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MAIN ENTRANCE GATE WING WALL RECONSTRUCTION

NHPA SECTION 106 PROCESS SUBMISSION

Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery
Army National Military Cemeteries
Washington, D.C.

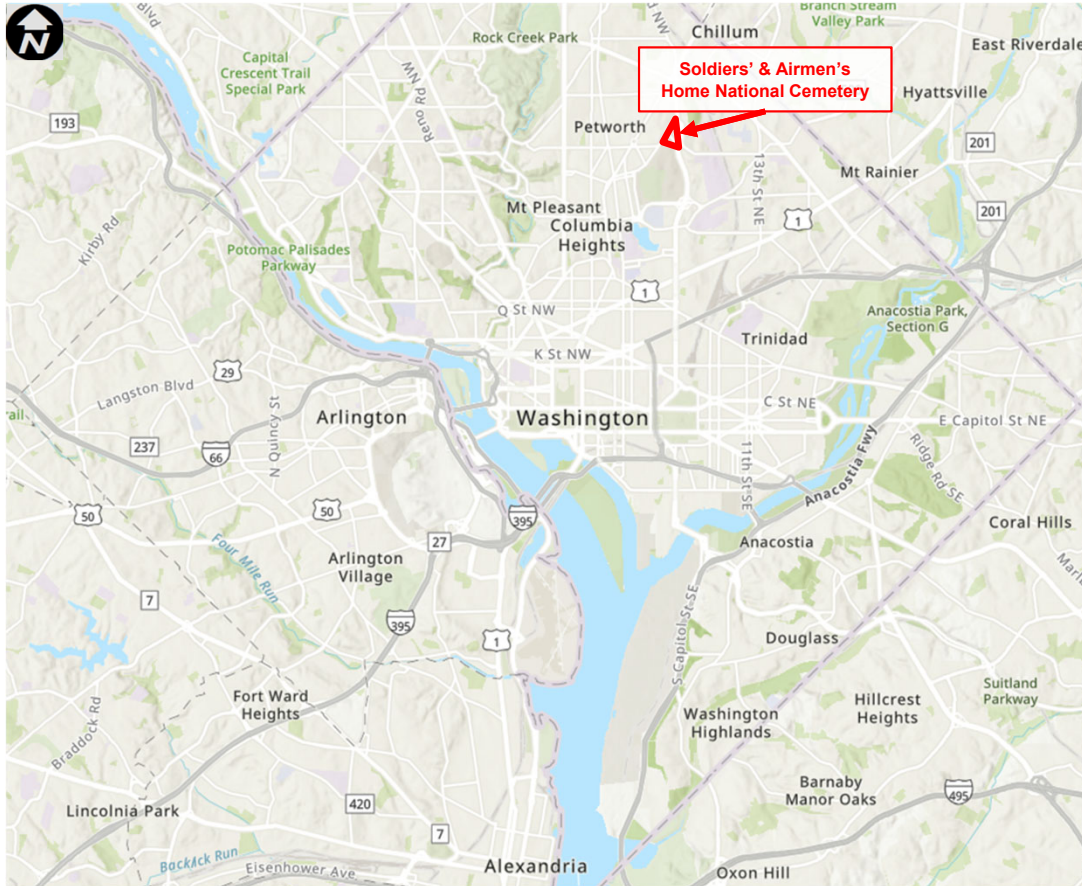
13 June 2025



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PROJECT INFORMATION



MAIN ENTRANCE GATE WING WALL RECONSTRUCTION

Soldiers' & Airmen's Home National Cemetery
21 Harewood Road NW
Washington, DC 20011

NHPA SECTION 106 PROCESS SUBMISSION FOR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PROJECT IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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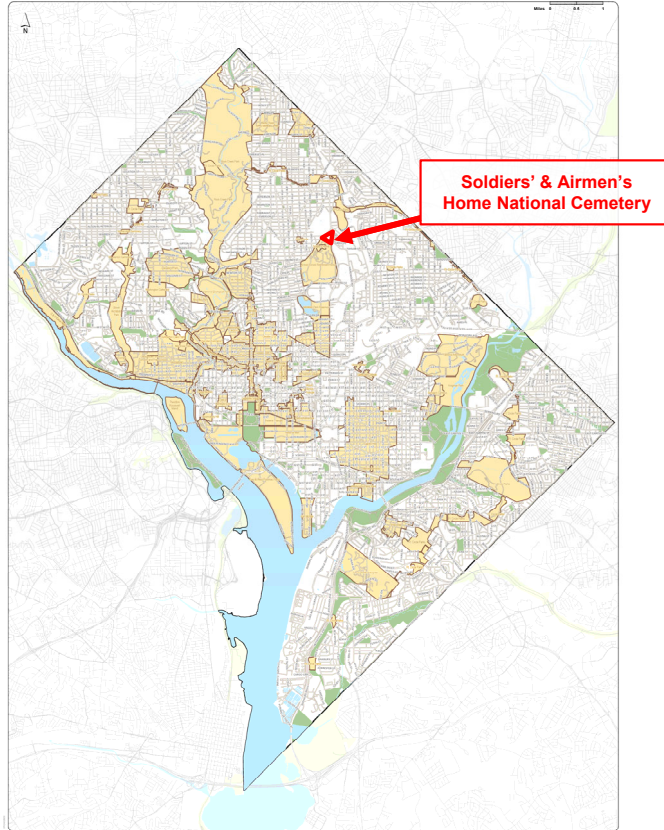
Submission: June 13, 2025



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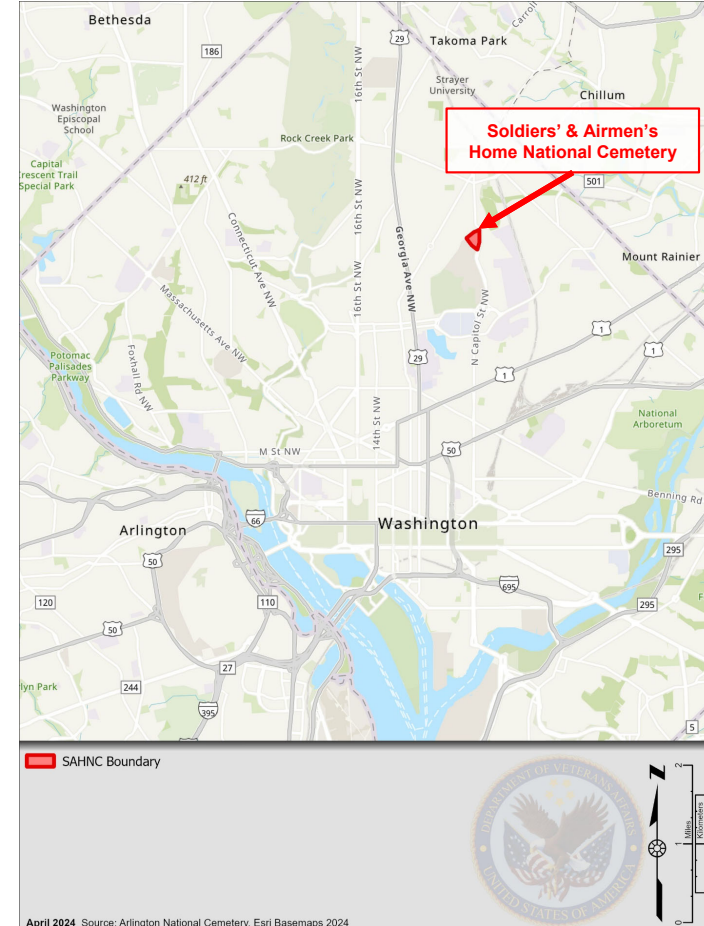
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PROJECT LOCATION



Office of Planning - June 14, 2018
Government of the District of Columbia
This map was created for planning purposes from a variety of sources. It is neither a survey nor a legal document. Information provided by other agencies should be verified with them where appropriate.

The District of Columbia
Historic Districts



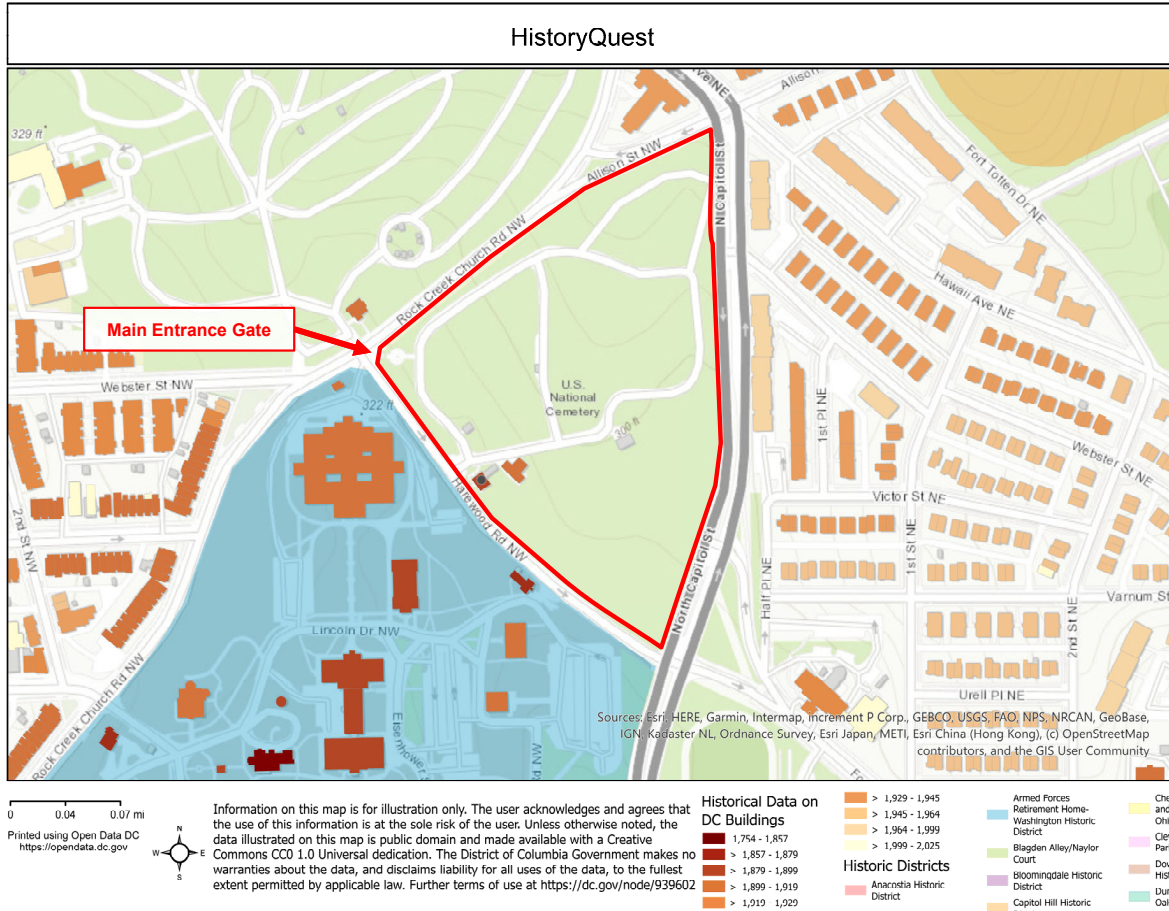
April 2024 Source: Arlington National Cemetery, Esri Basemaps 2024



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PROJECT LOCATION



Location: The Main Gate at the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery is situated at the intersection of Rock Creek Church Road, NW and Harewood Road, NW, at the western corner of the cemetery, and just north of the Soldiers' Home.

Address: 21 Harewood Rd NW, Washington, DC 20011

Owner: The cemetery and gate is owned by the federal government and is maintained by the Army National Military Cemeteries, a direct reporting unit of the U.S. Army.



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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Army National Military Cemeteries (ANMC), which operates Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery (SAHNC) proposes restoring the masonry wings wall of the cemetery's original Main Entrance Gate. In May 2023, the southern wing wall was struck by vehicle, demolishing the masonry structure, damaging the attached iron fencing, and creating a break in the cemetery's boundary. As a temporary solution, ANMC's facilities maintenance staff temporarily installed black-painted aluminum fencing along the perimeter.

The proposed construction project would remove the northern wing wall and southern temporary fencing, replacing both with a replica of the original wing walls. The gateway was constructed in 1883-84. It was originally flanked with two granite/bluestone wing walls. In 1951, these wing walls were removed and replaced with cast stone wing walls. In 2022-2023, the National Park Service (NPS), Historic Preservation Training Center (HPTC), rehabilitated the historic gateway. This included documentation, cleaning, masonry repairs, repairs to the copper roof, and restoration of the ironwork. The wing wall was damaged on May 7, 2023.



**Main Entrance Gate,
November 2022, after
rehabilitation**



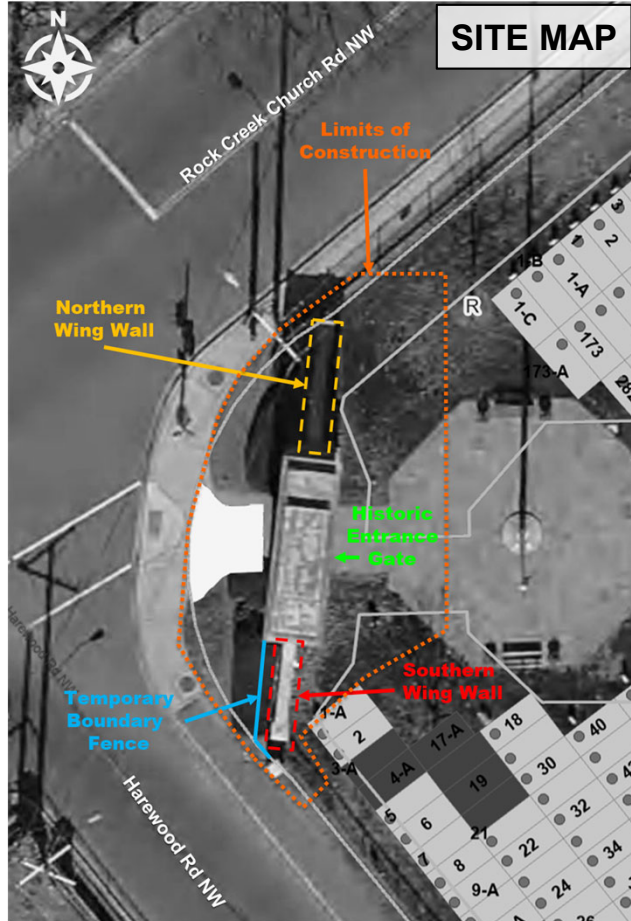
**Main Entrance Gate,
during Memorial
Day Services on
May 30, 1919**



The agency considered three (3) courses of action (COA) to address the damaged southern wing wall.

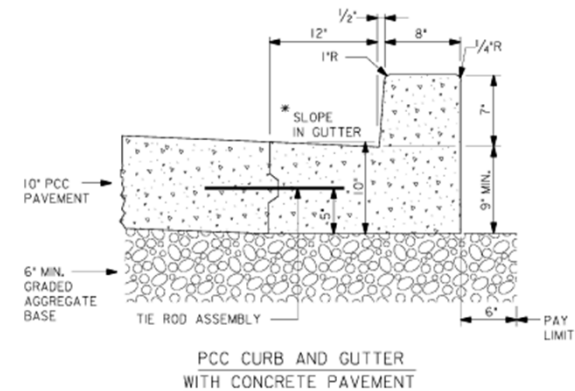
- 1. Reconstruct existing:** Recreate the 1950s wing wall using custom cast stone (concrete) panels with exposed aggregate. Pros: middle cost. Cons: difficult to match extant northern wing wall and the 1950s design does not match the historic masonry.
- 2. Reconstruct 1880s granite/bluestone walls:** Pros: The most historically accurate and most sympathetic to the historic gate, The granite wing walls match portions of the SAHNC boundary walls. Cons: The highest cost option, it requires demolition of the extant northern wing wall. Preferred COA.
- 3. Extend iron fencing:** Replicate and connect to adjacent iron fencing. Pros: Lowest cost and fastest installation. Matches extant iron fencing. Cons: Changes entryway's architectural balance and design. Would require demolition of the north wing wall if the two sides are to match.





The proposed reconstruction of the 1880s-style wing walls consists of four (4) components:

1. Demolish the northern wing wall (ca. 1950s) and deinstall the temporary aluminum fencing that replaced the damaged southern wing wall (ca. 2023).
2. Reconstruct the bluestone/granite wing walls, using historical images and the Ord and Weitzel wing walls as the basis for the design. The walls will not be anchored to the original masonry of the Main Entrance Gate. A mortar or sealant joint will provide a reversible connection between the new wing walls and the historic gate.
3. Repair existing iron fencing and install replica sections as necessary to complete the boundary fence.
4. Optional: Install barrier concrete curbs in front of the wing walls, facing the city streets. Currently, there is a no vehicle barrier in front of the Main Entrance Gate and wing walls. Installation of a 7"-12" concrete curb along the SAHNC property line would serve as a roadside barrier. The design would match adjacent city-owned concrete sidewalks and curbs.



DDOT Standard, DWG. 609.21
Types of PCC Curb & Gutter



Illustration of proposed barrier concrete curb, viewed from the intersection of Rock Creek Church Rd NW and Harewood Rd NW looking southeast toward the SAHNC Main Entrance Gate northern wing wall (2024)



Illustration of proposed barrier concrete curb, viewed from the intersection of Rock Creek Church Rd NW and Harewood Rd NW looking northeast toward the southern end of the SAHNC Main Entrance Gate and temporary fencing (2024)



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DESIGN ILLUSTRATIONS

ca. 1884-1951



2022



Northern
Wing Wall

Southern
Wing Wall

Barrier Curb
(optional)

Barrier Curb
(optional)



Illustration of Proposed Wing Wall Reconstruction to Match Original Design from 1884-1951



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DESIGN BASIS



The agency undertook a comparable project in 2022. ANMC reconstructed the Ord and Weitzel Gate within Arlington National Cemetery. Salvaged historic gate components were erected atop new wing walls. The style and materials were drawn from historic images, but the foundations and core of the walls meet modern building codes and engineering standards. All work complied with Unified Facilities Guide Specifications (UFGS).





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CONDITION AFTER VEHICULAR DAMAGE



View from the sidewalk at the intersection of Rock Creek Church Rd NW and Harewood Rd NW looking east toward the SAHNC Main Entrance Gate southern wing wall after hit by vehicle (2024)



View from the Harewood Rd NW sidewalk adjacent the boundary fence looking north toward the SAHNC Main Entrance Gate southern wing wall after hit by vehicle. Note the case stone cladding panels and the exposed inner brick core (2024).



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CONDITION AFTER VEHICULAR DAMAGE



View from the intersection of Rock Creek Church Rd NW and Harewood Rd NW looking east toward the SAHNC Main Entrance Gate southern wing wall after hit by vehicle (2024)



View from the roadway inside SAHNC looking west across the flagpole plaza toward the SAHNC Main Entrance Gate southern wing wall after hit by vehicle (2024)



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CURRENT CONDITIONS



View from the intersection of Rock Creek Church Rd NW and Harewood Rd NW looking east toward the SAHNC Main Entrance Gate (2024)



View from the roadway inside SAHNC looking west across the flagpole plaza toward the SAHNC Main Entrance Gate (2024)



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CURRENT CONDITIONS



View from the flagpole plaza inside SAHNC looking northwest toward the SAHNC Main Entrance Gate and the northern wing wall. Note the pallets of salvaged southern wing wall cast stone pieces adjacent the gate (2024).



View from the intersection of Rock Creek Church Rd NW and Harewood Rd NW looking east toward the SAHNC Main Entrance Gate temporary aluminum fencing that replaced the southern wing wall (2024).



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CURRENT CONDITIONS



View from the Harewood Rd NW sidewalk adjacent the boundary fence looking north toward the SAHNC Main Entrance Gate. Note temporary aluminum fencing connected to western face and ghost of the outline of the southern wing wall on the stone base (2024).



Detail view from inside SAHNC of the southern face of the Main Entrance Gate's stone base, where mortar remnants leave a ghosted outline of the southern wing wall (2024)



The Main Gate, erected as a simple yet elegant, classically inspired colonnade, was built in 1883-84 to form the ceremonial entrance into what was then referred to as the Soldiers' Home National Cemetery. It was built from architectural components of local landmarks, likely from the U.S. Patent Office building, that Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs salvaged after the building burned in 1879. While Meigs may not have actually designed the gate, his hand is clearly visible in its reuse of parts and the practice of inscribing on its columns the names of great statesman and military commanders.

Main Entrance Gate photo, showing original wing walls, taken by during Memorial Day Services on May 30, 1919



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HISTORICAL IMAGES



The Soldiers Home National Cemetery was created in 1861, following the outbreak of the Civil War to provide burial for soldiers and officers of the U.S. Army. What was originally referred to as the U.S. Military Asylum offered 6 acres of its larger tract to create the burial ground following the Battle of Bull Run. The first burials were made on August 3, 1861. By 1864, the cemetery had reached capacity, necessitating the creation of Arlington National Cemetery. SAHNC was expanded to 16 acres in 1883. It was at that point that the Main Gate was built.

Main Entrance Gate photo, showing original wing walls, from the SAHNC Real Property Book, undated



The Gen. John A. Logan Mausoleum at the United States Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery, Washington, D.C., June 11, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Elizabeth Fraser)

Army National Military Cemeteries (ANMC) initiates the section 106 process for the proposed wing wall reconstruction within the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery (SAHNC). The proposed project is considered a federal undertaking, as defined in 36 CFR § 800.16(y), and is the type of activity that has the potential to cause effects on historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(a).

Per 36 CFR § 800.3(c), ANMC identifies the State Historic Preservation Office for the District of Columbia, (DC SHPO) as the appropriate State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to be involved in the section 106 process.

Per 36 CFR § 800.3(c), ANMC plans to involve the public in the section 106 process. After initiating consultation with the DC SHPO, ANMC will notify potential consulting parties and the public of the undertaking via email, social media, and the agency's website, inviting them to participate in the consultation process. ANMC will work in consultation with the DC SHPO to develop the plan for involving the public in the section 106 process.



In accordance with 36 CFR § 800.3(f) and § 800.2(c), ANMC developed an initial list of other parties entitled to be consulting parties. This list will be further developed in consultation with the DC SHPO.

ANMC identified the following other consulting parties:

- Advisory Neighborhood Commission 5A
- Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4D
- Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH)
- Committee of 100 on the Federal City
- DC Preservation League
- Nacotchtank (or Anacostans)
- Pamunkey Indian Tribe
- Piscataway
- Rock Creek Cemetery
- U.S. Commission of Fine Arts

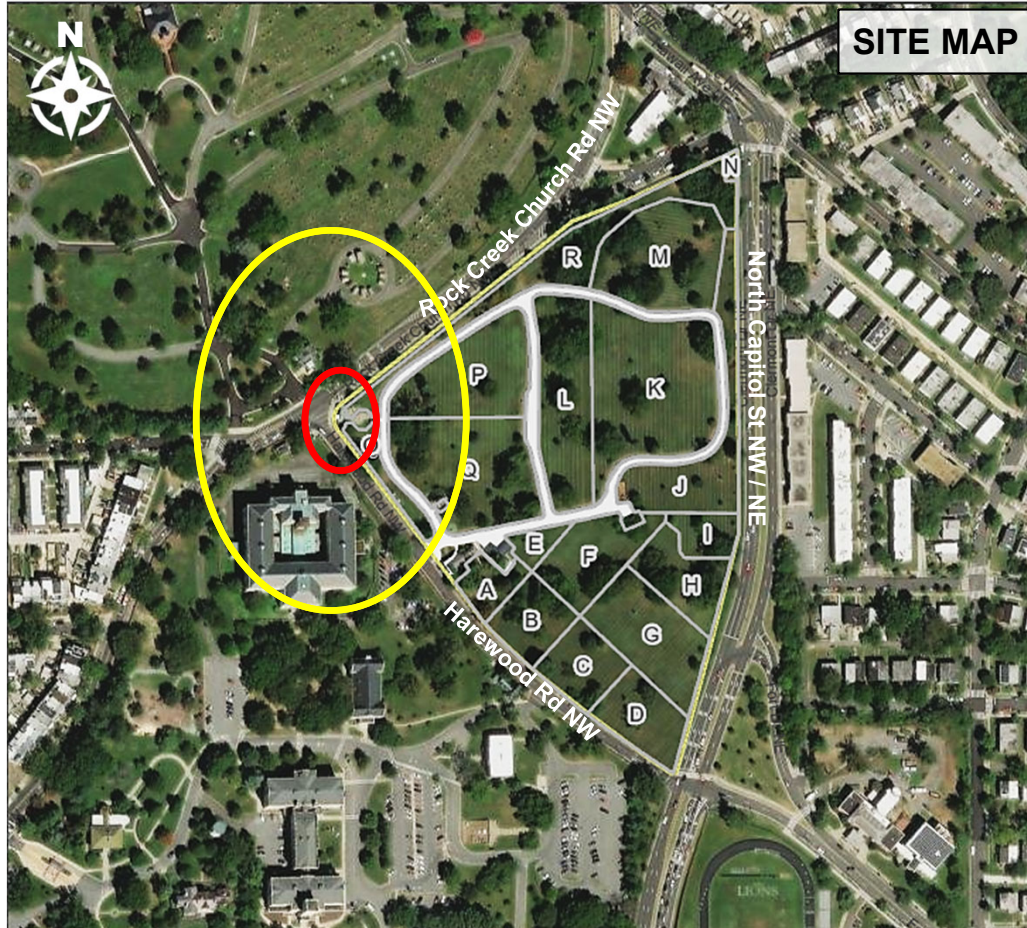
No early coordination has been carried out with the public and potential consulting parties.





AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS

SITE MAP



Per 36 CFR § 800.4 & § 800.16, ANMC identified the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the proposed project, the full extent of which will be determined in consultation with the DC SHPO.

The APE is the geographic area(s) within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause changes in the character or use of historic properties. The APE is influenced by the scale and nature of the undertaking and may be different for different kinds of effects caused by the undertaking. This includes locations where the project may be visible and/or audible.

The APE typically includes:

- all locations where the project will cause ground disturbance;
- all locations from which the project may be visible or audible; and
- all locations where the project may result in changes to land use, public access, traffic patterns, viewsheds, etc.

For this undertaking, the project area is located within the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery (SAHNC). The project APE is outlined in yellow on the map to the left. The APE includes locations where equipment will be placed during the project. Most of this work would occur on cemetery grounds adjacent to the intersection of Rock Creek Church Rd NW and Harewood Rd NW. This is also adjacent to the Rock Creek Church Yard and Cemetery and the Armed Forces Retirement Home Historic District, which are both listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Located within the historic district is the United States Soldiers' Home National Historic Landmark.

Map of Project Area

APE outlined in **YELLOW**.

Proposed project locations in **RED**.

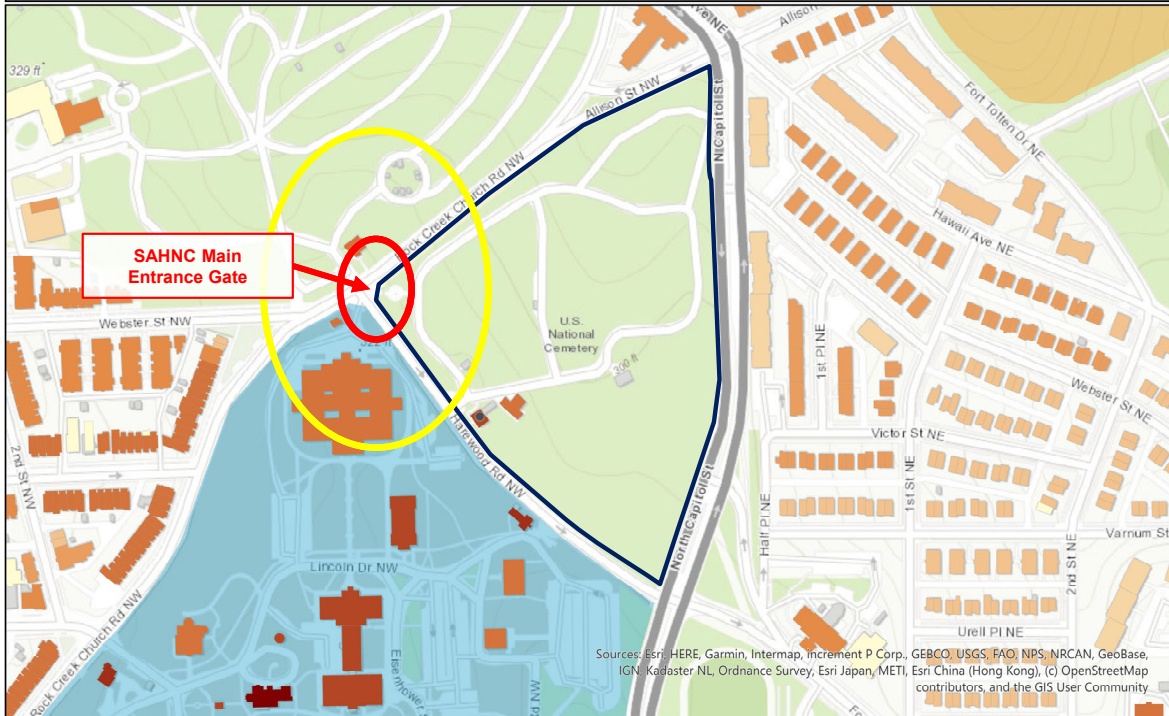


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AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS

HistoryQuest



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

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Historical Data on DC Buildings

1,754 - 1,857
> 1,857 - 1,879
> 1,879 - 1,899
> 1,899 - 1,919
> 1,919 - 1,929

> 1,929 - 1,945
> 1,945 - 1,964
> 1,964 - 1,999
> 1,999 - 2,025

Historic Districts

Anacostia Historic District

Armed Forces Retirement Home-Washington Historic District
Blagden Alley/Naylor Court
Bloomington Historic District
Capitol Hill Historic District

Chesapeake and Ohio
Cleveland Park
Dumb Oaks

DC Historic Districts & Project Area Map

APE outlined in **YELLOW**.

Proposed project locations in **RED**.

During construction, temporary sound and visual effects are expected within 300 feet of the project area. Work will occur after the sites close to the public. Construction equipment will access the site via the cemetery's main entrance on Harewood Road NW.

During construction, there will be temporary, localized impacts to traffic patterns within the cemetery. The project will not create long-term changes to land use or traffic patterns.

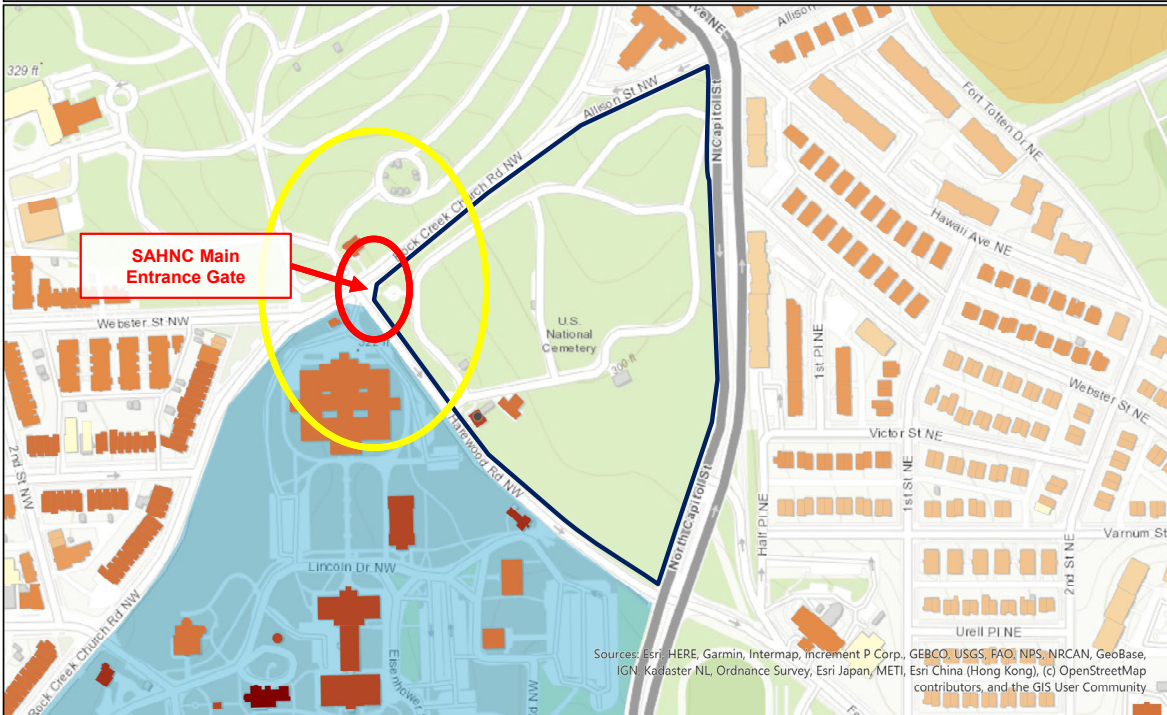
Most of this work would occur on cemetery grounds adjacent to the intersection of Rock Creek Church Rd NW and Harewood Rd NW. This is also adjacent to the Rock Creek Church Yard and Cemetery and the Armed Forces Retirement Home Historic District, which are both listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Located within the historic district is the United States Soldiers' Home National Historic Landmark. The project does involve ground disturbance in the historic SAHNC landscape.

When the project is completed, there will be no significant changes to the viewsheds and landscapes within SAHNC, Rock Creek Church Yard and Cemetery, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home Historic District. The work replaces non-historic additions to a historic gate with more appropriate structures that are a similar size and footprint to the previous wing walls. There will be temporary visual impacts during construction within 300 feet of the project area.



IDENTIFICATION OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

HistoryQuest



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Printed using Open Data DC
<https://opendata.dc.gov>



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Historical Data on DC Buildings

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> 1,919 - 1,929

Historic Districts

> 1,929 - 1,945
> 1,945 - 1,964
> 1,964 - 1,999
> 1,999 - 2,025

Armed Forces
Retirement Home-
Washington Historic
District
Blagden Alley/Naylor
Court
Bloomington Historic
District
Anacostia Historic
District
Capitol Hill Historic
District

Chesapeake and
Ohio
Cleveland
Park
Dumb
Oaks

Historic Properties within the APE

Per 36 CFR § 800.4, the following is a list of historic structures and features contributing to SAHNC and the Armed Forces Retirement Home Historic District, which are located within / adjacent to the APE.

- Armed Forces Retirement Home-Washington (AFRH)
- Grant Building (AFRH)
- Quarters 19 (AFRH)
- Rock Creek Church Yard and Cemetery
- Rock Creek Cemetery Iron Entrance Gate
- Rock Creek Cemetery Gate House / Cemetery Office
- Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery (SAHNC)
- Boundary Walls & Fencing, Wrought and Cast-Iron Metal (SAHNC)
- Cannon (SAHNC)
- Flagpole (SAHNC)
- Government-issued Burial Markers (SAHNC)
- Lodge Gate (SAHNC)
- Logan Mausoleum (SAHNC)
- Main Entrance Gate (SAHNC)
- Private Burial Markers (SAHNC)

DC Historic Districts & Project Area Map

APE outlined in **YELLOW**.

Proposed project locations in **RED**.



Magnus, Charles, Publisher. Soldier's Home, Washington, D.C. Washington D.C. United States, ca. 1863. [New York and Washington, D.C.: published by Chas. Magnus, 12 Frankfort St., N.Y. and 580 7th St., Washington, D.C.] Photograph. <https://www.loc.gov/item/95504582/>.

National Register Historic Properties within the APE

The following is a list of historic properties on the National Register (IAW 36 CFR part 63) within the APE:

- U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home / Armed Forces Retirement Home Historic District
<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/117691901>
- Rock Creek Church Yard and Cemetery
<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/117692456>



Historic American Landscapes Survey, Creator, et al., photographed by Ortiz, Jarob J. United States Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery, Main Gate, looking northwest toward the Armed Forces Retirement Home (left) and Rock Creek Cemetery (right), Washington, DC. Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/dc1168/>.

Results of Identification & Evaluation:

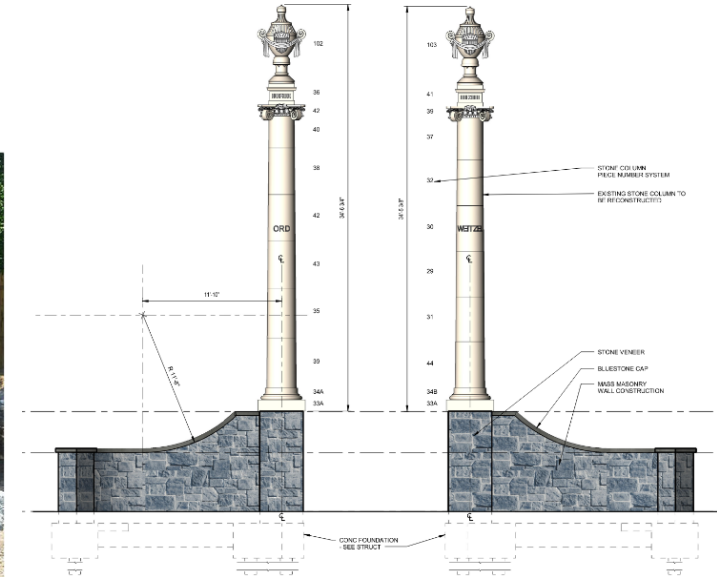
Historic Properties Affected

Per 36 CFR § 800.4(d)(2), ANMC found that there are historic properties which may be affected by the undertaking. As a result, ANMC will notify the DC SHPO, potential consulting parties, including Indian tribes or organizations, and the public, inviting their views on:

1. The agency's finding that there is an undertaking that affects historic properties;
2. The agency's identification of historic properties;
3. The agency's identification of the area of potential effects (APE);
4. The agency's proposed determination of no adverse effects to historic properties.



The estimates for ground disturbance are based off similar projects undertaken at Arlington National Cemetery. In 2022, ANMC reconstructed the Ord and Weitzel Gate. Salvaged historic gate components were erected atop new wing walls. The new concrete foundations were approximately three (3) feet deep and nine (9) feet wide. These footers are enlarged to support the weight of not just the wing walls, but also the reconstructed columns.



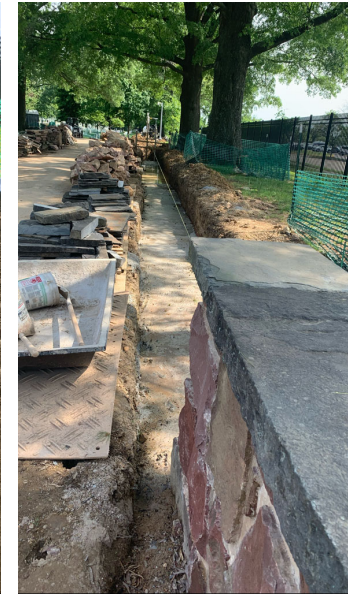
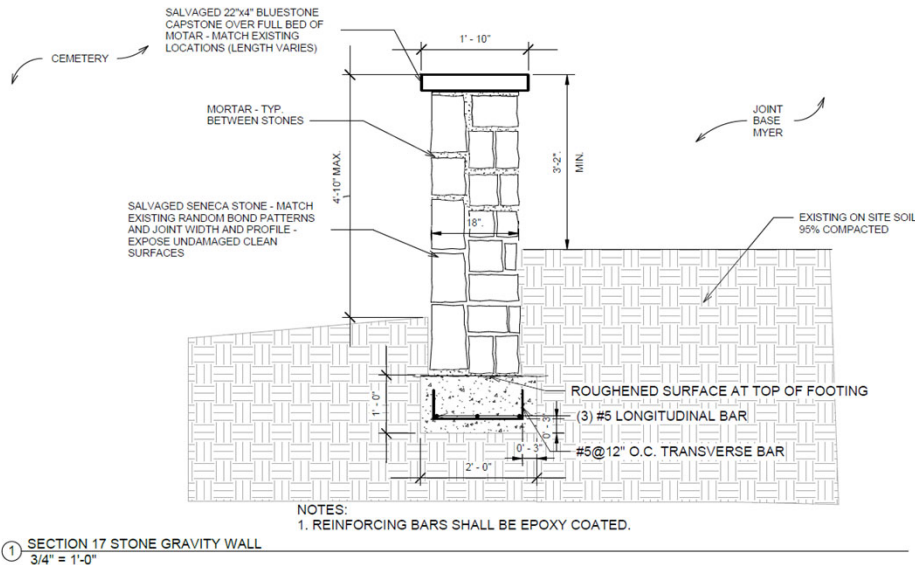


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GROUND DISTURBANCE

Starting in 2021, ANMC began a phased project to rehabilitate all the Arlington National Cemetery boundary walls. This project involved installation of new concrete foundations and concrete cores to support the historic facing stones. The masonry walls are set on concrete footers at least one (1) foot deep and two (2) feet wide. The footers are set at least two (2) feet below grade, meaning that at least one (1) foot of the base of the masonry wall is set below grade.





As a result, ANMC anticipates the ground disturbance to install new footers for the SAHNC wing walls to be no more than three (3) feet deep and three (3) feet wide. The new wing walls will be installed within the footprint of the two prior wing walls (ca. 1884-1951 and ca. 1951-2023). Each wing wall is just under 19.5 feet long.

In addition, the repairs and replacements to the metal fencing (approximately 22 linear feet) will require the installation of new fence post footers. New footings will be 1 foot wide by 2 feet long by 2 feet deep. There are also intermediate fence supports between the posts. These will be 6-inches wide by 6-inches long and 18-inches deep.

The limits of disturbance (LOD) for each side of the Main Entrance Gate (north and south, including the wing wall foundations and fence posts and supports) is 3 feet wide by 22 feet long, for a total of 66 square feet (SF). The total LOD for the work on both wing walls and all fence panels is estimated to be **132 SF**.

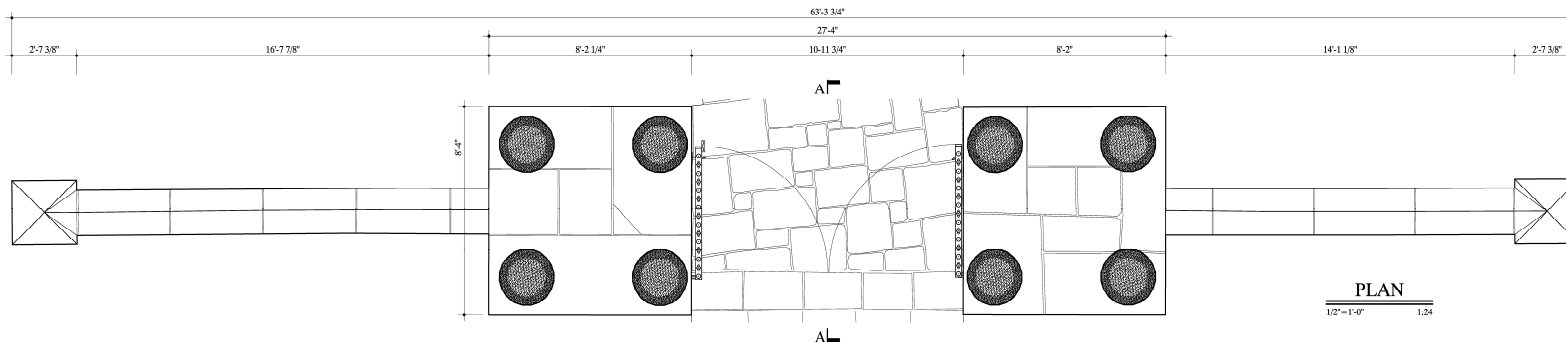


Photo of typical concrete fence post footer (right) and intermediate fence support (left).



Assessment of Adverse Effects

By applying the criteria of adverse effects (36 C.F.R. § 800.5[a][1]), ANMC finds that the proposed undertaking – the Main Entrance Gate Wing Wall Reconstruction at Soldiers' & Airmen's Home National Cemetery – will result in **no adverse effects to historic properties** listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register within and adjacent to the undertaking's APE:

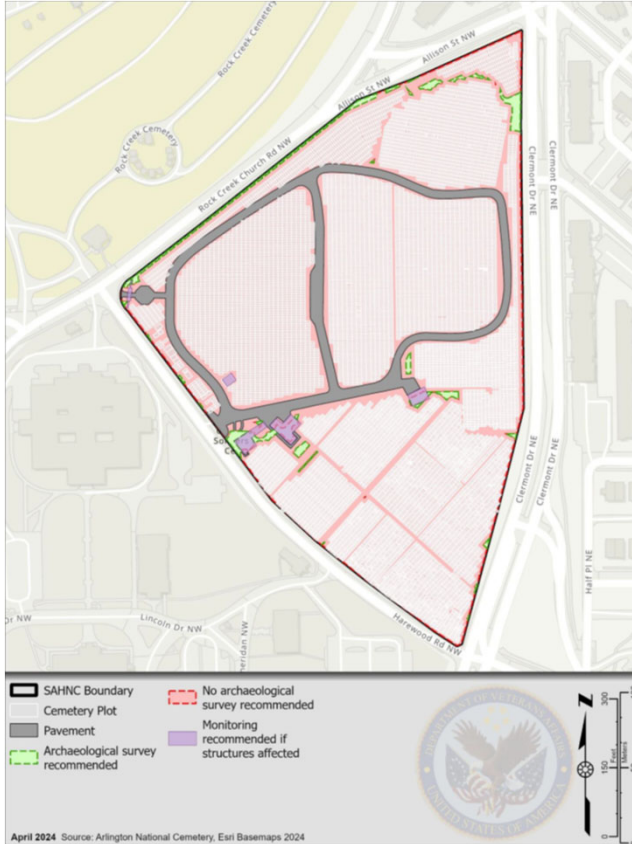
- U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home / Armed Forces Retirement Home Historic District
- Rock Creek Church Yard and Cemetery
- Soldiers' & Airmen's Home National Cemetery

By rehabilitating existing fencing and recreating historically accurate wing walls at the Main Entrance Gate, the project design avoids and/or minimizes the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to above- and below- ground historic properties and contributing elements in the undertaking's APE. There will be no adverse effects to the integrity of the historic properties that would diminish their historical and architectural significance. There are no adverse impacts to the characteristics that qualify the historic properties for inclusion in or eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

The historic properties retain their historic views and vistas after construction of the proposed project. Hard surfaces such as asphalt, concrete, curbs, pavers, etc. damaged during construction will be repaired or replaced. Landscaped areas will also be replanted and restored. The historic location and elements within the cemeteries and historic district are maintained. The sites continue to convey their historic significance for both their landscape architecture and architecture. There are no changes to the integrity of location, workmanship, feeling or associations for either of the cemeteries or the historic district.



Entrance to Rock Creek Cemetery, Washington, DC. Photograph. Retrieved from Find a Grave, <https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/104448/rock-creek-cemetery>, Creator: L. Ferree.



SAHNC Gap Analysis, from the SAHNC *Archaeological Resources and Areas of Archaeological Potential*, April 2025.

Assessment of Adverse Effects

The proposed undertaking occurs within an already-disturbed footprint – the soils were disturbed by the construction of roadways, sidewalks, and the SAHNC Main Entrance Gate and associated fencing. The wing wall reconstruction and fencing repairs are proposed to occur within the footprint of the prior wing walls and fencing. As such, the proposed undertaking would have **no adverse effect to archaeological resources**.

In 2025, ANMC completed an *Archaeological Resources and Areas of Archaeological Potential Report and Map*, including a Phase IA archaeological survey of the Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery (SAHNC). The report states that archaeological survey within ten feet of the graves, sidewalk, utilities, and structures is not practical. Monitoring for archaeological sites is recommended where practical, particularly when there is construction or other work in proximity to the resources that contribute to SAHNC's NRHP-eligibility. In addition to ANC and SAHNC policies for monitoring additions or modifications to interments, monitoring for cultural deposits below interment depths is recommended when practical. Refer to the enclosed report.

In the event of an unanticipated discovery, all work would cease, and the ANMC Cultural Resources Manager (CRM) would be contacted. The CRM would notify the DC SHPO, and other appropriate agencies, and standard procedures would be followed to protect the artifacts and determine their significance.

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. § 470f, and its implementing regulations, 36 C.F.R. Part 800, ANMC invites comments from the DC SHPO, consulting parties, and the public.

Caitlin Smith, AIC PA
Cultural Resources Program Manager
Army National Military Cemeteries



ANMC requests that the DC SHPO:

1. Respond to ANMC's request for review of the proposed determination of effect on historic properties.
2. Provide concurrence or comments on the determined APE.
3. Provide concurrence or comments on the identified potential consulting parties.
4. Respond to ANMC's findings of:
 - a) No adverse effects to the Armed Forces Retirement Home Historic District
 - b) No adverse effects to the Rock Creek Church Yard and Cemetery
 - c) No adverse effects to the Soldiers' & Airmen's Home National Cemetery
 - d) No adverse effects to archaeological sites

In support of this request, ANMC submits the following documents to the DC SHPO:

- Section 106 Initiation Letter/Email
- NHPA Section 106 Process Submission for Federal Government Project in the District of Columbia
- SAHNC Archaeological Resources and Areas of Archaeological Potential, April 2025

Concurrent with this submission, ANMC sends notifications to consulting parties and the public of the initiation of a 30-day comment period. The notices and Section 106 documentation will be on the agency's website: <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/About/Policies-and-Public-Notices/Public-Notices>



SAHNC Main Entrance Gate after rehabilitation, July 19, 2023
(U.S. Army photo, Caitlin Smith)