

MEMORANDUM

TO: District of Columbia Zoning Commission

FROM: Karen Thomas, Case Manager
JL Joel Lawson, Associate Director Development Review

DATE: April 5, 2016

SUBJECT: FMBZA 19130 – **OP Supplemental Report C and Revised Recommendation**
Application of the Government of the Russian Federation, pursuant to 11 DCMR § 1002 and §206 of the Foreign Missions Act

At the conclusion of the Board's hearing on March 1, 2016, the Board advised the Applicant to collaborate with the Historic Preservation staff on another alternative for the proposed fence design.

The applicant and OP subsequently met on location on March 11, 2016 and methodically measured and discussed the fencing option along the California Street and Connecticut Avenue frontages, which have variable balustrade heights.

After exploring a number of alternative solutions, the applicant has agreed to a revised proposal that includes a modest alteration to the existing balustrade along the most visually prominent south elevation which would allow that balustrade to serve as the desired security barrier. The perimeter wall and balustrade currently measures between 7'11" and 8'7" in height from the surrounding public sidewalk. By installing a strip of limestone at the base of the balustrade, angled at 45 degrees, it would prevent intruders from being able to step up and surmount the balustrade, such that the existing wall would serve as the needed security barrier without any additional fencing on top or behind the balustrade. The balustrade would be similarly modified on the Connecticut Avenue side elevation for the first two bays, at which point the grade rises and the wall and balustrade would no longer provide sufficient height. At this point, a new fence would be installed behind the balustrade that would align with and match the existing decorative fence at the vehicular entrance.

The solution was developed with input from OP's Associate Director of Historic Preservation, who has confirmed that it satisfies the primary goal of the Historic Preservation Review Board to retain the open view of the mansion as seen from the south. As the house is less visible from the side, due to topography, sight lines and existing trees, the taller fence in this location would not impact important views or characteristics of the property.

Accordingly, the applicant's modified proposal addresses the applicant's security concerns and substantially complies with District and Federal regulations governing historic preservation of the District's historic landmarks (§§ 1001.3, 1001.4) and the municipal interest (§ 1001.7). OP greatly appreciates the applicant's cooperation in finding this acceptable solution.

As such, OP recommends that the FMBZA **not disapprove** the applicant's fence design submitted to the record on April 5, 2016.