EYP-Loring, LLC

Meeting Minutes

PROJECT Smithsonian Institution- MEETING DATE 6/28/2023

Revitalization of the Historic Core

RoHC)

ORGANIZER Smithsonian Institution, Carly TIME 2:00-4:00pm

Bond (moderator)

LOCATION Virtual/Zoom

PANELISTS Carly Bond- Smithsonian Institution

Christopher Lethbridge- Smithsonian Institution

Lauren Brandes- Smithsonian Gardens

Matthew Chalifoux, EYP-Loring Anthony Bochicchio, EYP-Loring

Matthew Traucht, Rhodeside and Harwell David Ghatan, CM Kling + Associates

SUBJECT Consulting Parties Meeting #14

MEETING MINUTES

Purpose – This was Consulting Parties Meeting 14 for the Revitalization of the Historic Core (RoHC) project of the Smithsonian Institution. The meeting was held in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The agenda for this meeting was focused on Phase 2 of the Section 106 consultation. The meeting agenda included the following design issues:

- Planting Plan
- Perimeter Security- Jefferson Drive
 - All hardened elements
- North Ramps/ Sloped Sidewalks
- Exterior Signage
 - Appearance only, not content
- Areaway Finishes
 - Includes final layouts/dimensions
- Exterior Lighting
 - Jefferson Drive Olmsted fixtures
 - Building lighting including location of fixtures
- Resolution of Pending Items
 - SW Areaway, North Tower Penthouses, South Entry Plan, Roof Dimensional Changes

Phase 2 of Section 106 consultation will continue through 2023.

The meeting was assembled virtually and included a slide presentation, which has been posted on the RoHC project website. Attendees were asked to post questions or comments in the chat during the presentation. The following is a list of the questions and comments with a summary of the responses. Information regarding the project, including the slide presentation, is available through the project

webpage: https://ahhp.si.edu/historic-core

Questions and Comments

Written

PLANTING PLAN PERIMETER SECURITY- JEFFERSON DRIVE NORTH RAMPS/SLOPED SIDEWALKS

- 1. **Q**: Can you flip back and forth from existing/proposed planting plan? (CFA)
 - **R:** Here's our existing planting plan today, and our proposed.
- 2. **Q**: Mount Airy granite sometimes can look a lot like concrete given its color and very fine grain. This may be more of a problem in other areas outside of DC with coating of dirt that sometimes appears on stone next to the street bed.
 - **R:** Thank you.
- 3. **Q**: The lighter color also seems a bit out of context for a Victorian building and may pop out too much visually.
 - **R:** Mount Airy is used for other elements in the landscape, such as curbs.
- 4. **Q**: NCPC agrees with CFA that the Mount Airy appears to be the appropriate stone/color for the signage.
 - R: Thank you.
- 5. **Q**: What day is SI targeting to view these materials on site?
 - **R:** The tentative date is July 12, 2023, but we are interested in hearing of that date works for Consulting Parties or if we need to choose another date. (Based on feedback the date has been adjusted to Tuesday 11 July, 8:00am to 10:30am.)

EXTERIOR SIGNAGE AREAWAY FINISHES EXTERIOR LIGHTING

- 6. **Q**: Have you considered light source color? Does this need to match any existing lighting on the Mall? For reference, NYC park lights (similar to the Victorian pole) were changed to a warm LED which made an astonishing improvement in appearance of landscape.
 - **R:** Yes, we have considered it, and it's a two-part answer. The pole lighting that you're seeing on Jefferson and the Victorian poles in the garden would have a warmer source, emulating what was meant to replace an incandescent source originally. Several years ago, the Olmsted (fixtures) had some work done by a lighting manufacturer. We'd want to match the color temp which I believe is 2700 Kelvin, a warm light, and hopefully look to some improvements in durability and performance. Regarding the building, our thinking has been to go slightly cooler, still in the incandescent/ halogen color range of around 3,000 Kelvin, for two reasons. 1. We can

see more consistency from product to product across brands. 2. With the building color itself, if we go too pink or warm in the 2700 level of façade lighting, it's not going to render the building to the level that people expect so we want to make sure we approach the color of the façade with sensitivity. We intend to bring both color temperatures of light source to site to mockup.

7. **Q**: There is a site visit/106 meeting at the arboretum for some of us on 7/12.

R: We will work to identify a date that is as convenient as possible for all the consulting parties. (Based on feedback the date has been adjusted to Tuesday 11 July, 8:00am to 10:30am.)

8. **Q**: 2700k has been encouraged for street lighting, but I don't know if the interagency working group has discussed color temp of building lighting.

R: 2700 Kelvin has been encouraged for street lighting, but it's our understanding that the interagency working group hasn't been commenting on façade lighting, just poles, and not lighting color.

RESOLUTION OF PENDING ITEMS: NORTH TOWER PENTHOUSES, SOUTH ENTRY PLAN, ROOF DIMENSIONAL CHANGES, SW AREAWAY

9. NO QUESTIONS

<u>Verbal</u>

PLANTING PLAN PERIMETER SECURITY- JEFFERSON DRIVE NORTH RAMPS/SLOPED SIDEWALKS

1. **Q**: Thank you for all of this information. There's a lot as usual, but it's really thoughtful. I asked you to go back and forth because when I was looking at the proposed it seemed to me that this is being called informal in the same way that the existing is, but to me there's a kind of formality to it. In the proposed plan it seems like there are these larger canopy trees that kind of set this fairly symmetrical framework. You have the two magnolias at the entrance, and at either wing there are these other two big specimen trees and smaller trees and shrubs underneath. I'm just curious do you think it will still have this informal appearance or a more formal appearance? Because of those larger trees being so symmetrically arranged it may have a more formal appearance with this 'stuff' below it that appears more informal. It seems more formal and symmetrical with how it's arranged, even the three trees on either side of the north entrance that are in triangular clumps.

R: I think one thing we're not really seeing in this image is the different kinds of trees and the feel and differences of them. Yes, the two flanking the south entrance are more formal in their placement. For the other two are deciduous trees, we were looking for a space related to the architecture of the building, so that guided the placement of those. There are also three different types of hollies, with two different color berries. There is a looseness to them especially when looking at the Haupt Garden, where there is more of an allee, and more consistent spacing and order. We understand the question but there is probably more looseness to them than conveyed in this specific diagram.

Q (continued): It may be a matter of seeing it rendered. Something like different color berries may not bring that, but different shapes and different canopy forms will maybe bring that informality out. Did you use the term "treeless diversity"?

R: No, "tree list diversity"- different types of trees out there. It would be helpful to have a couple of rendered views of the planting plan. We'll take a look at that. (follow up for CP15)

2. **Q**: I think the Olympic Black still makes sense for the seismic joint, but I'm not sure about it for the entry signage. There are a couple of considerations such as environmental performance; a lot of black stone could absorb heat and it could be a visitor comfort issue if a lot of people are around it or leaning on it. Not sure if this is a major consideration. This is going to be a high traffic area and a lighter stone may get stained if people are putting drinks on it, etc. I don't know if that matters either, but two different considerations for selecting the color.

R: Yes, all good considerations.

Q (continued): It does look a little too heavy in this dark color (Academy Black), and the Carnelian looks too similar to the sandstone, which also doesn't seem to be the right way to go. The Mount Airy seems like the right choice because it's similar to the curbing and streetscape elements out there already. Somehow this looks like the correct use in a Smithsonian context. You also had options for the benches (hardened bench design); your preferred option made the most sense (Option 3, narrow/short end, seat height wall). The first one seems really massive, and the second option had that space under the arch of the bench that looked like it would be

an attractor of junk. Option 3 seems to make the most sense and is the most transparent; it lets you see through (to) the building. For the bollards are we seeing a bush hammered finish?

R: Yes, it's bush hammered. That's what you do on masonry; how you do that on metal is different. It'll be that textured appearance as a band around the bollard.

Q (continued): The best thing to do with a bollard is to keep it simple and let it disappear. To start adding design flourishes may give it visual interest but could be counterproductive to making these fade into the background. It catches your eye and it's pretty repetitive. In this drawing it looks like a cigarette but if you put something on the top that's okay; it may prevent people from putting drinks there or using it for a utilitarian purpose. I don't know if the decoration is necessary. Maybe a sleek bronze bollard would be best.

R: Thanks. Smithsonian has had mixed success with bollard covers, but recently we have had success with them and maintaining them. Keep in mind that for the Castle there's only a handful of bollards, not a huge line of bollards down Jefferson Drive.

EXTERIOR SIGNAGE AREAWAY FINISHES EXTERIOR LIGHTING

3. **Q**: Thanks again. There isn't much to say about the signage. For the areaway cladding discussion, paving surface, etc – when this was reviewed by the Commission way back when, they were definitely interested in this area because this will be a view that people will see through the windows of the public space in the basement. It was hard for me to tell because they're very similar in a lot of these renderings. We talked so much about that Olympic Black granite when it came to the base and seismic joint, and how it interacted with the base of the building. Was wondering why you hadn't considered it for the underpinning facing?

R: Great question. We probably felt it was too dark. In trying to keep a consistent approach, the Olympic Black is being used as a horizontal material that is, for the most part, in the landscape. What we are hearing and what we think everyone felt strongly about is that that dark receded visually as much as possible and wasn't adding another component when looking at the historic building. When we get down into the areaways that might be kind of overpowering to have that much dark material, and again, even though that's on the face of the building, we do have an interest in trying to keep the color tones in the areaways lighter to get as much light reflectance into the punched window openings to the lower level. This is where the public amenities are, and (the intent is) to keep this area as bright and welcoming as we can make it given the limitations of the architecture. We can create a rendering that shows it, it's an interesting discussion topic if that kind of material could be a base material.

Q (continued): I feel like it's worth it. I totally understand the issue of light reflectivity but would be curious. I think the building is rendering light in these images, it's darker. Maybe direct sun in these images? There's not a ton of contrast between the building and the base. There's something off about this base material.

R: We do the best we can with these renderings with the limitations of software. We want people to come out to the site and see the materials live. During the site meetings the conversations have taken some interesting turns as we see materials live. To have the renderings and the actual materials visible will be a huge help. (follow up for CP15)

Q (continued): I think you would also want some of those darker granite samples available for the onsite discussion.

4. **Q**: The paving of the floor looks kind of like London pavers. It has a kind of sidewalk appearance, maybe that's okay. But when that common bond is also carried to the wall, it starts to look like bathroom tile or something. Is the Ultra High Performance Concrete scored or panels?

R: They are panels. This is an interesting discussion point. One of the other options we looked at was to have just vertical panels. We can make these panels fairly large; the surface area we're covering is not all that large. One of the options was to have large vertical panels, more like the joint work you see on the base of the building. In doing that it looked very contemporary and we were very worried about that looking odd where most everything else we have is a traditional vocabulary, including the railing system. We can redo these renders. It's an interesting question; what's the material and what's the joint work for it?

Q (continued): The Commission was very curious to see what this would look like, meaning they were hoping this would have a finish quality which you're definitely doing. Maybe it could be that the panels are laid out differently; if it looks too contemporary I could see why this would be the way to go. I thought that if it was just a scored surface there would be many ways to do it. I'd be curious to see what it would look like if it was more contemporary. I didn't get a full understanding of the materials so it's difficult to judge exactly how it should be laid out.

R: When we issue the meeting minutes we'll include other examples of ultra high performance concrete on the Mall. If people aren't familiar with what it looks like as a finish material fully installed, we have an example across the Mall (refer to south porch cladding at the National Museum of African American History and Culture). (Refer to south porch cladding at the National Museum of African American History and Culture - Image of NMAAHC South Porch).

Q (continued): It could be that the Commission was saying it should be stone clad along with everything else. If it does look applied or not rich/public facing, we may have to look at it more.

5.

6.

Q: Regarding lighting, the approach of having subtle lighting makes total sense (lighting the architectural features). It would be important to render a larger sweep of the Mall to see how it fits into everything else. The Mall is really dark at night so this may stand out, which isn't a bad thing, but we may want to see how this glows in comparison to other buildings on the Mall and surrounding buildings. For the fixtures along Jefferson Drive, at the interagency working group at NCPC, there's always been a lot of discussion about lighting on the Mall and I don't know if this is consistent (new lights) with what was agreed on in the interagency working group. You may want to check that; it seems good to me.

R: We believe this is consistent with their approach. It's in their report to bring this unity but it's always something we can double check.

Q: Could you go back to the slides with the areaway materials? Thank you for the presentation and showing the different options you're considering. We've learned the importance of seeing the materials in person and comparing them to the building and whatever the lighting is that day. It's hard to make a recommendation of which option seems to be the one to start leaning into, so when we do the materials review on site, we'll be able to provide more opinion as to which way to go. As Dan observed, you can only do so much with rendering, but the building seems sunburst so it's hard to say which of the options is the way to go. As we learned with the

seismic joints, it all depends on what you see that day. Thank you for showing that you are looking at several different options and approaches with the coloring and material.

R: Thanks, that was our thinking with scheduling this next in-person review so everyone can see the samples and we can try to resolve our discussion at the July meeting.

RESOLUTION OF PENDING ITEMS: NORTH TOWER PENTHOUSES, SOUTH ENTRY PLAN, ROOF DIMENSIONAL CHANGES, SW AREAWAY

7. NO QUESTIONS

END OF MEETING

Updated pages from the Assessment of Effects on Historic Resources report follow.

Assessment of Effects on Historic Resources - Phase 2

The following provides an assessment of effects of each feature or action of Phase 2 of the RoHC Revitalize Castle. The effect determination is based on the criteria of adverse effect. For more images and information on each action and assessment, please refer to the presentation materials from past Section 106 Consulting Parties meetings available on the project webpage. Phase 2 contains the remaining design actions for consultation to complete the RoHC Revitalize Castle project. Certain design actions were determined to have an adverse effect during Phase 1 consultation, with additional consultation required on minimization measures during Phase 2 consultation.

Site

Feature/Action

Landscape and Planting Plan



Existing landscape character, south of the Castle.

Design Details

- Hardscape displaced by the project limit of disturbance will be replaced in-kind.
- Paths and sidewalks adjacent to Jefferson Drive will have aggregate concrete to match the National Mall standard.
- Paths within the Haupt Garden and Folger Rose Garden will have red brick. Granite pavers will be used at the north entrance landings.
- Character of the landscape will be maintained, through the same diversity of plant typology and heights and placement of trees.
- Tree and plants will be placed in a similarly loose arrangement to the existing condition.
- Tree plantings will be slightly setback to prevent biological growth and damage to the Castle's sandstone.
- Amount of turf panels around the Castle's setting will be reduced, with some areas replaced with native perennials and low ornamental grasses.

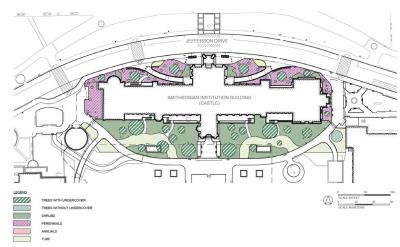
Images

Additional Information

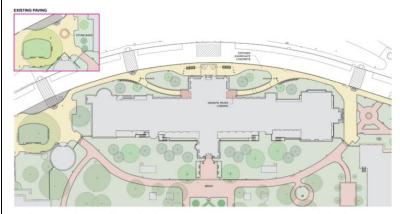
- Setting of the Castle is a character defining feature.
- Haupt Garden is documented in the National Mall Historic District nomination as part of the landscape setting, not as a contributing element.
- Current tree plantings are immediately adjacent to and touch the Castle. This results in dense shade conditions causing biological growth on the Seneca sandstone. Setting the trees back slightly from the Castle eliminates dense shade conditions against the stone and bolsters the Castle's long-term preservation.
- Existing landscape setting features a mix of large structural trees (evergreen and deciduous), large shrubs/small trees, low shrubs, perennials, and

RoHC Revitalize Castle June 2023

Assessment of Effects on Historic Resources



Final landscape planting plan. Trees are placed around the Castle perimeter, with shrubs, perennials, and turf comprising the ground cover.



Final paving plan. Yellow shading notes aggregate concrete, red shading notes brick. Granite pavers are proposed at the north entrance landings.

turf. Diversity, type, and hierarchy of plantings will be maintained.

- Proposed trees and plantings are in keeping with the existing landscape variety but use native and sustainable plantings.
- Refer to "Accessible Walkways at the North Entrance" and "Alterations at the South Entrance to Improve Accessibility" for related changes.
- Changes to the landscape and replacement of hardscape will not alter the character of the Castle's setting.

Site

Feature/Action

Signage



Rendering of the approach to the west accessible walkway at the North Entry.

Design Details

- Existing large SI pylon sign west of the porte cochere will be removed.
- Two (2) existing Smithsonian Visitor Center metal signs will be replaced in the same location with stone walls with engraved signage. These signs are hardened walls and part of perimeter security.
- Two (2) new directional signage pylons are proposed in the landscape at the transition between the sidewalk and the North Entry accessible walkways.

Images

Sea (t-117) Smithsonian Visitor Center Elso with the first and the fir

Elevation and section of the proposed signage pylon.







Elevation drawing of the hardened wall with engraved signage, and other National Mall precedents.

Additional Information

- Proposed new directional signage type is approximately half of the width of the existing signage pylons.
- Proposed signage program results in an overall reduction in the amount of SI signage adjacent to the Castle.
- Signage pylons will be bronze with a granite base in keeping with the SI National Mall wide standard.
- There is established precedent for engraved building signage on the National Mall.
- Proposed signage program will not detract from the Castle's or the National Mall settings.
- Refer to "Perimeter Security" for related changes.

Site

Feature/Action

Lighting



Existing Mall Olmsted light post.



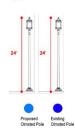
Existing Victorian light post.

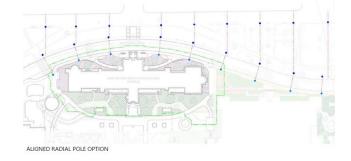
Design Details

- Olmsted light posts are proposed along the south side of Jefferson Drive in keeping with the historic context and National Mall existing light posts.
- Olmsted posts are 24' high, placed in a radial pattern to transition from the Mall placement and the curve of Jefferson Drive.
- Victorian light posts are 12' high, placed along the main pedestrian path south of the Castle, in keeping with the existing lighting of the Haupt Garden.

Images

- The proposed Olmsted Pole location runs in relation to the natural curve of Jefferson Drive.
- curve of Jefferson Drive
 Maintains formality of mall





Proposed placement of the Olmsted light posts on the south side of Jefferson Drive, aligning radially with the existing National Mall Olmsted posts.



Proposed placement of the Victorian light posts south of the Castle.

Additional Information

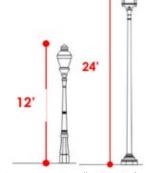
- Existing light posts on the south side of Jefferson Drive are 12' high. Proposed Olmsted light posts reduce the number from what is currently in the streetscape.
- Light post design aligns with District of Columbia standards and the National Capital Planning Commission's Monumental Core Streetscape Framework.
- Light posts conform with dark sky requirements in the National Mall setting.
- Proposed light posts are in keeping with the different contexts north and south of the Castle, and maintain the existing settings.
- Posts work in concert with the building lighting to light the Castle. Refer to "Building Lighting" for related changes.

Feature/Action

Building Lighting







Building lighting is accomplished from the street light posts and a 7" tall light fixture installed in the ground and in non-visible locations on the Castle.

Design Details

- Building façade lighting will be accomplished through fixtures hidden within the landscape and installed in nonvisible locations on the Castle.
- Building façade lighting is assisted by the proposed street light posts.
- Existing building specific fixtures will be restored and rehabilitated with energy efficient lighting.

Images

Section drawing detailing the light reach of in-ground fixtures up the Castle façade.

Rendered night view of the Castle's building lighting scheme.

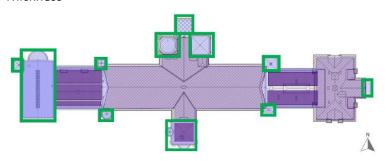
Additional Information

- Proposed façade lighting scheme is in keeping with other lighting on monumental buildings within the National Mall setting.



Feature/Action

Roof Modifications – Energy Improvements, Including Increases in Roof Thickness



Proposed roof plan noting locations of slate and copper cladding, and dimensional changes. Green outline notes areas with no proposed dimensional changes due to visible impacts.

Design Details

- Removal and replacement of existing roofing system, with new underlayments and insulation will be installed to meet prescriptive energy requirements.
- Increases to roof height/thickness will be limited to locations where the dimensional change will not be perceptible due to parapets, towers, and roof features.
- Dimensional change varies by location and will not exceed 5.25 inches.
- No changes to roof thickness are proposed at visible roof edges such as the West Wing, or at high peaked tower roofs.

Images

PROPOSED (+1.25" – 4.75") EXISTING

Proposed and existing montage demonstrating the dimensional roof change over the Main Building.



Proposed and existing montage demonstrating the dimensional roof change over the East Range.

Additional Information

- Roof Materials and Profiles are character defining features.
- Existing roof system includes little to no insulation.
- Addition of rigid insulation beneath the slate and zinc-tin cladding improves the Castle's energy performance.
- Majority of the Castle's roof edges are behind crenellated parapets and other architectural features and are at least 30' above grade.
- Proposed work will not result in discernible impacts at the roof edges and ridgelines from grade or at distances around the Castle.
- Dimensional changes are not proposed in visible locations to avoid adverse effect.
- Roof dimensional change at the flat metal areas tapers to the roof edge to keep the alteration non-visible and to avoid adverse effect.

Preliminary Effect Determination - No Adverse Effect

Feature/Action

Alterations at the South Entrance to Improve Accessibility





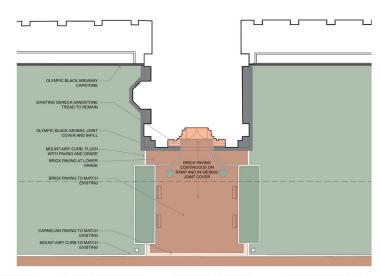


Existing ramp connection to the historic sandstone stair treads.

Design Details

- Universally accessible walkway replaces an existing ramp on axis with the South Tower entrance. Current ramp is not universally accessible.
- Walkway will be paved with salvaged brick and Mount Airy granite curbs in keeping with the Haupt Garden materials palette.
- Historic sandstone steps are retained, with the walkway constructed over the steps flush with the historic landing.
- Low bronze kickrail provides edge protection at the top of the walkway.

Images











Proposed South Entrance plan.

Additional Information

- Setting and the South Tower are character defining features.
- South Tower entrance retains historic Seneca sandstone stairs (two risers).
- Existing access ramp installed c. 2015 is constructed over the Seneca sandstone historic stairs.
- Universal accessibility is the goal for SI projects, inclusive of all ages and abilities.
- Universal walkway slope eliminates the need for a handrail, which minimizes visual impact by incorporating the walkway into the Haupt Garden hardscape.
- Walkway design does not obscure the architectural features of the decorative south entrance surround any more than the existing ramp.
- Use of a stone curb and low kick rail for edge protection maintains full visibility of the decorative stone door surround.
- Walkway design, though wider and longer than the existing ramp, has no significant impact on circulation, setting, and use of the South Tower entrance.
- Adverse effect is avoided through the use of salvaged brick paving and granite curbs from the existing location.
- Adverse effect is avoided through retaining and not altering historic fabric beneath the walkway construction.

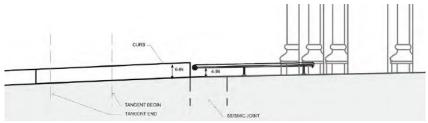
RoHC Revitalize Castle June 2023

Assessment of Effects on Historic Resources





Proposed South Entrance renderings.



Section from walkway surface look west. Stone curb transitions to a bronze kick rail to maintain visibility of the South Entrance stone colonnettes.



Detail drawing of the placement of the walkway, curb, and kick railing, against the historic features of the Castle's South Entrance.

Feature/Action

Accessible Walkways at the North Entrance



Existing west accessible ramp to the Castle's North Tower.

Design Details

- Two universally accessible walkways are proposed in a symmetrical plan to the east and west entrances of the North Tower. Walkway walls and coping will be red sandstone.
- Walkway guardrails will consist of steel pickets with circular details at the top with a black finish. The handrail will be bronze.
- Walkway paving surface will be aggregate concrete to connect with the National Mall sidewalk context.

 Landings at the east and west doors will be granite.
- Adjacent landscape beds will be adjusted to a symmetrical configuration.
- Non-historic east and west doors to the North Tower will be replaced with wood and glass paired doors.

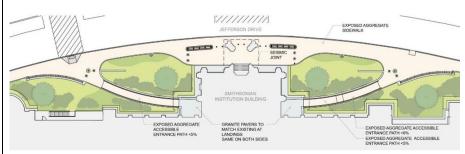
Images



Existing site plan.

PAVING AT RAMPS

- · Exposed aggregate concrete on ramps leading to landings
- Exposed aggregate concrete in keeping with the sidewalks
- · Stone proposed for landings, material alternatives in development



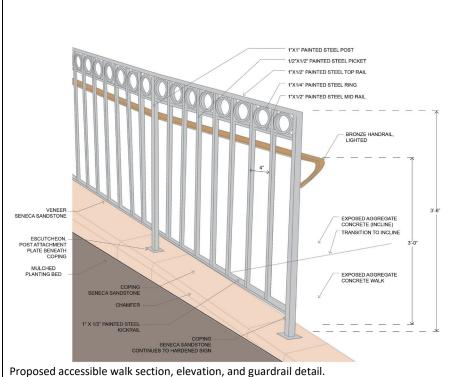
Proposed site plan and materials.

Additional Information

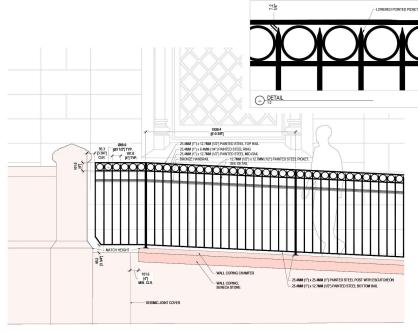
- Setting is a character defining feature.
- Existing east and west asymmetrical pathways are not historic, installed c. 1987.
- East entrance to the North Tower features stairs and stone newel posts installed c. 1987. West entrance to the North Tower features an access ramp installed c. 1987. These non-historic entry materials will be removed.
- North Tower setting features a semisymmetrical path arrangement to the east and west entrances around undulating planting beds with lush plantings.
- Historic fabric will not be removed or obscured by the construction of the walkways.
- Proposed guardrail design is in keeping with the Haupt Garden fence and gate design.
- Adverse effect is avoided through maintaining the existing landscape character and setting through the proposed curvilinear paths, planting beds, and planting diversity.

RoHC Revitalize Castle June 2023

Assessment of Effects on Historic Resources



- Adverse effect is avoided through use of sandstone, granite, and aggregate concrete paving to construct the walkways, consistent with materials present in the setting.



Proposed elevation detail of the accessible walkway connection to the