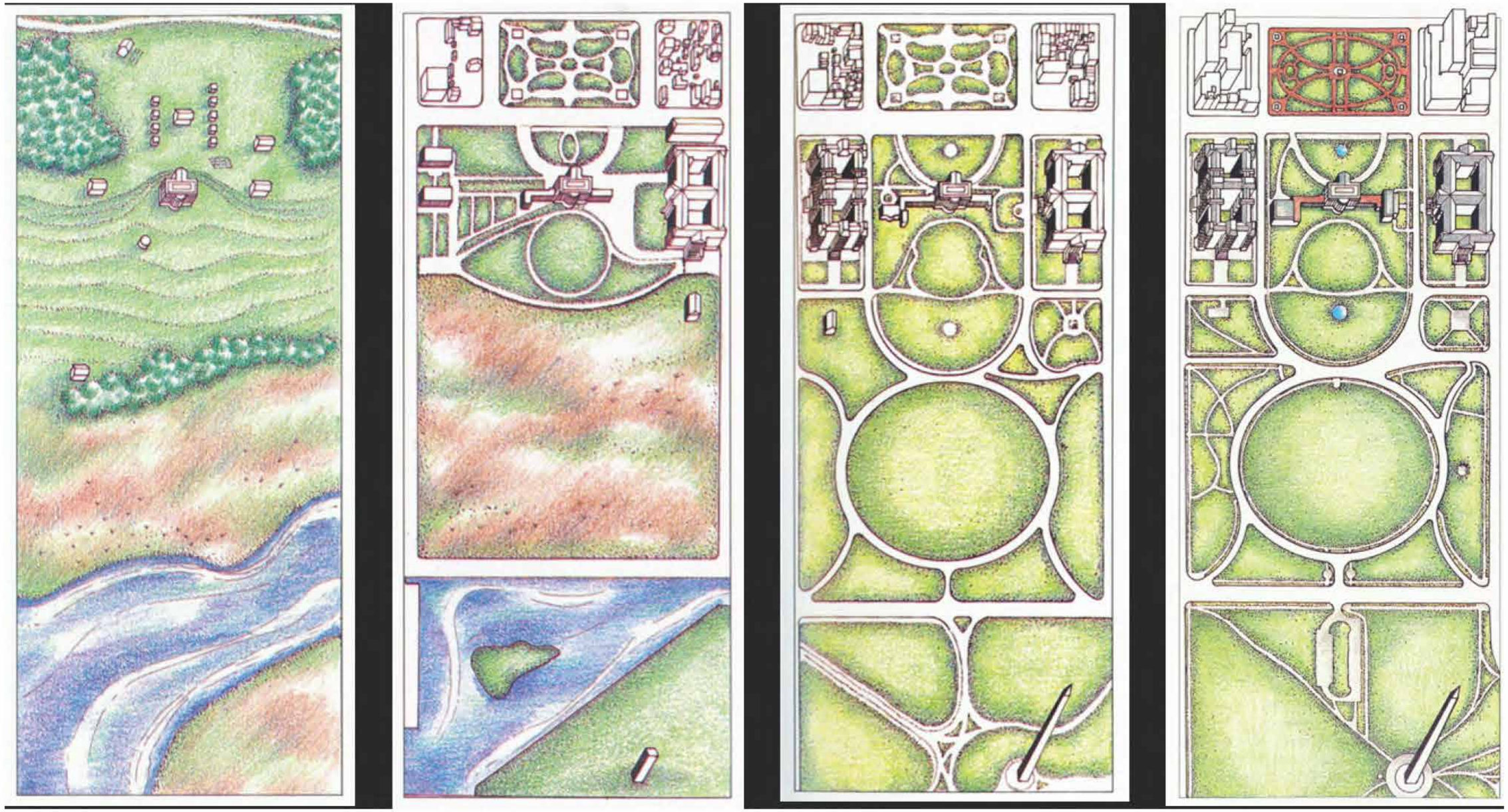
Presentation to the Commission of Fine Arts:
White House Complex Fence Phase 1| April 21, 2016

M+S a
Mills + Schnoering Architects, LLC
Architecture + Historic Preservation

Design a new perimeter fence that:

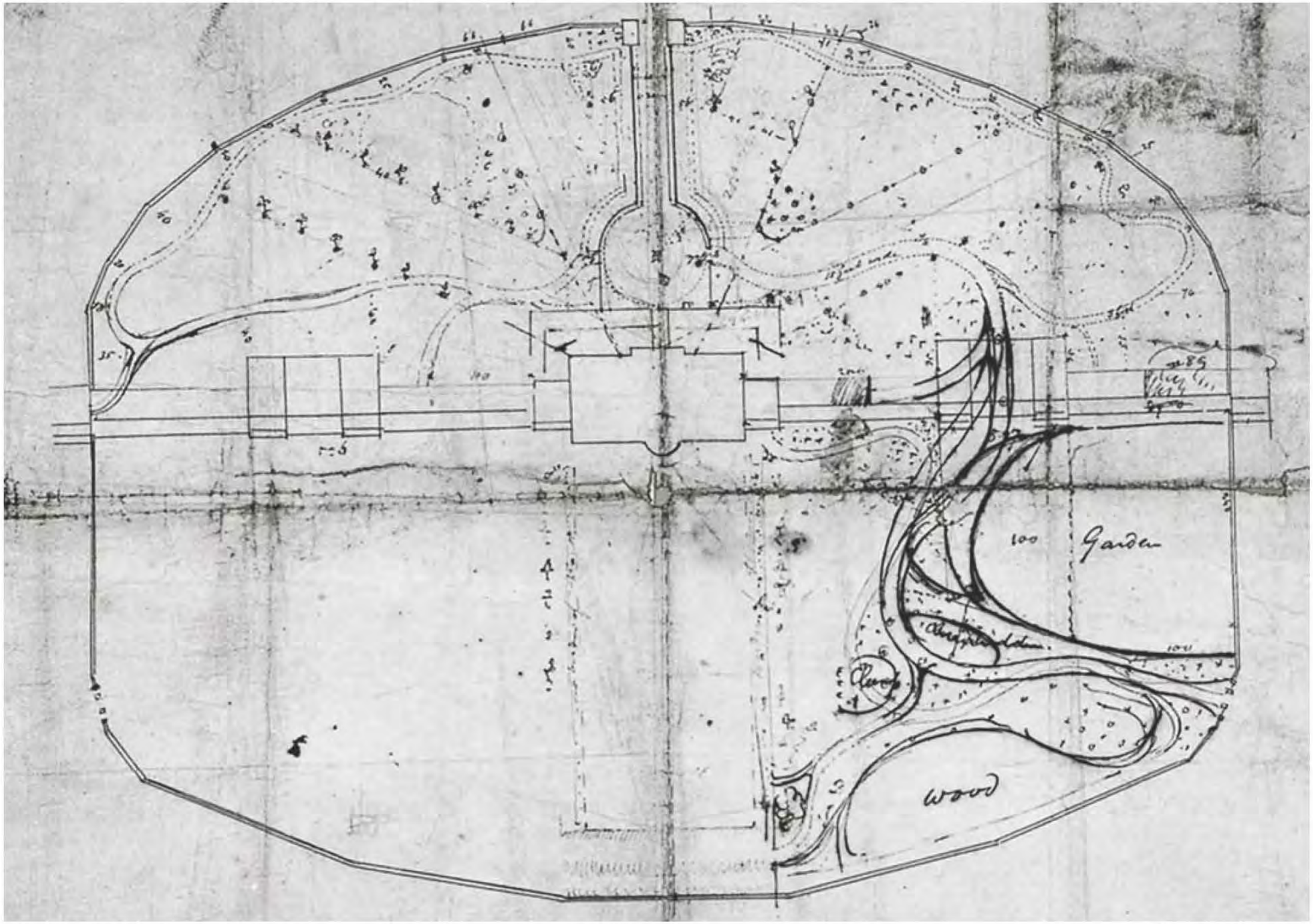
- Meets the security requirements of the US Secret Service
- Supports the aesthetic and historic preservation goals of the National Park Service
- Maintains the quality of the visitor experience

Project Goals



1800 *1860* *1900* *1990*

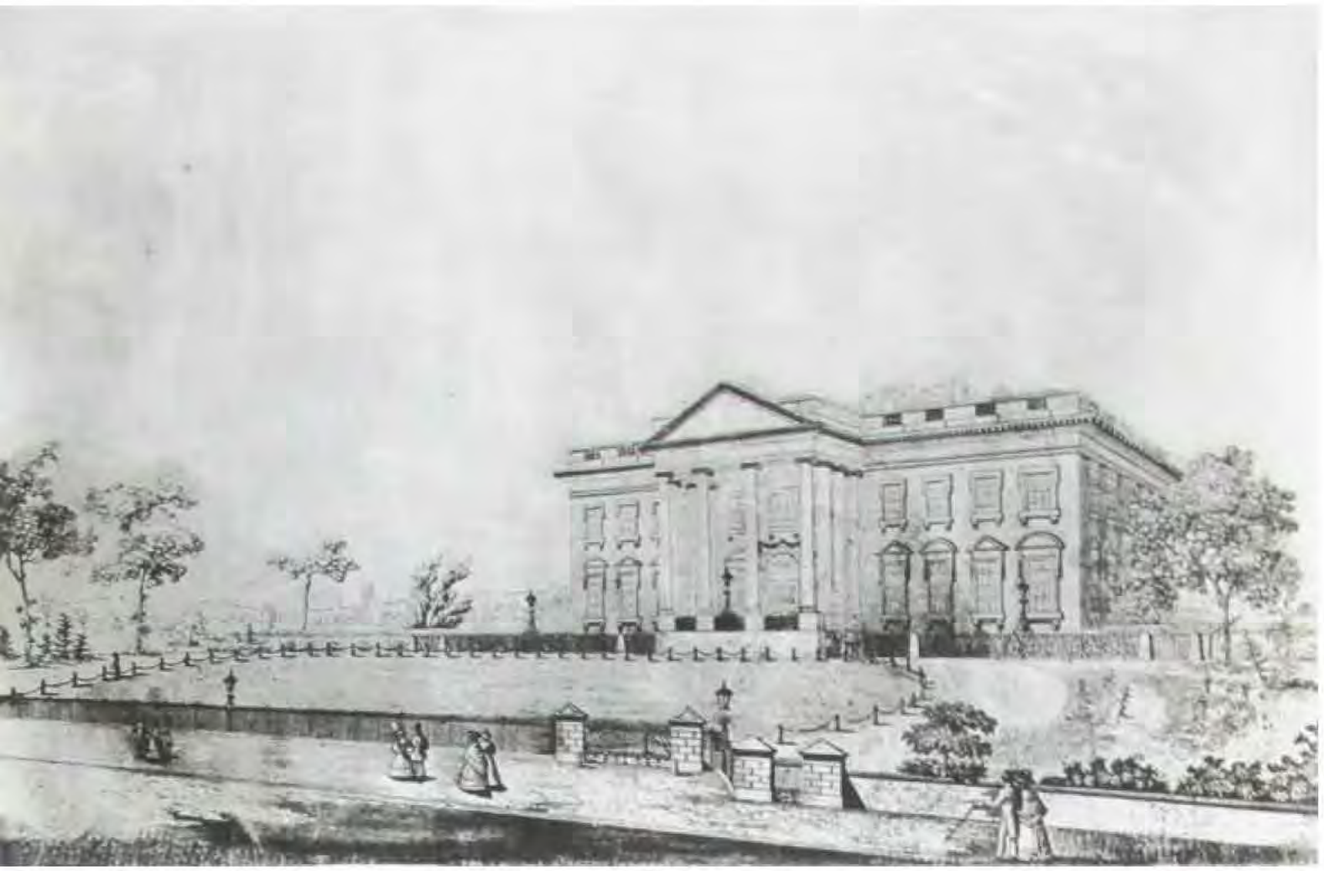
From William Seale, *The White House Garden,* 1996



Sketch attributed to Thomas Jefferson, c. 1803

New-York Historical Society

White House Wall, ca. 1807-1817



Sketch, 1833

Library of Congress

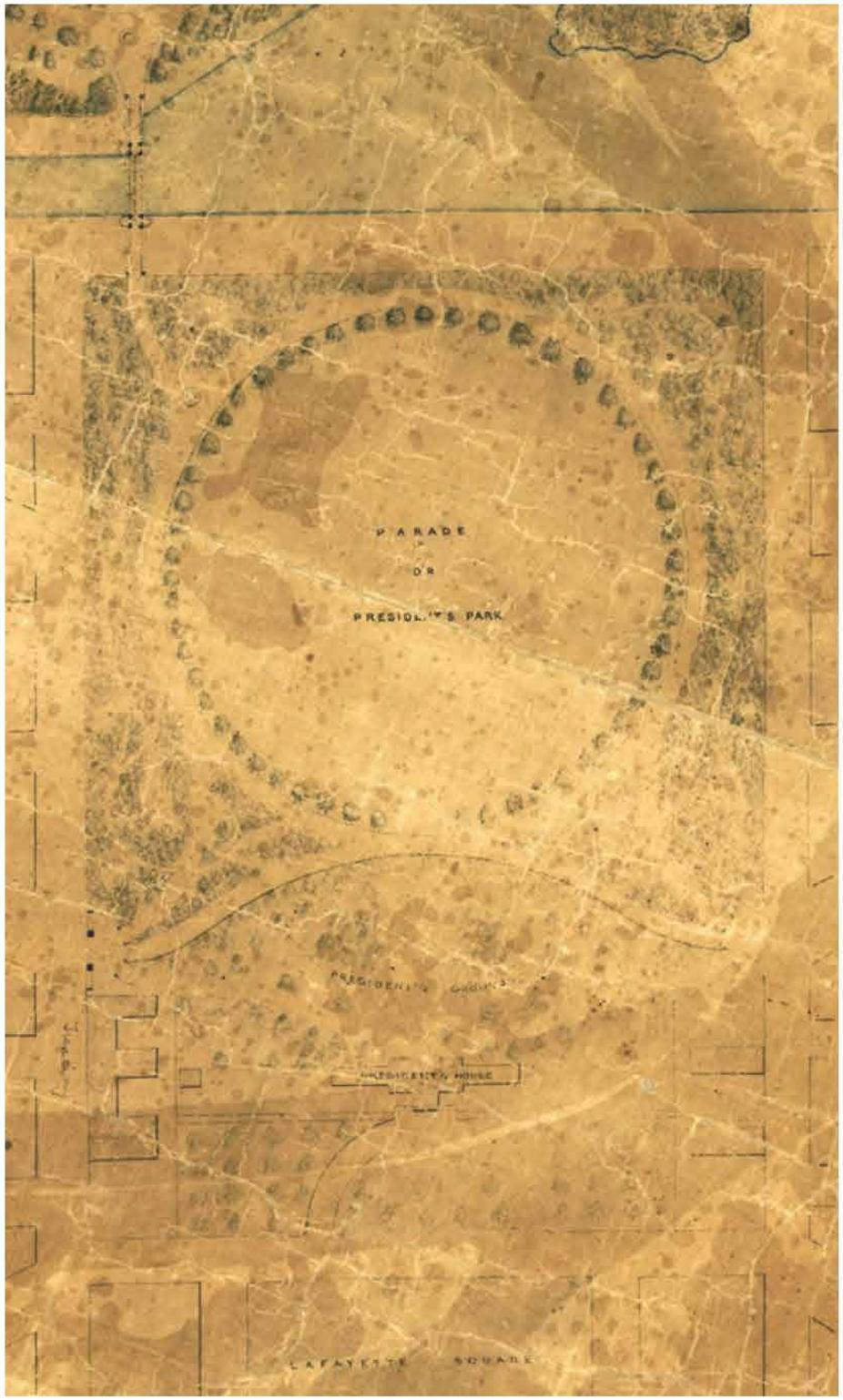
- Stone wall with iron fence & gates

Photo, ca. 1861

National Archives

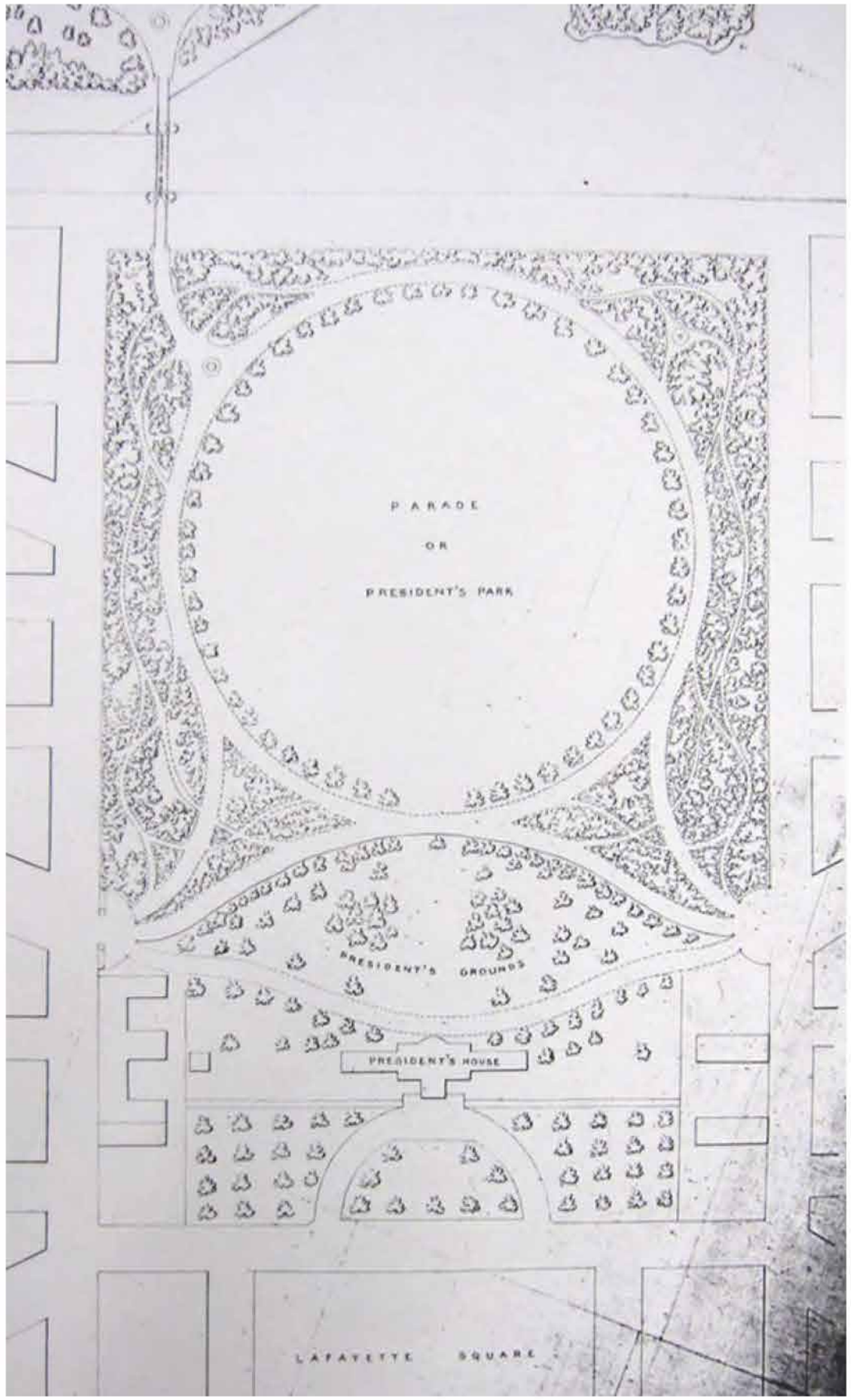
- Remaining section of Jefferson's wall, 1861

White House Wall & Fence 1818-1870



Original Drawing

Library of Congress



Engraving

National Archives

Downing Plan
President's Park, 1851

Photo ca. 1900 Library of Congress
East Executive Avenue - iron fence & gates

Photo ca. 1915
Fence attains current form between 1900 & 1920

Library of Congress

From the Washington Monument 1902

Heritage Landscapes

From the Washington Monument 2015

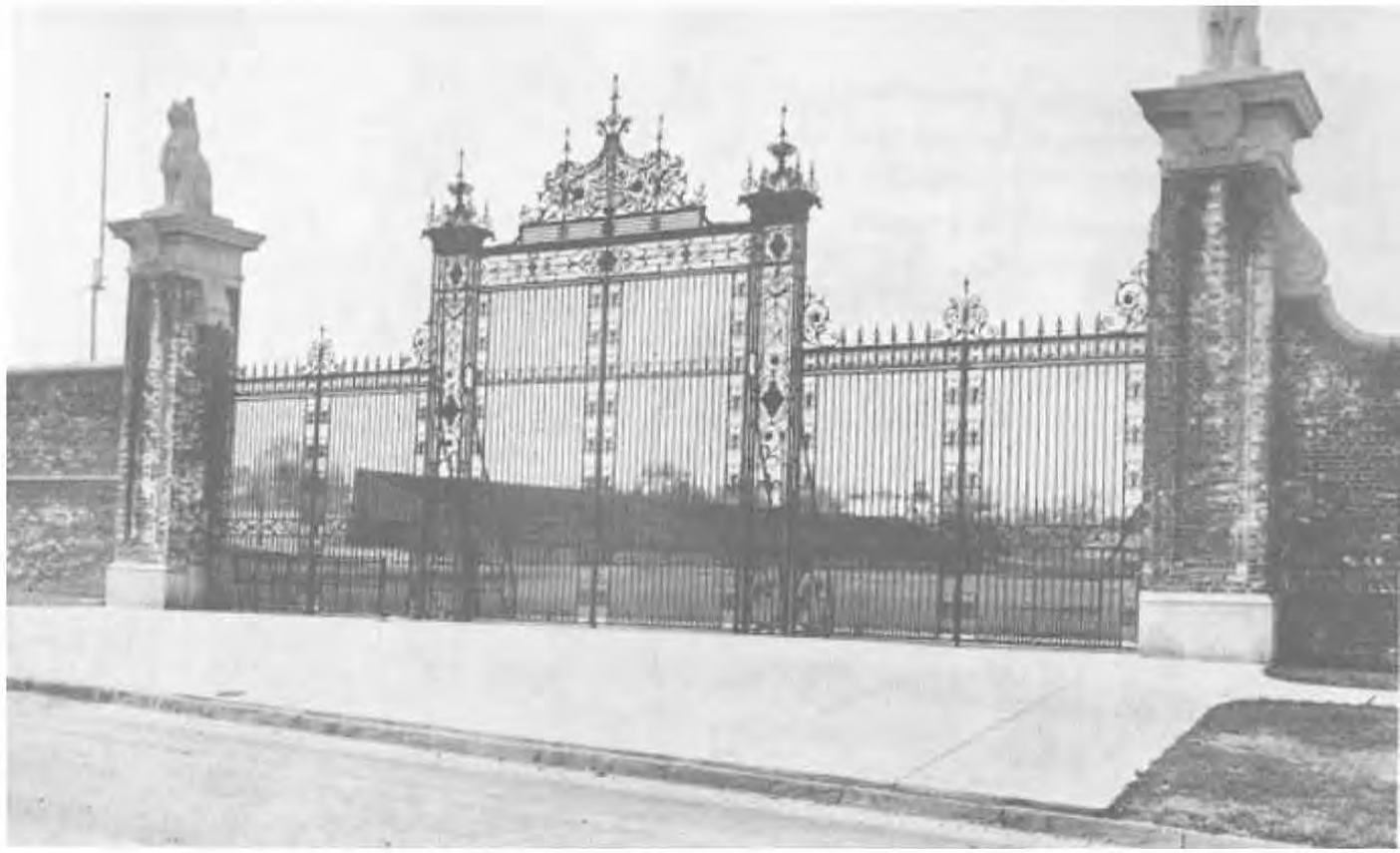
Royal Palace | **Madrid**

(Est. 36" base, 12' fence)

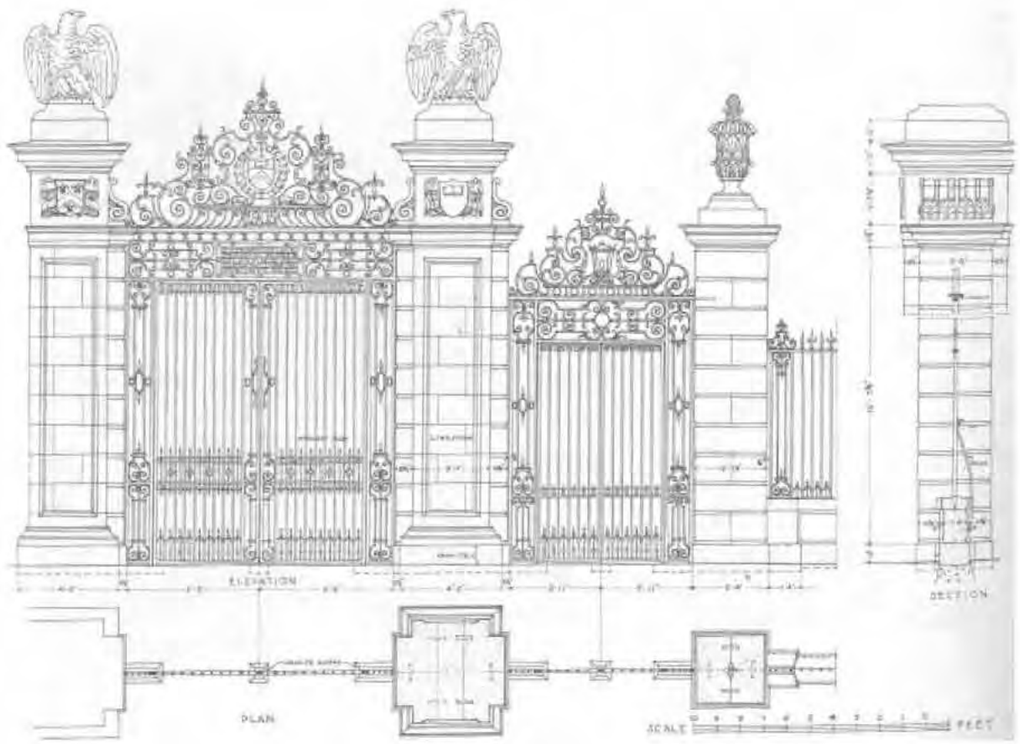
Palais de Nation | **Brussels**
(Est. 24” base, 11’ fence)

Buckingham Palace | **London**
(Est. 18” base, 10’ fence)

Buckingham Palace | **London**

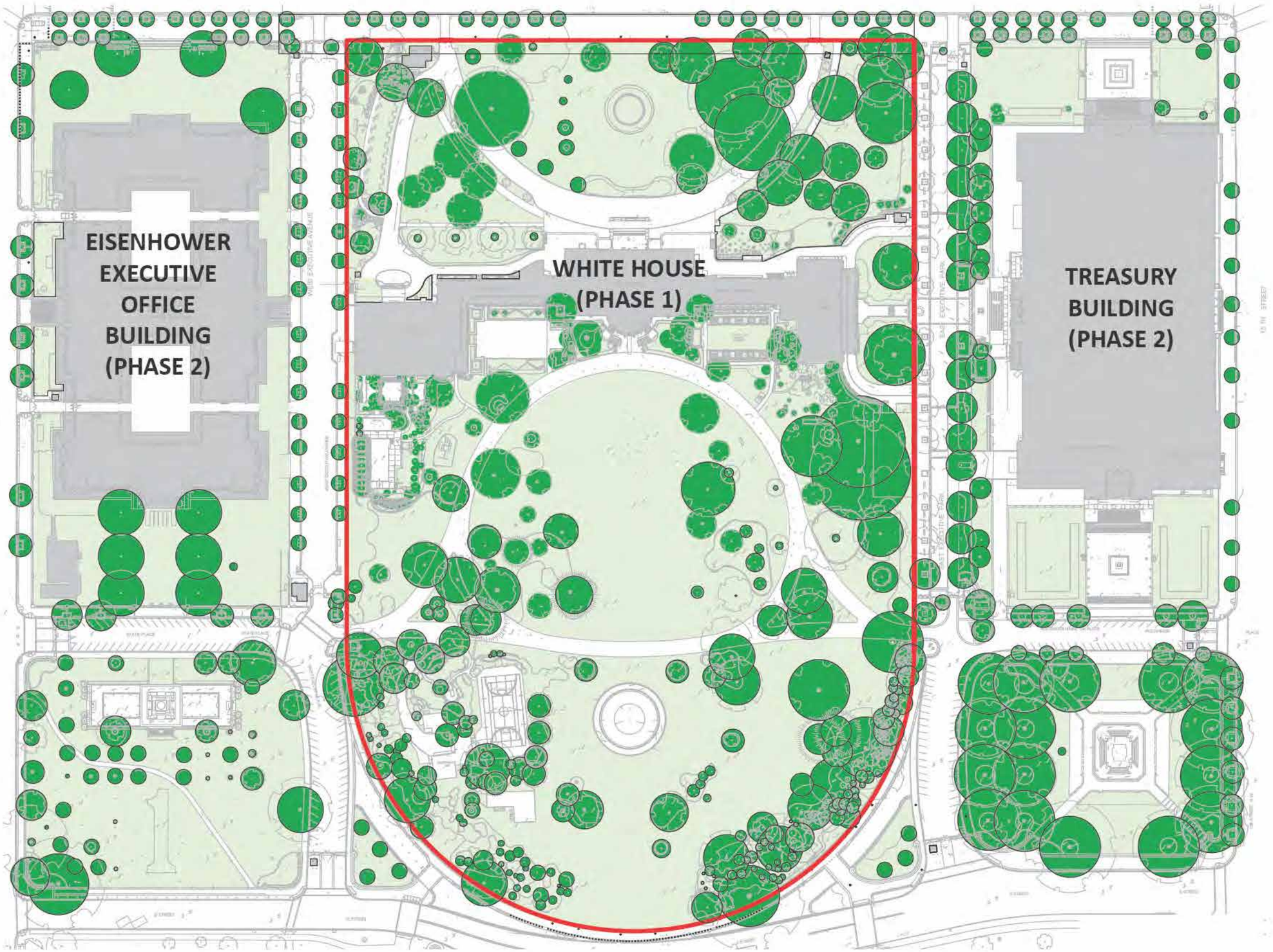


Princeton University | **Princeton, NJ**



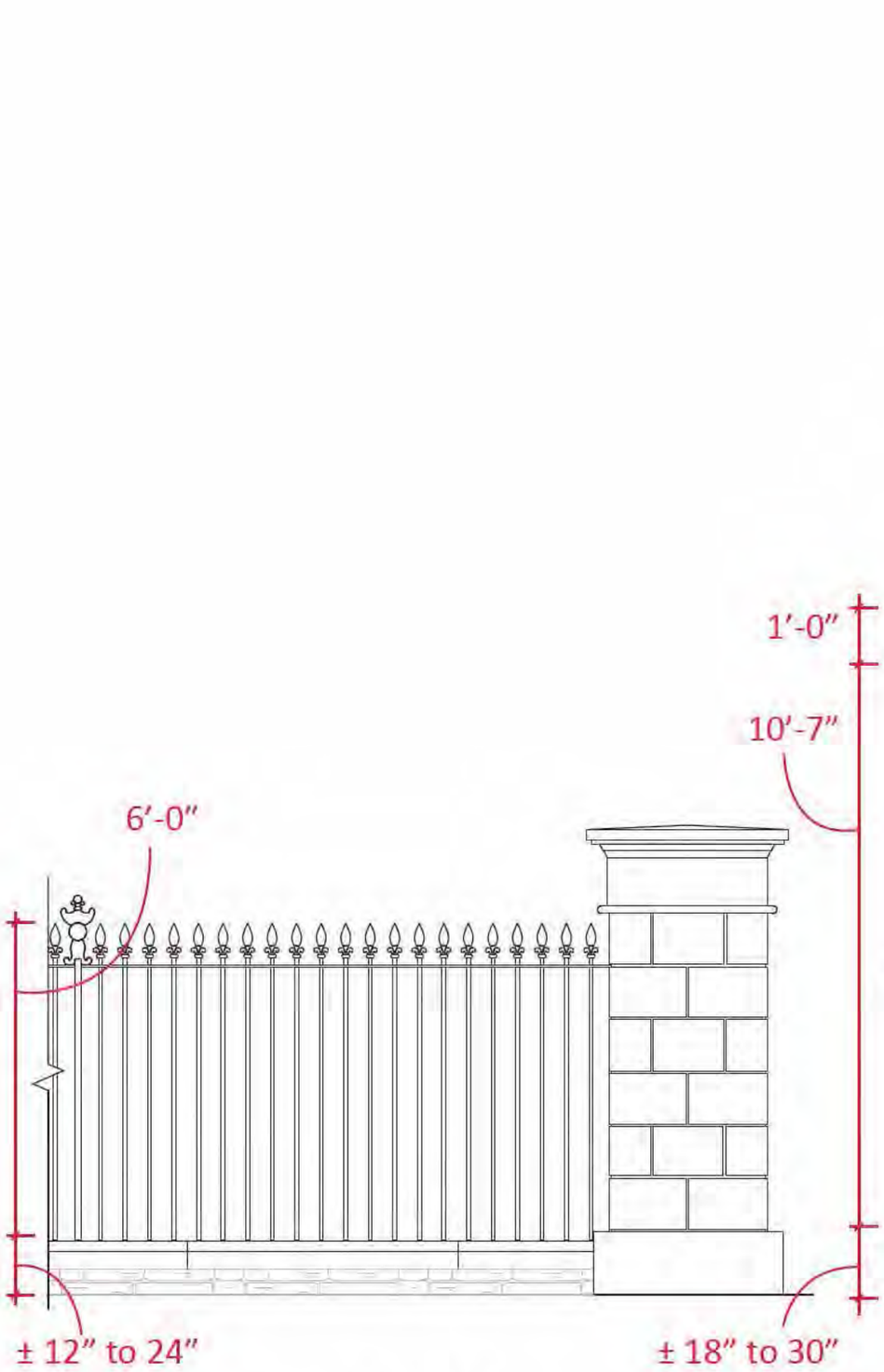
Princeton University | **Princeton, NJ**
FitzRandolph Gate

Princeton University | **Princeton, NJ**
Nassau Hall
(Est. 42” base, 11’ fence)

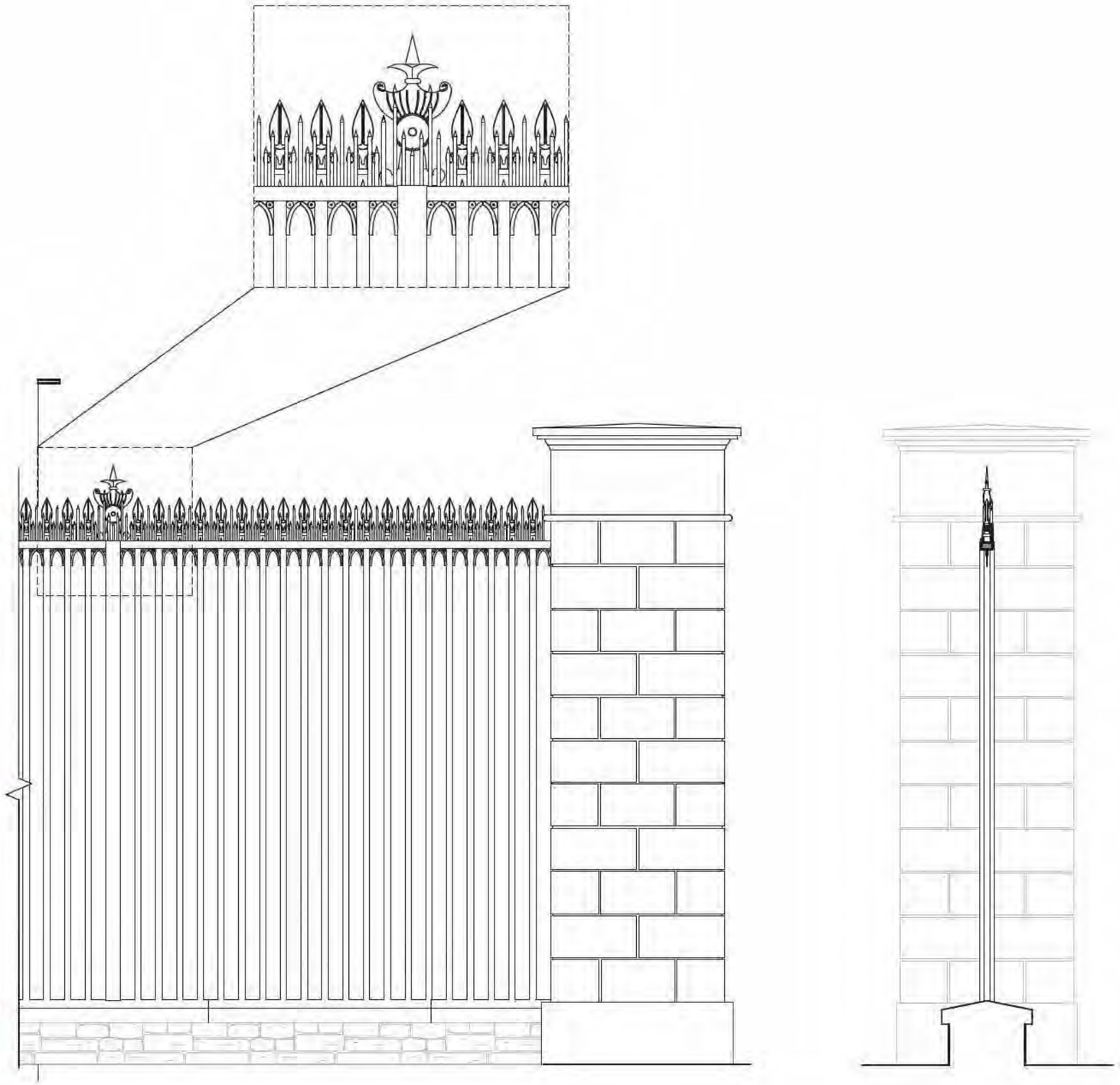


Project Area

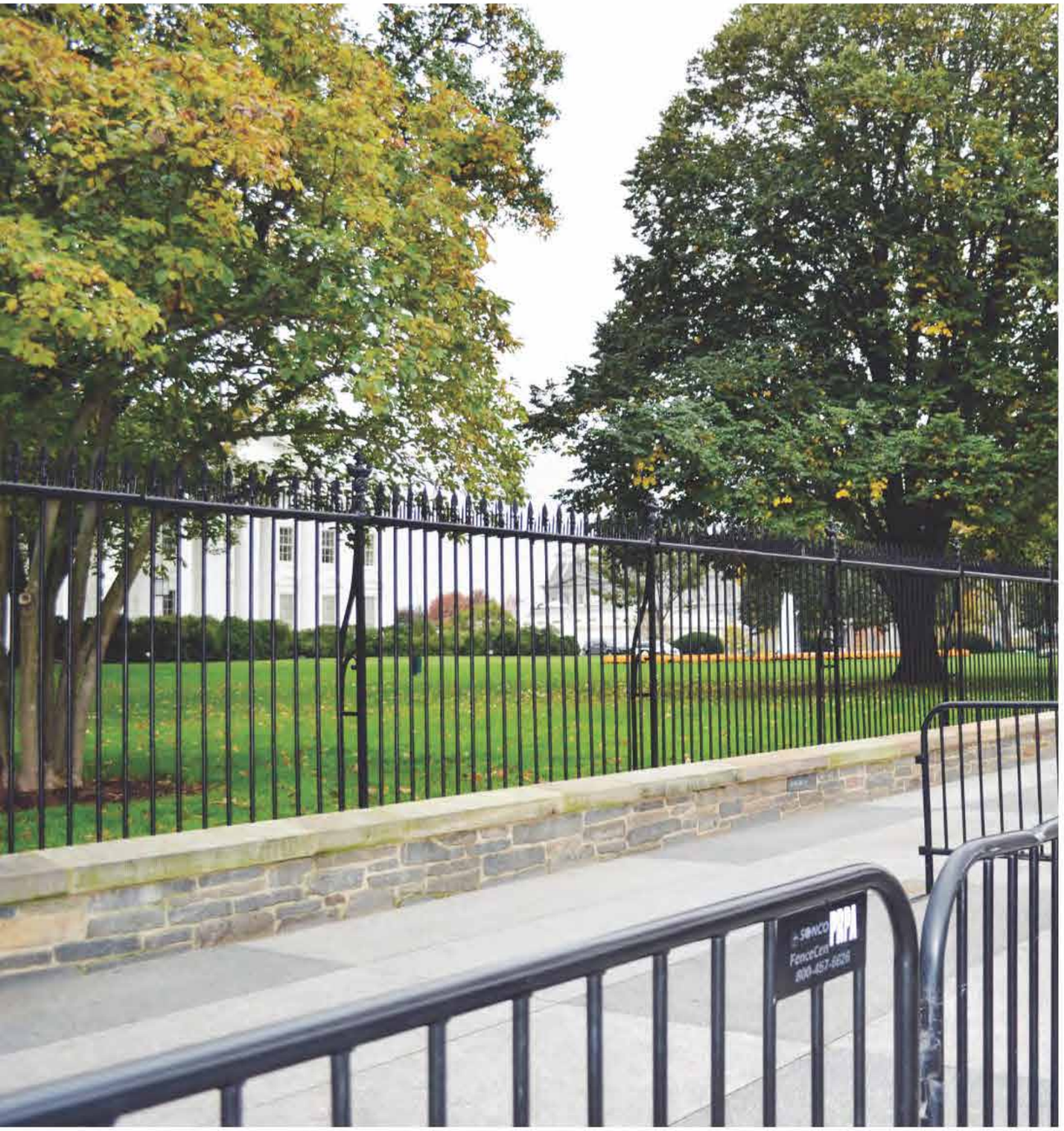
- Use historic details as design inspiration
- Preserve landscape & views
- Preserve historic fabric where possible
- Establish design vocabulary to extend to the next phase
- Fence requirements:
  - Taller & stronger
  - Anti-climb features
  - Intrusion detection technology
  - Beautiful & durable



Existing Fence : 1 to 2’ base, 6’ fence



Fence Concept : 18 to 30” base, 11’-7” fence



North side along Pennsylvania Avenue
Existing

North side along Pennsylvania Avenue
Concept

Existing Fence from Lafayette Park

Fence Concept from Lafayette Park

Gate to South Lawn

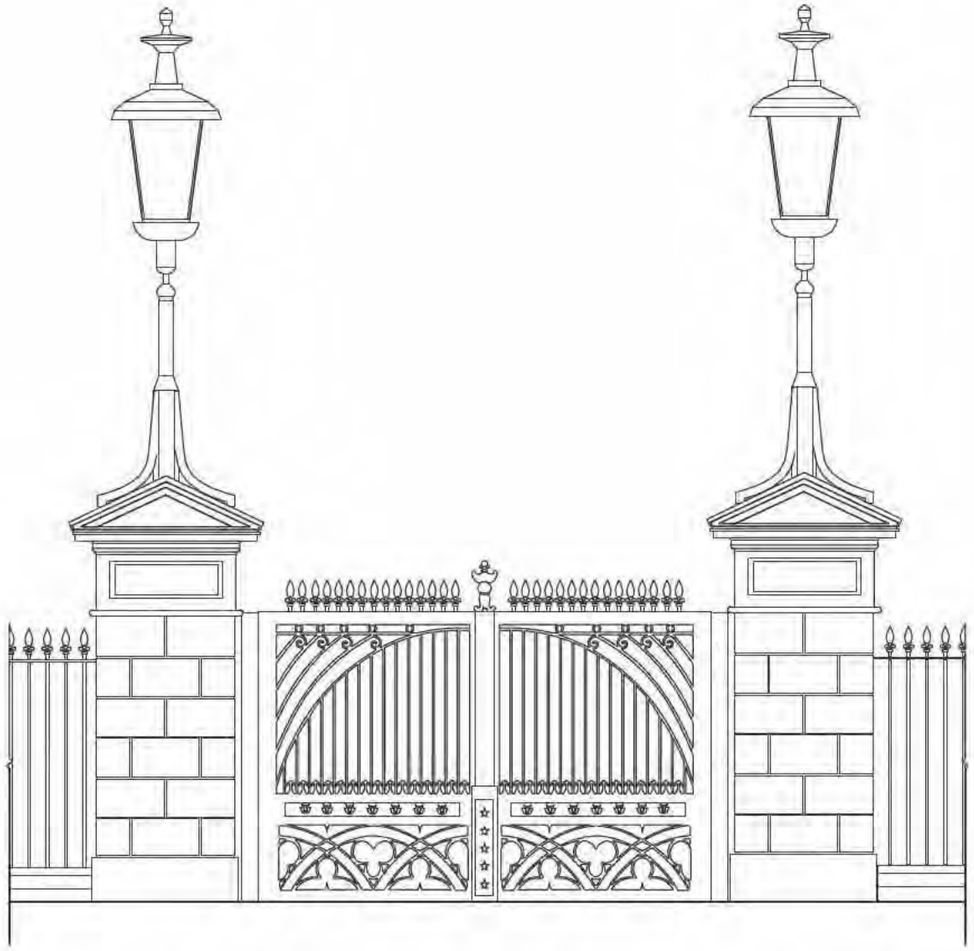
Gate to circular drive from Pennsylvania Ave

Existing White House Gates

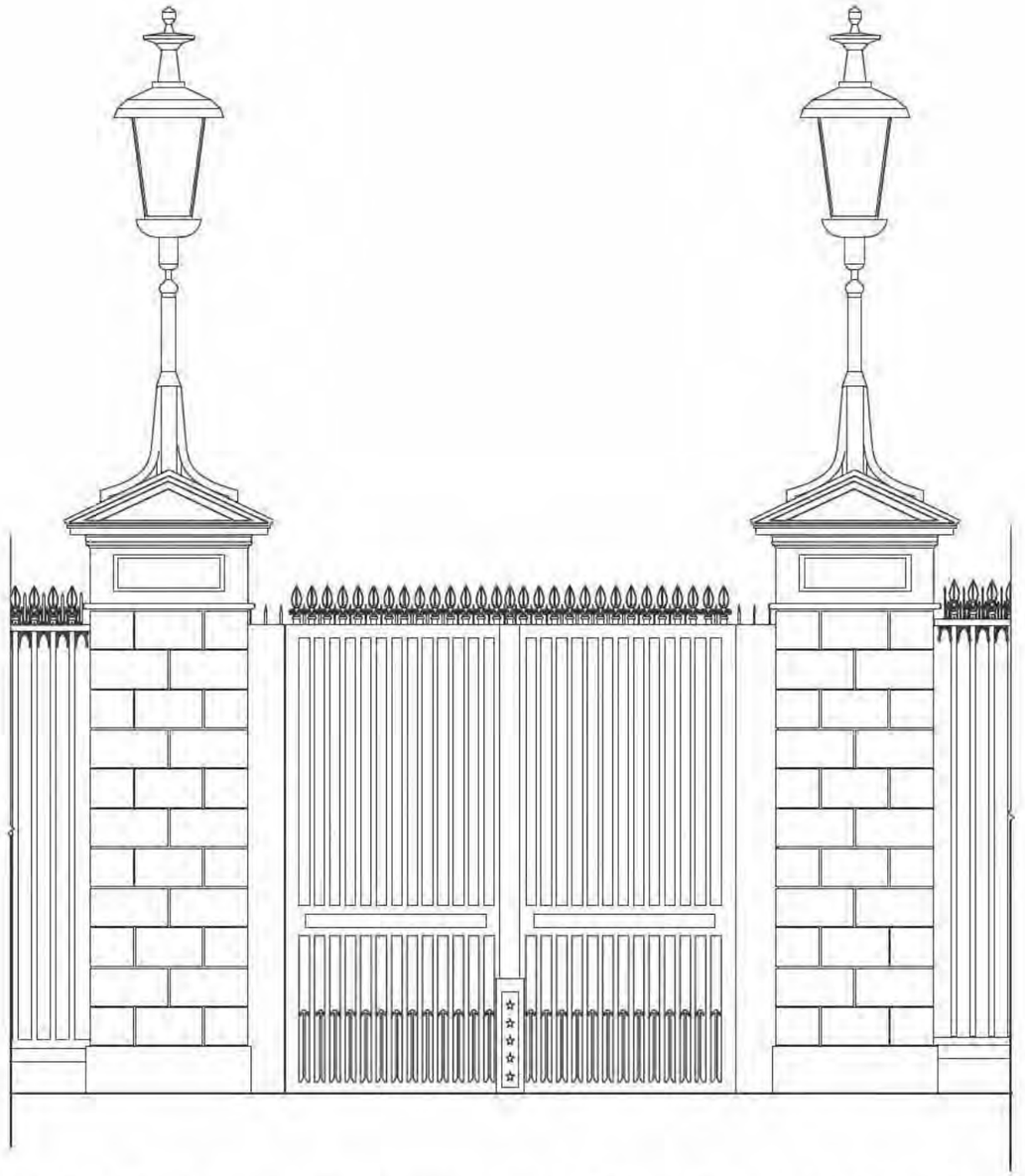
East Executive Avenue
(Before ca. 1903)

West Executive Avenue at Pennsylvania Avenue

Franklin Roosevelt at West Executive Avenue
(1915)

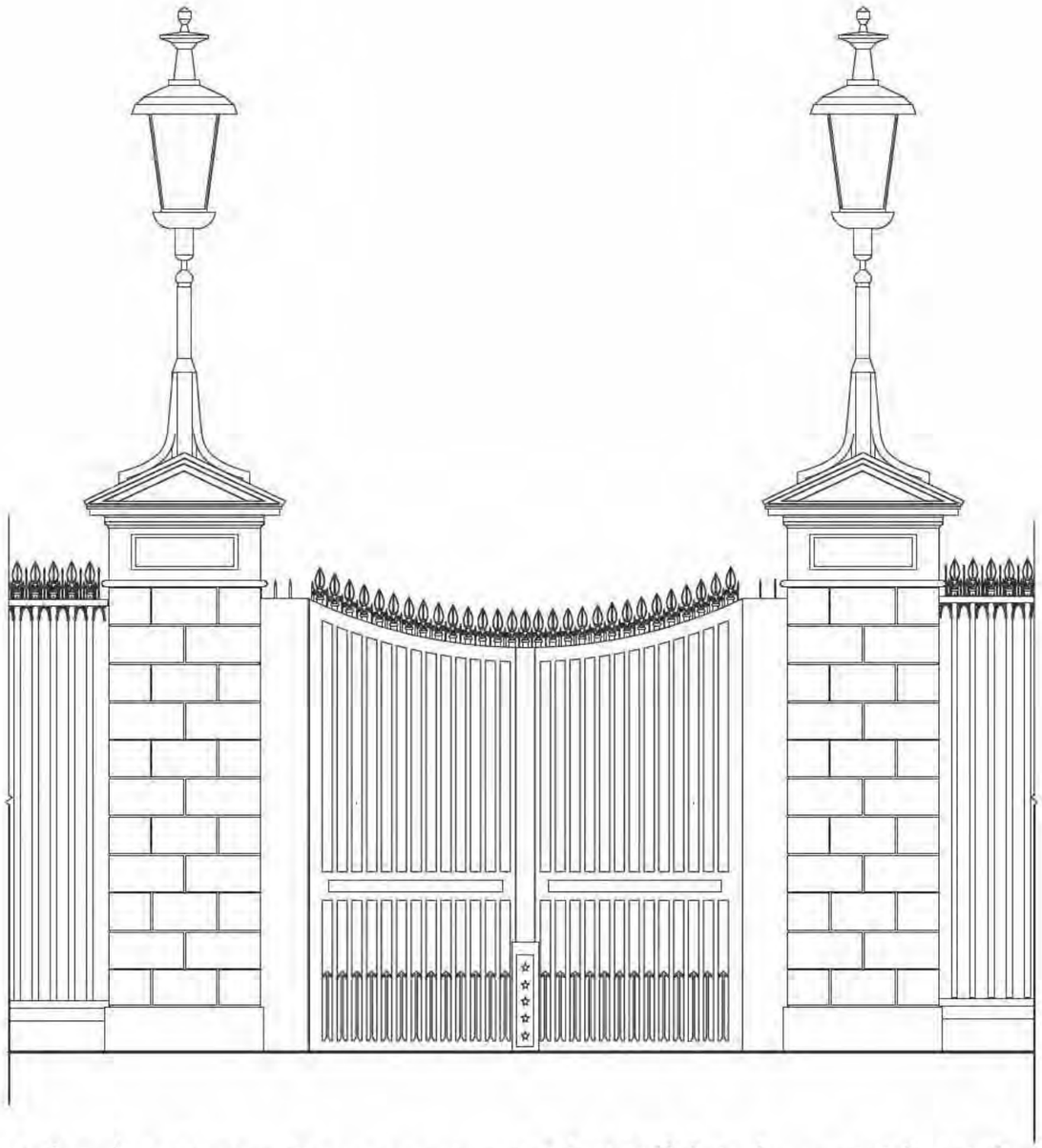


Existing Vehicle Gate : 8’ high x 16’ wide

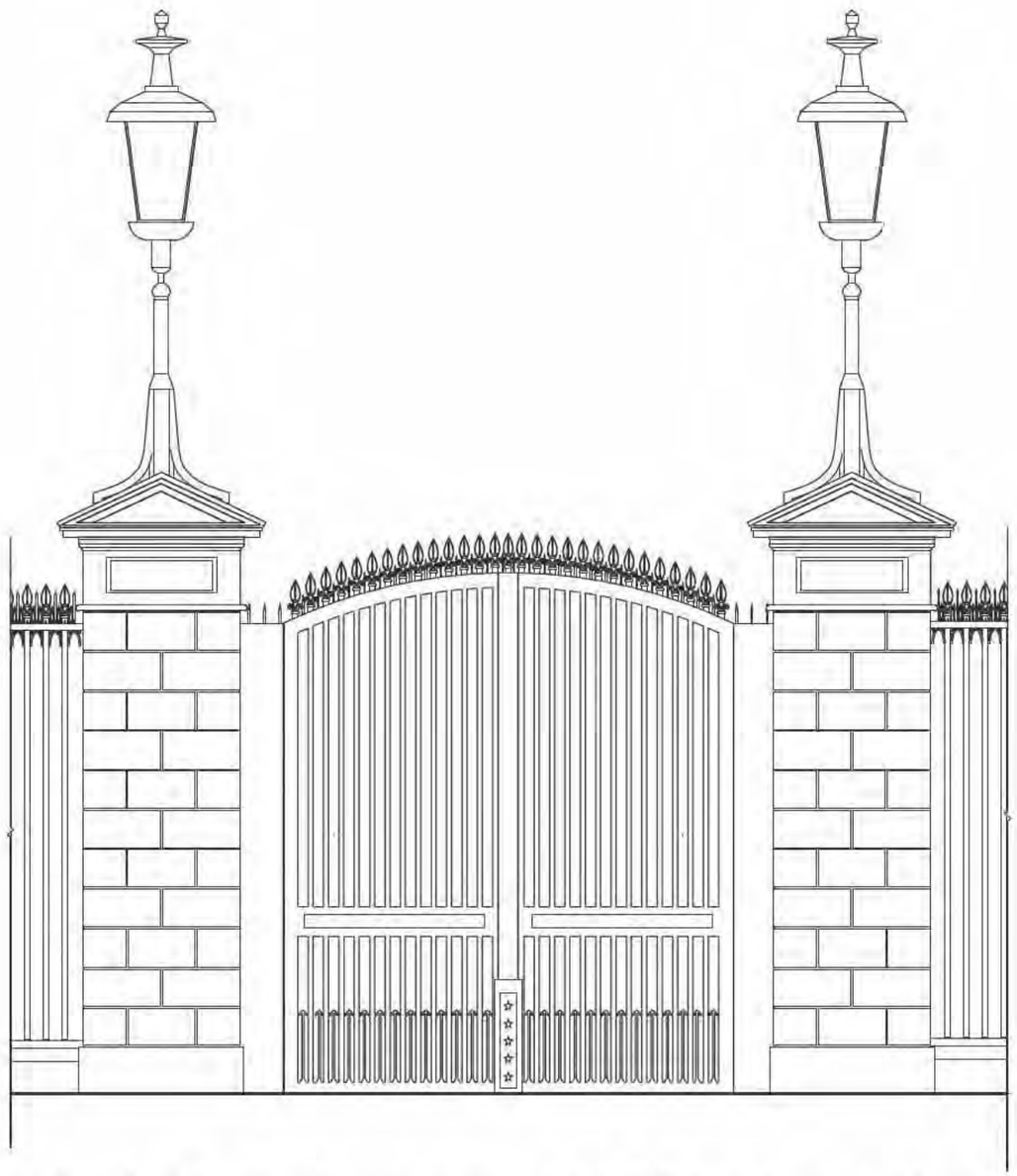


Vehicle Gate Concept : 13’ high x 16’ wide
Option 1

White House Gate Concepts



Vehicle Gate Concept : 11’-10” high x 16’ wide
Option 2

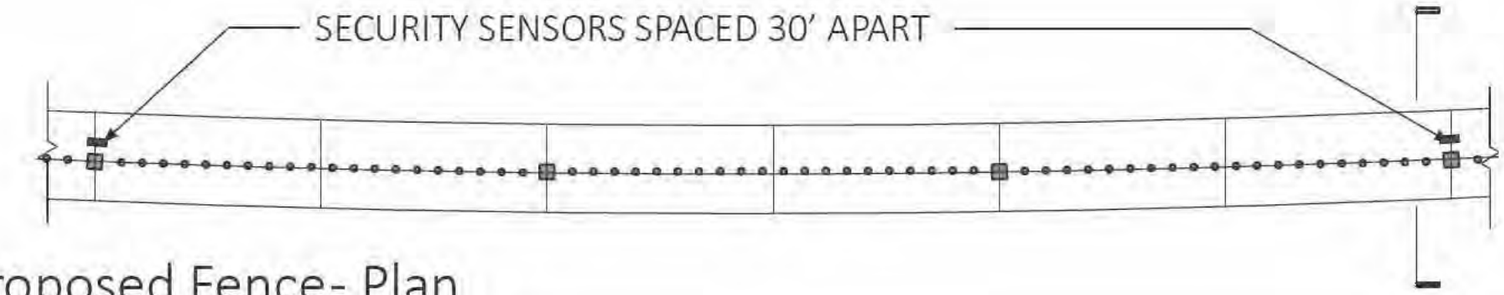


Vehicle Gate Concept : 13’-5” high x 16’ wide
Option 3

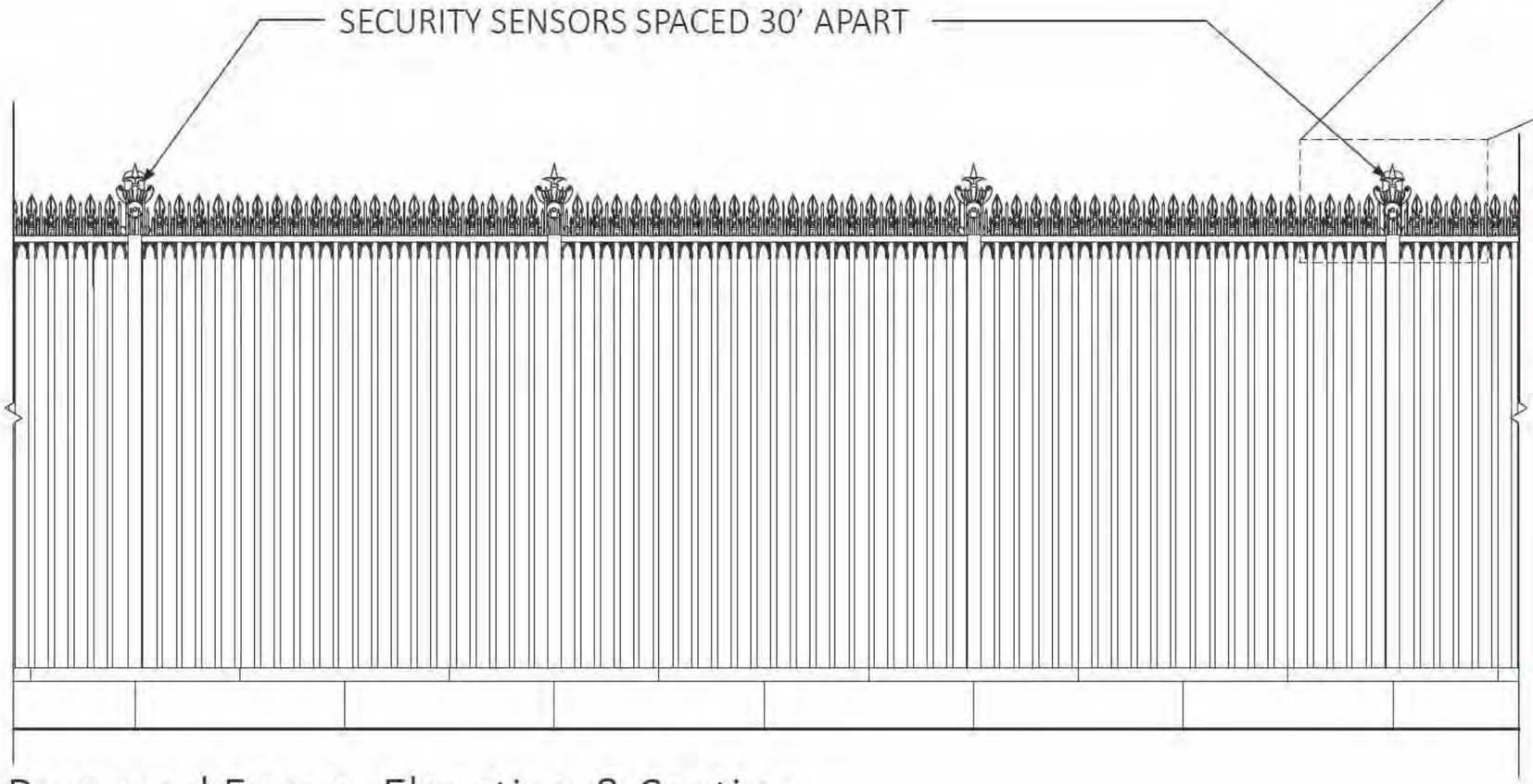
White House Gate Concepts

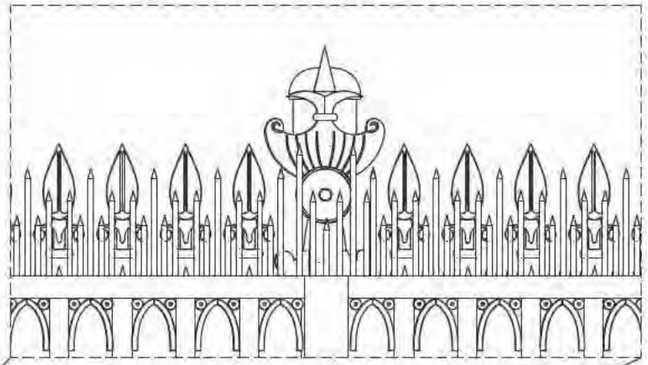
Existing Fence at South Lawn From E Street

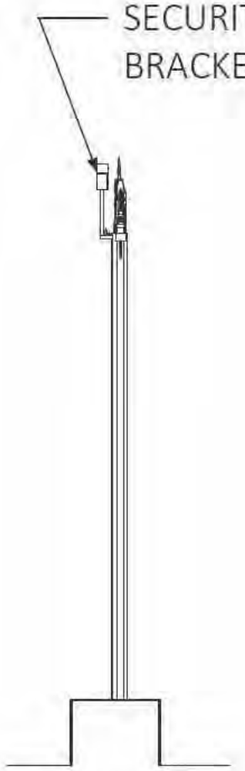
Fence Concept at South Lawn From E Street



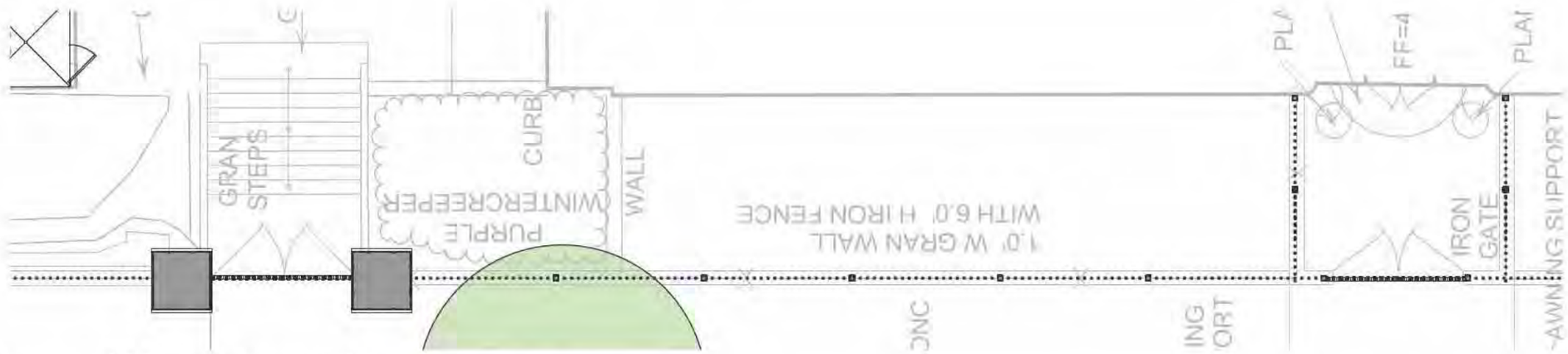
Proposed Fence- Plan



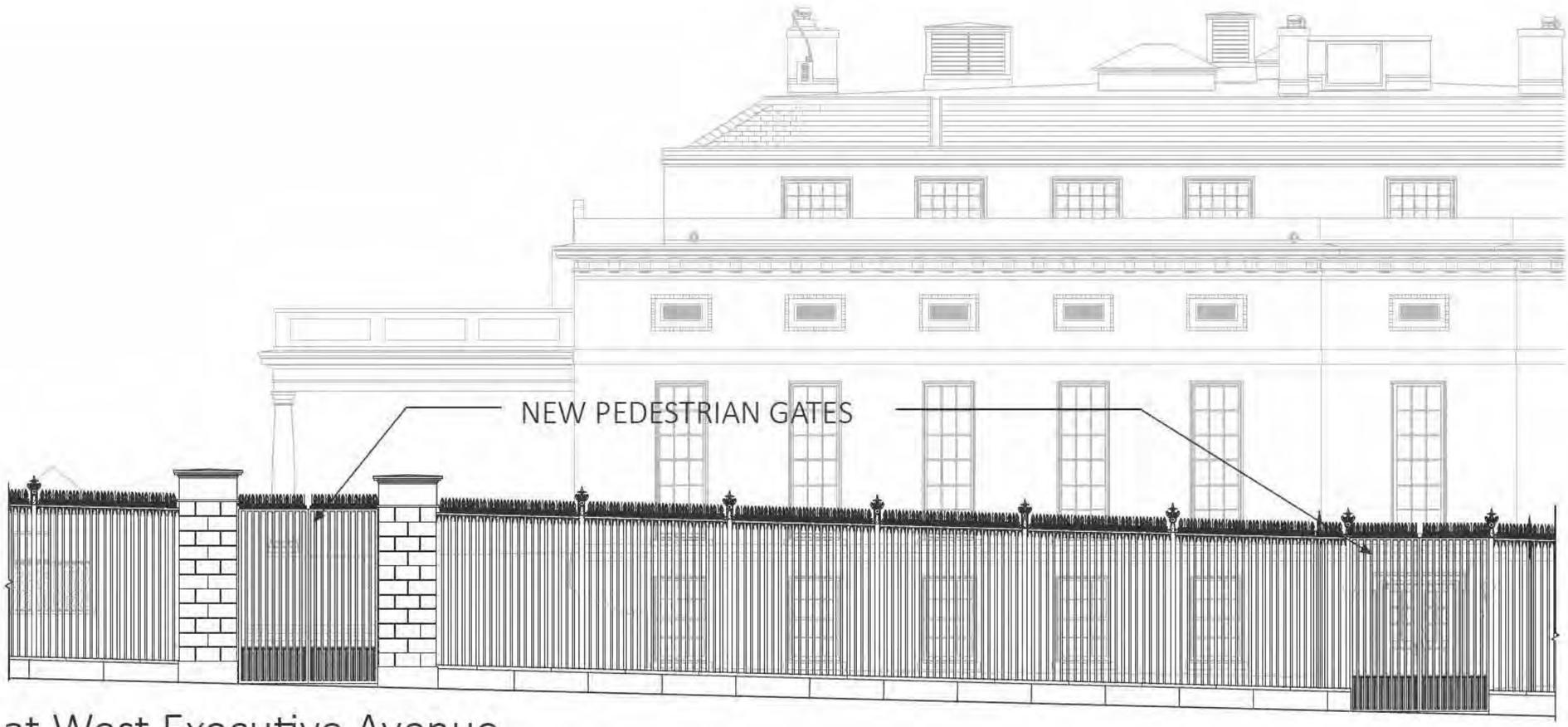




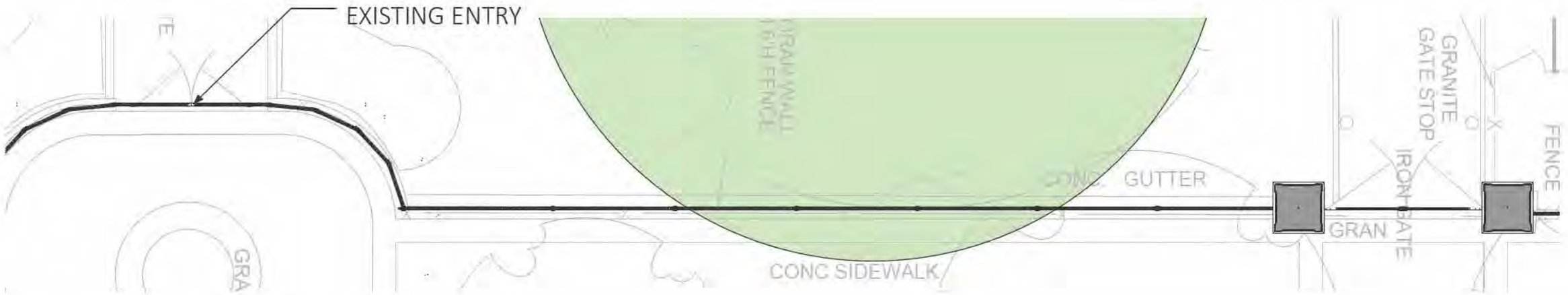
Proposed Fence- Elevation & Section



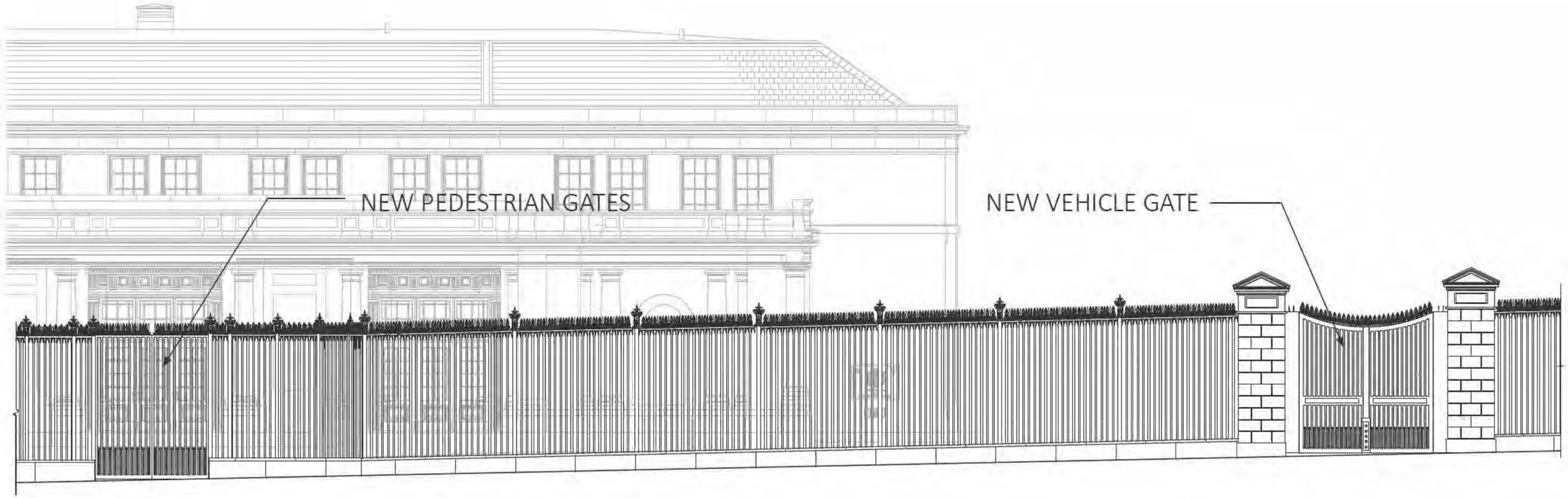
Partial Plan at West Executive Avenue



Elevation at West Executive Avenue



Partial Plan at East Executive Avenue



Elevation at East Executive Avenue

- National Capital Planning Commission information presentation
  May 5, 2016

- CFA Concept Review for Phase 1 - White House Grounds
  June 2016

- CFA information presentation for Phase 2 – Treasury and Eisenhower Executive Office Buildings
  July 2016

- CFA Concept Review for Phase 2
  Fall 2016

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