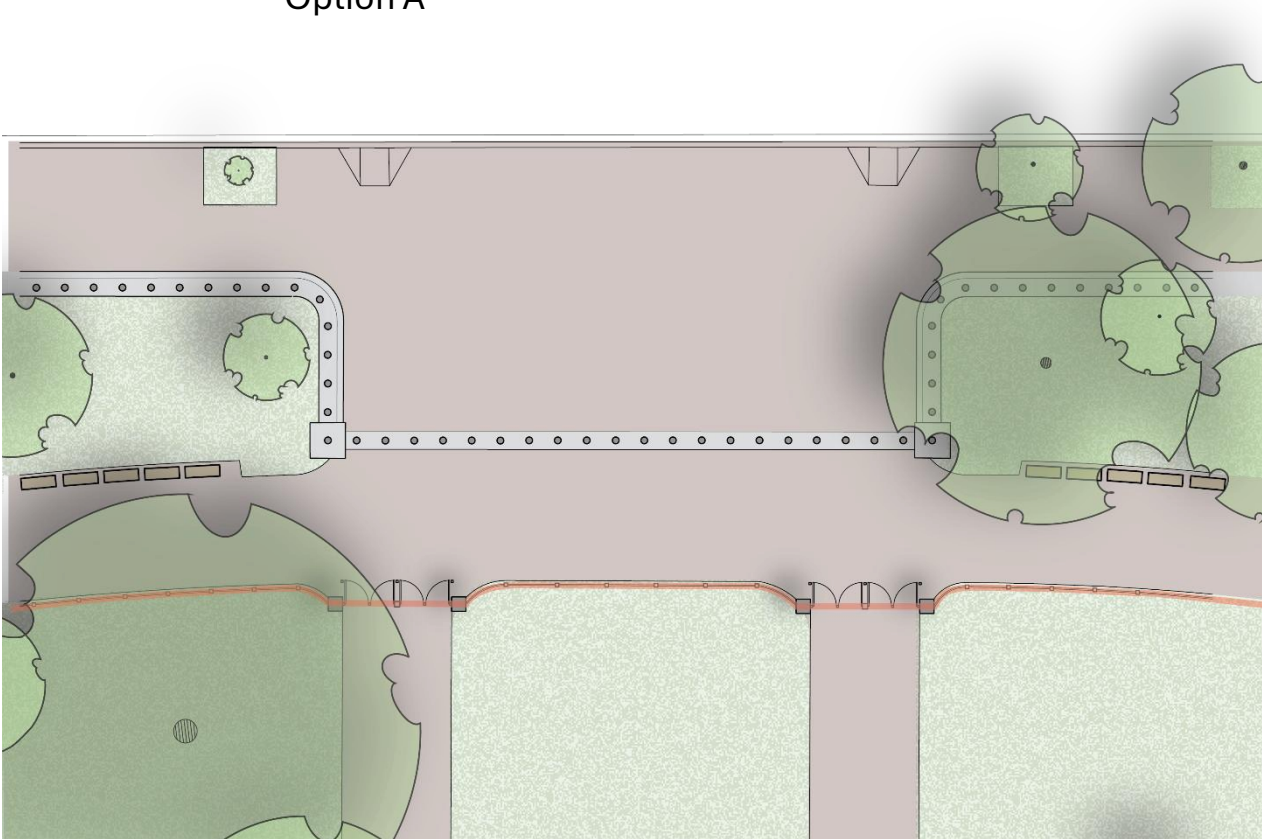
Below are different north entry treatments used in the northwest corners on the proposed alignment alternatives. They offer different levels of alignment with existing bollards and widths of egress, as well as offering varying levels of public space along H Street NW.



Option A



Option B

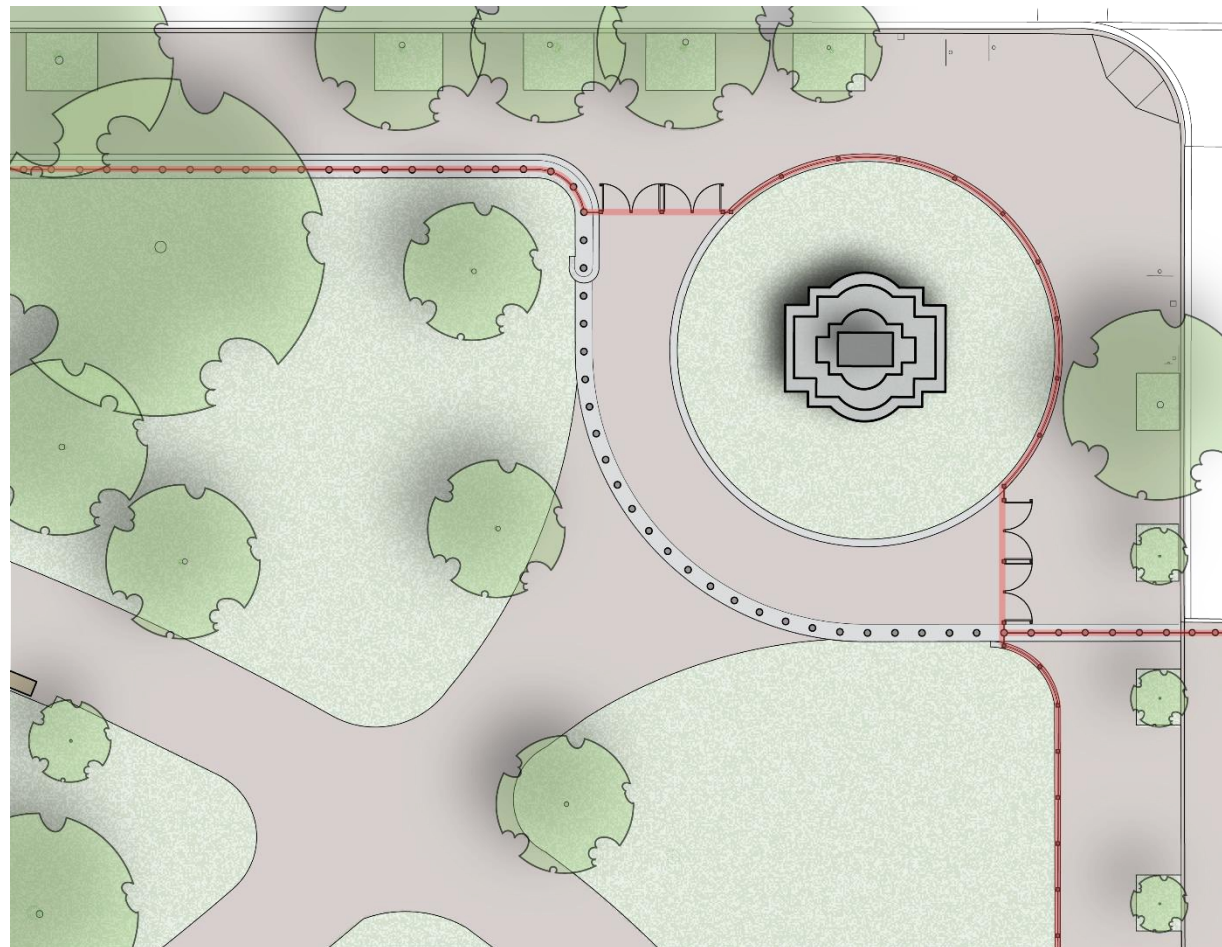


Option C

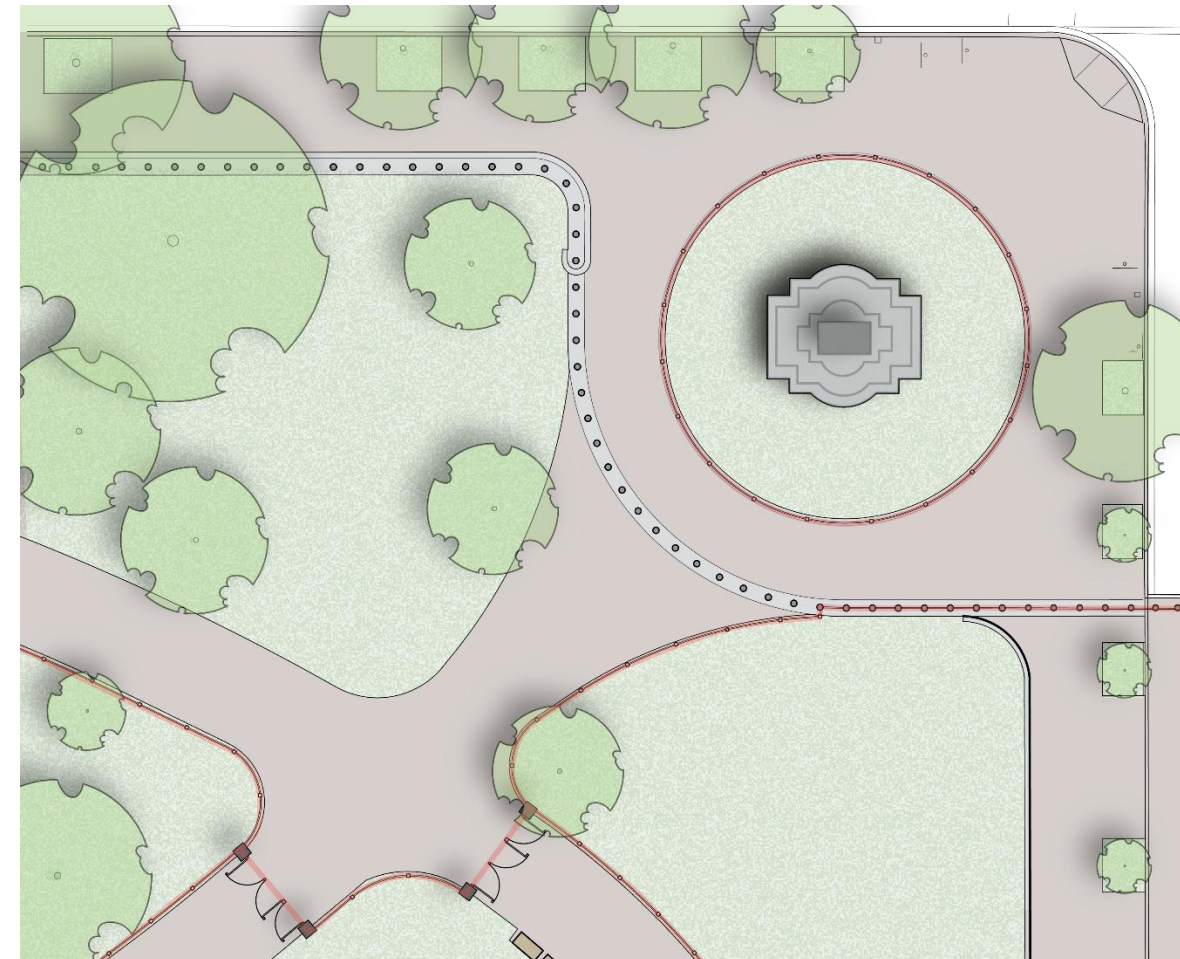
ALTERNATIVES

Corner Treatments

Below are different corner treatments used in the northeast corners on the proposed alignment alternatives. They offer varying levels of security for the statues at the corners of the park, as well as offering varying levels of public space along H Street NW.

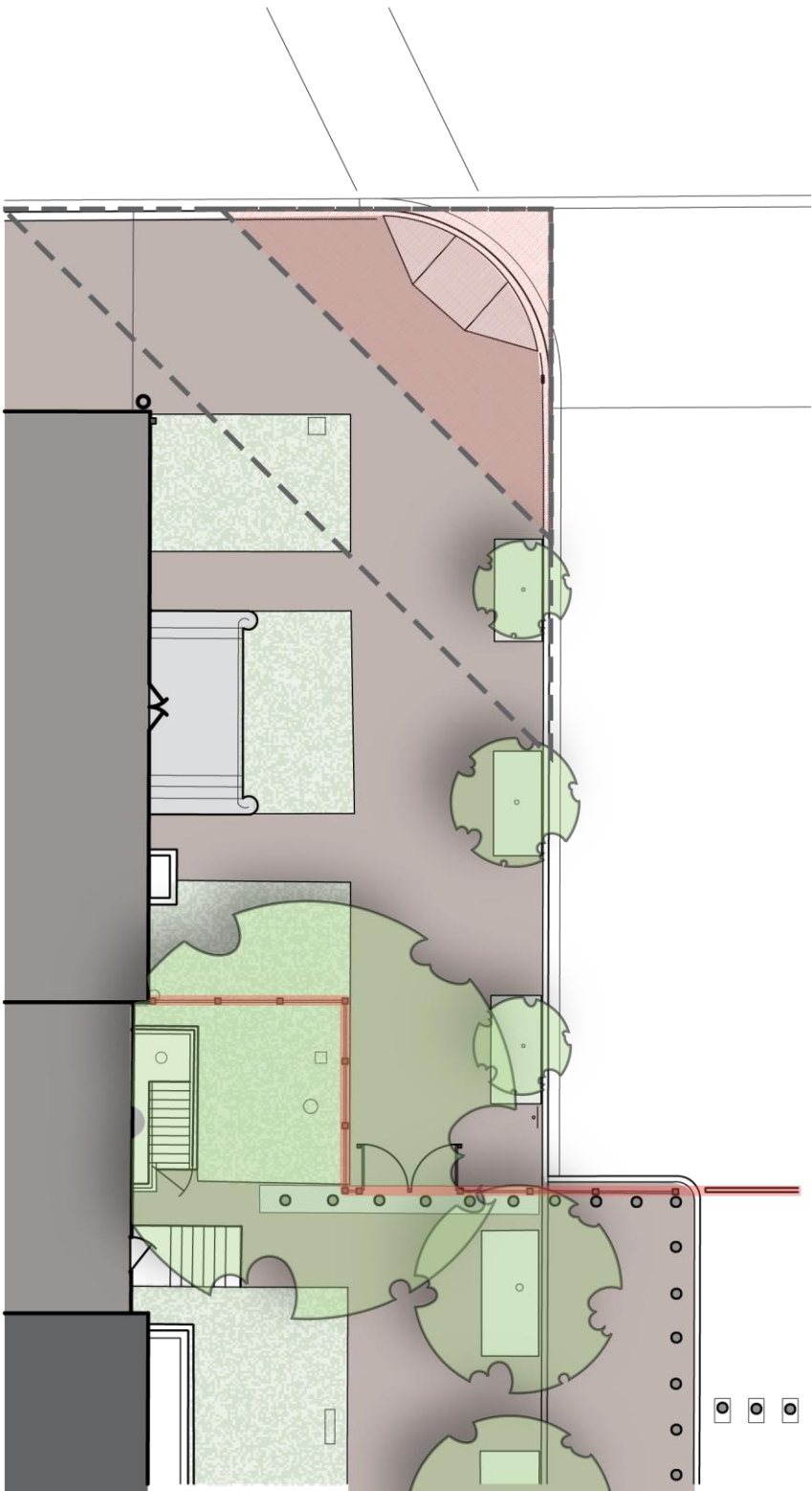


Option A

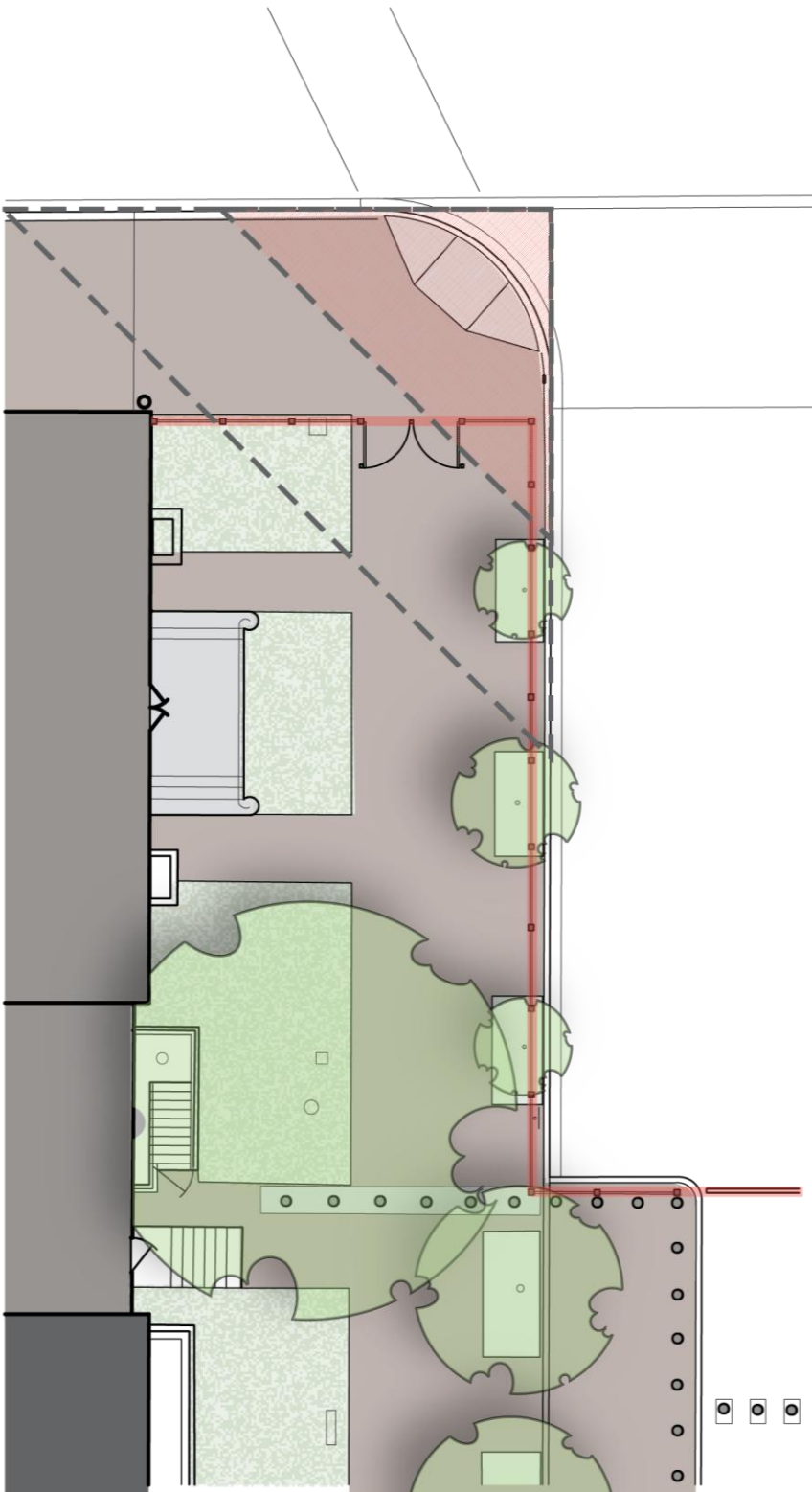


Option B

Jackson Place NW Alternatives

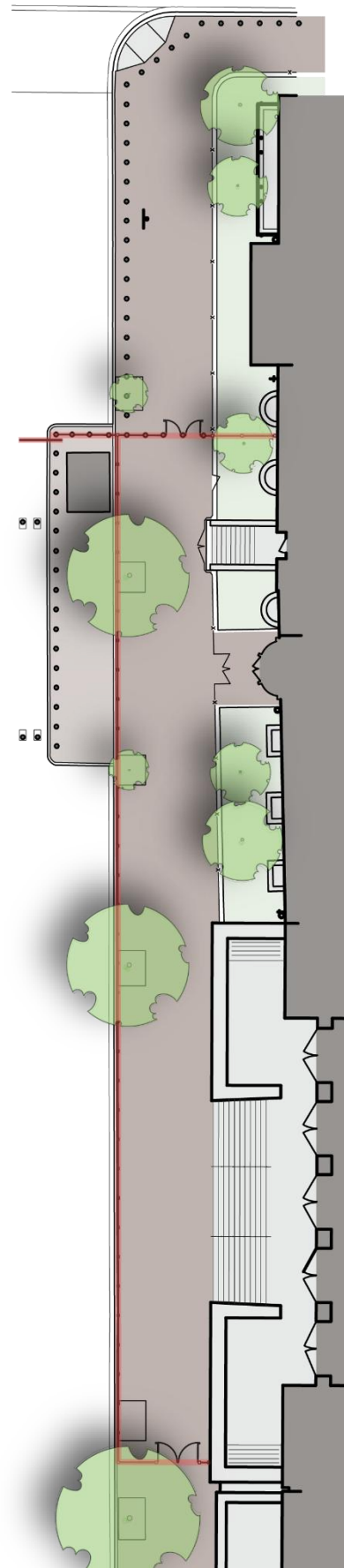


Option A

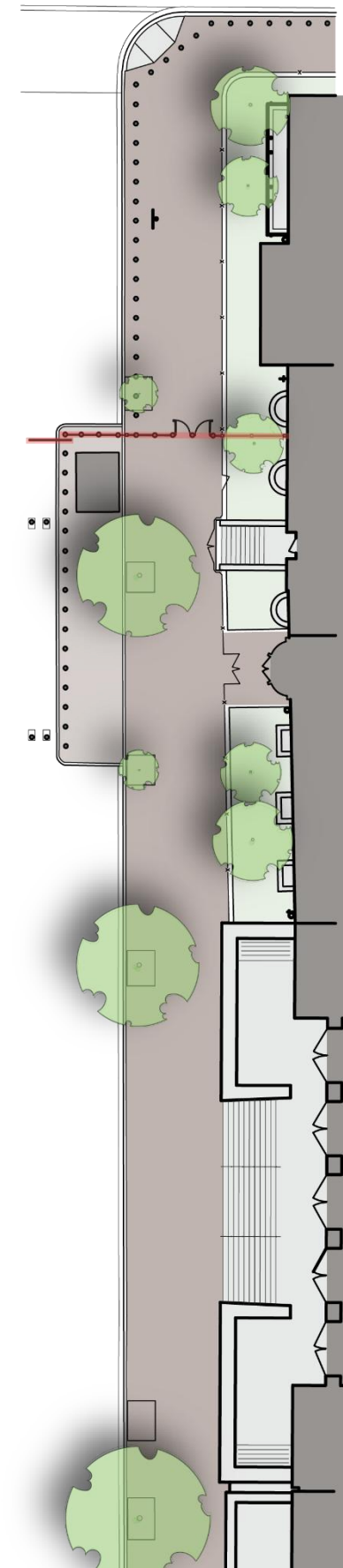


Option B

Madison Place NW Alternatives



Option A



Option B

6. 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 because of the following:

- Diminishment of design and setting due to the formal enclosure of the district's centerpiece (Lafayette Park) with an incompatible tall fence
- Alteration of historic appearance and spatial orientation of the park
- Disruption of formal boundary and openness of the park
- Alteration of the ability to fully express the park's ongoing role and significance as a First Amendment activity space
- Alteration of views, vistas, and relationships of the landscape to the surrounding buildings
- Alteration to Lafayette Lodge, which is a contributing resource

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

Anticipated **adverse effect** would occur because of the following:

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

The following principal views would be adversely affected:

- View along 16th Street, which terminates at Lafayette Park, and features the on-axis view toward the north lawn and north façade of the White House
- Views along the major radiating streets of Connecticut Avenue, NW and Vermont Avenue, NW that terminate at Lafayette Park
- Views toward the park from significant residences along Jackson Place and Madison Place



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

Initial Effects Analysis

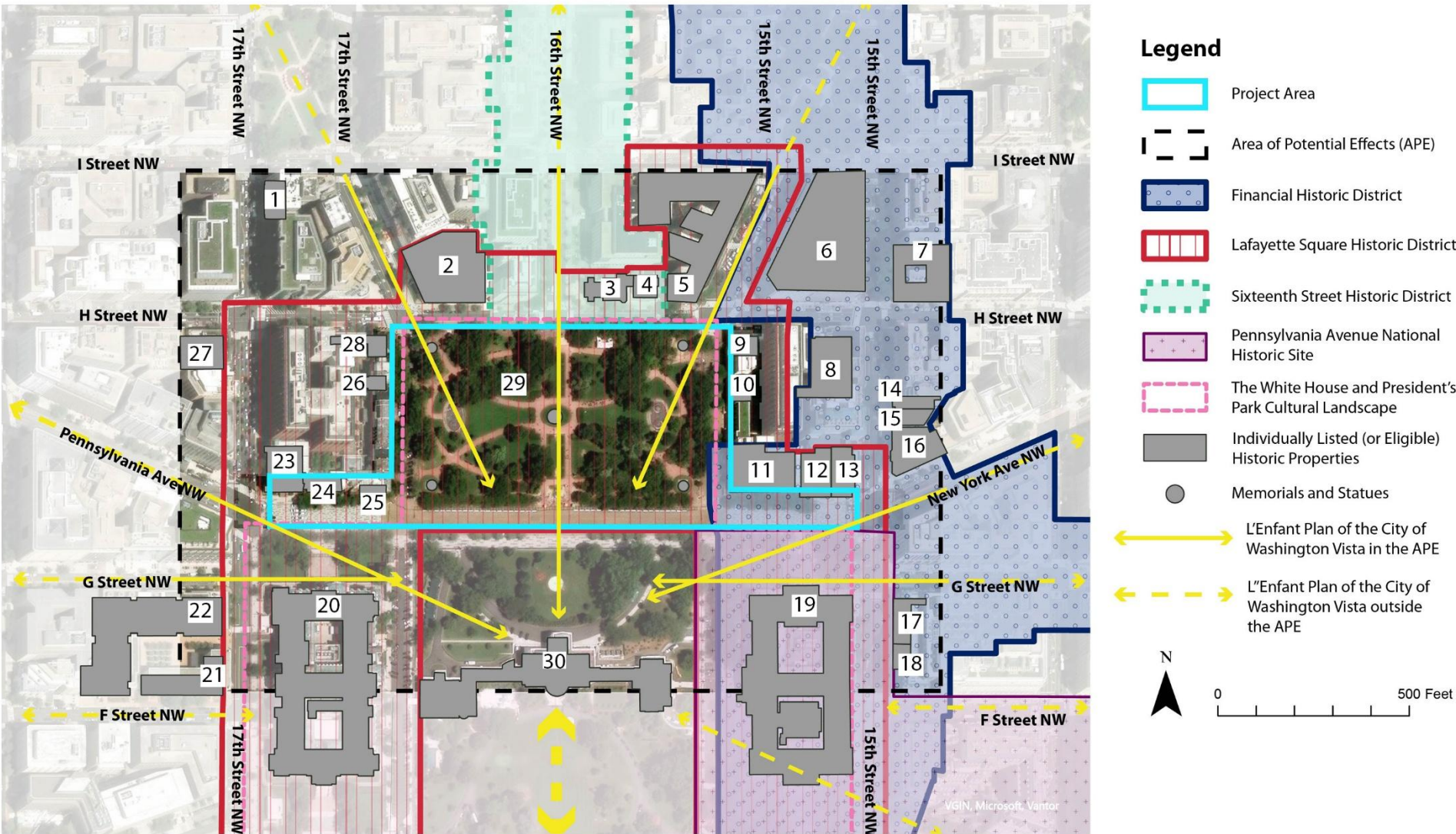
Individual Resources

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

Other Historic Properties Within the APE

The installation of fencing would have **no adverse effect** on the remaining listed historic properties in the APE as their key viewsheds would not be substantially impacted and their integrity of setting, feeling, nor their association, would not be diminished.



Individually Listed (or Eligible) Historic Properties * Indicates a National Historic Landmark

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

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



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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
- 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

7. Discussion

8. Next Steps

NEXT STEPS

Next Steps

- Receive Consulting Parties comments from September 21 meeting
- Develop Perimeter Security Master Plan
- Refine alternatives
- Identify mitigation measures
- Distribute Assessment of Effects and Environmental Assessment for comment
- Continue consultation with Consulting Parties



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