



**U.S. COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS**  
TENNIS PAVILION PROPOSAL



2019

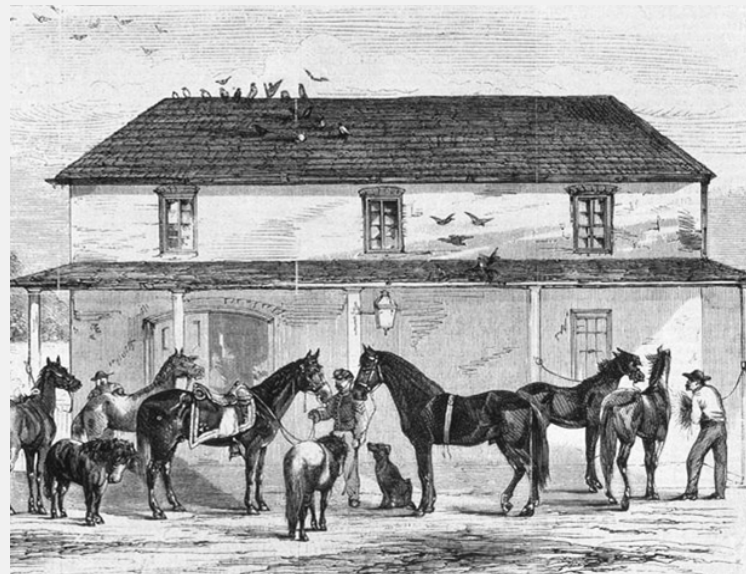




## PROPOSAL OVERVIEW:

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- *Introduction*
  - *History of the White House Grounds*
  - *Existing Landscape and Components*
  - *Design Proposal*
  - *Summary*
- 





# INTRODUCTION

*Over the past two centuries, the White House and its gardens and grounds have become a national symbol of the beauty and strength of America.*

*As we continue to cultivate the growth and development of the eighteen acres, it is necessary to take a visionary look at the future use, serviceability, and functionality of the grounds.*

*As such, we are introducing a proposal to enhance and modernize the existing landscape of the lower South Grounds.*







## HISTORY OF THE GROUNDS



*From Thomas Jefferson, the first White House gardener, to Andrew Jackson, whose administration began tree planting, the grounds have been cultivated to deliver joy and pride to both the inhabitants of the house and the American people.*

*By the twentieth century, Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. initiated the tenet that preservation of the landscape should be strategically balanced against the growing demands on the natural environment.*

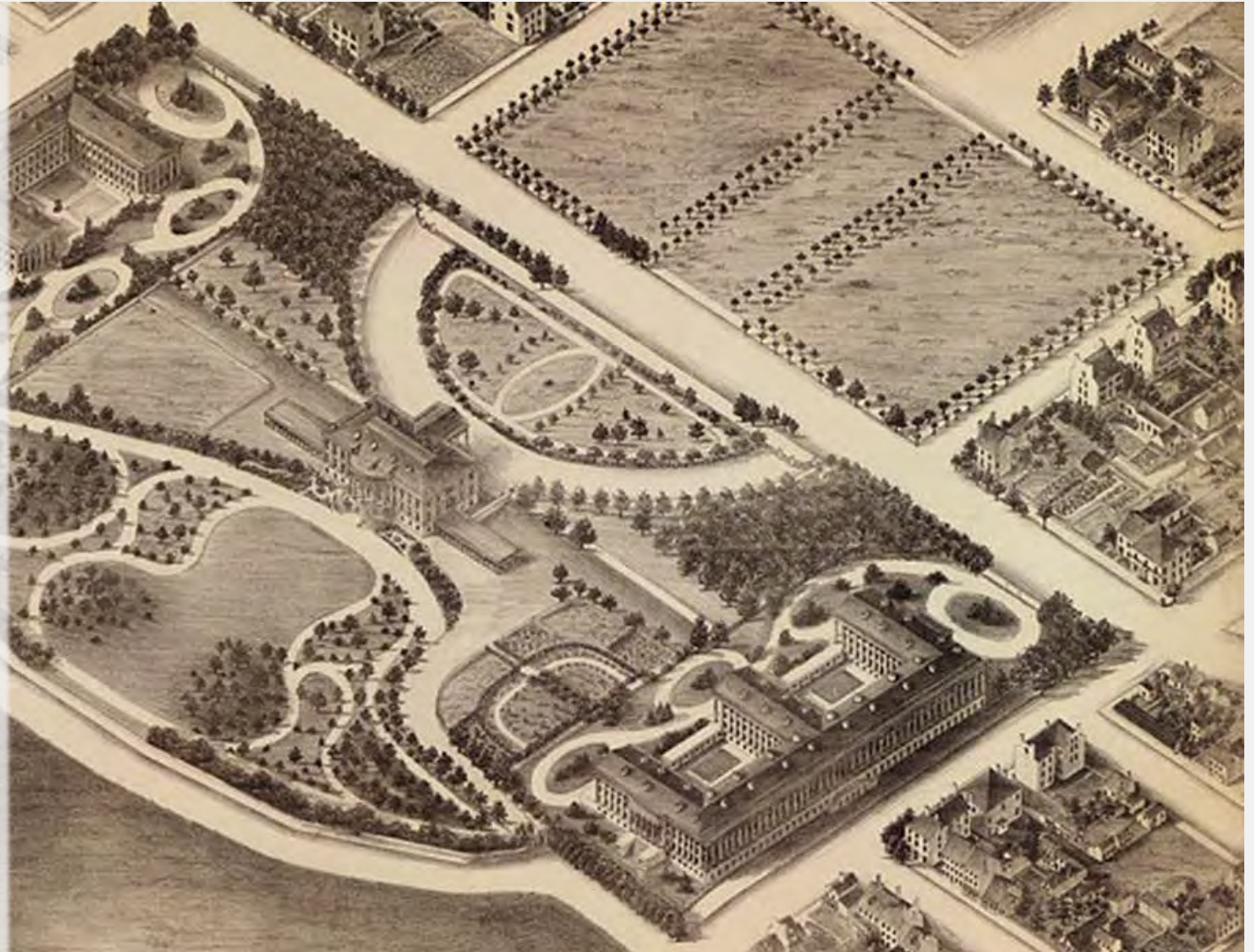




## HISTORY OF THE GROUNDS

*The legacy of the grounds and gardens is an essential component in the story of the White House.*

*Many of the most iconic images of the executive mansion are framed within the matured and cultivated scenery, and the landscape is, and should remain, representative of the centuries of historic change.*



*Isometric View of the President's House, Unknown artist, 1857*

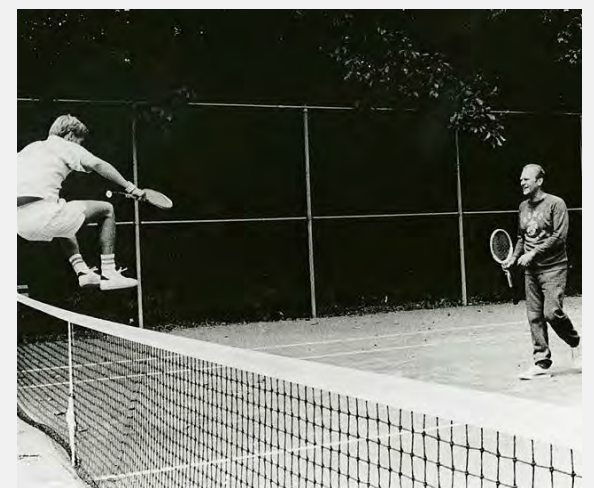
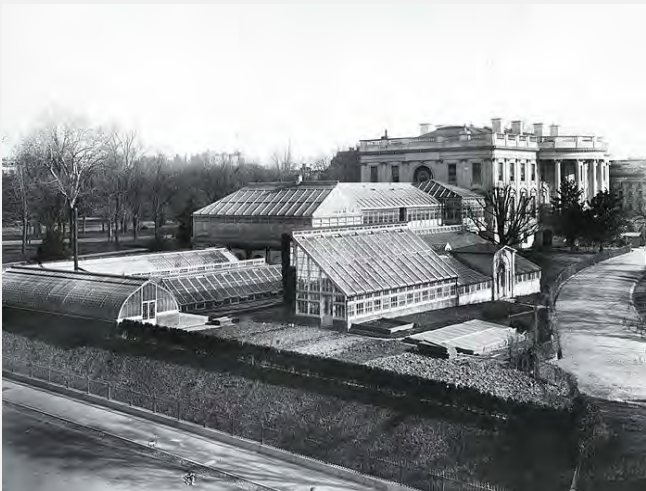




## HISTORY OF THE GROUNDS



*The gardens have become a quiet witness to change – both cultural and aesthetic - and now have been a backdrop for state functions, presidential summits, family recreational activities, Easter Egg Rolls, and more.*







## EXISTING LANDSCAPE & COMPONENTS

*The South Grounds has consistently maintained a dual role in the support of the presidency: providing privacy and recreational space for the first families while also acting as an area from which the president and first lady can showcase and discharge their traditional duties as national hosts.*







## EXISTING LANDSCAPE & COMPONENTS

### NPS Maintenance Building:

Currently in place on the lower South Grounds is a building utilized by the National Park Service in their role as maintainers of the ornamental landscape.

A

### The Children's Garden:

Created by Lady Bird Johnson in 1969, it houses a secluded and singular garden area featuring the handprints of presidential grandchildren.

B

### Tennis/Basketball Court & Outbuilding:

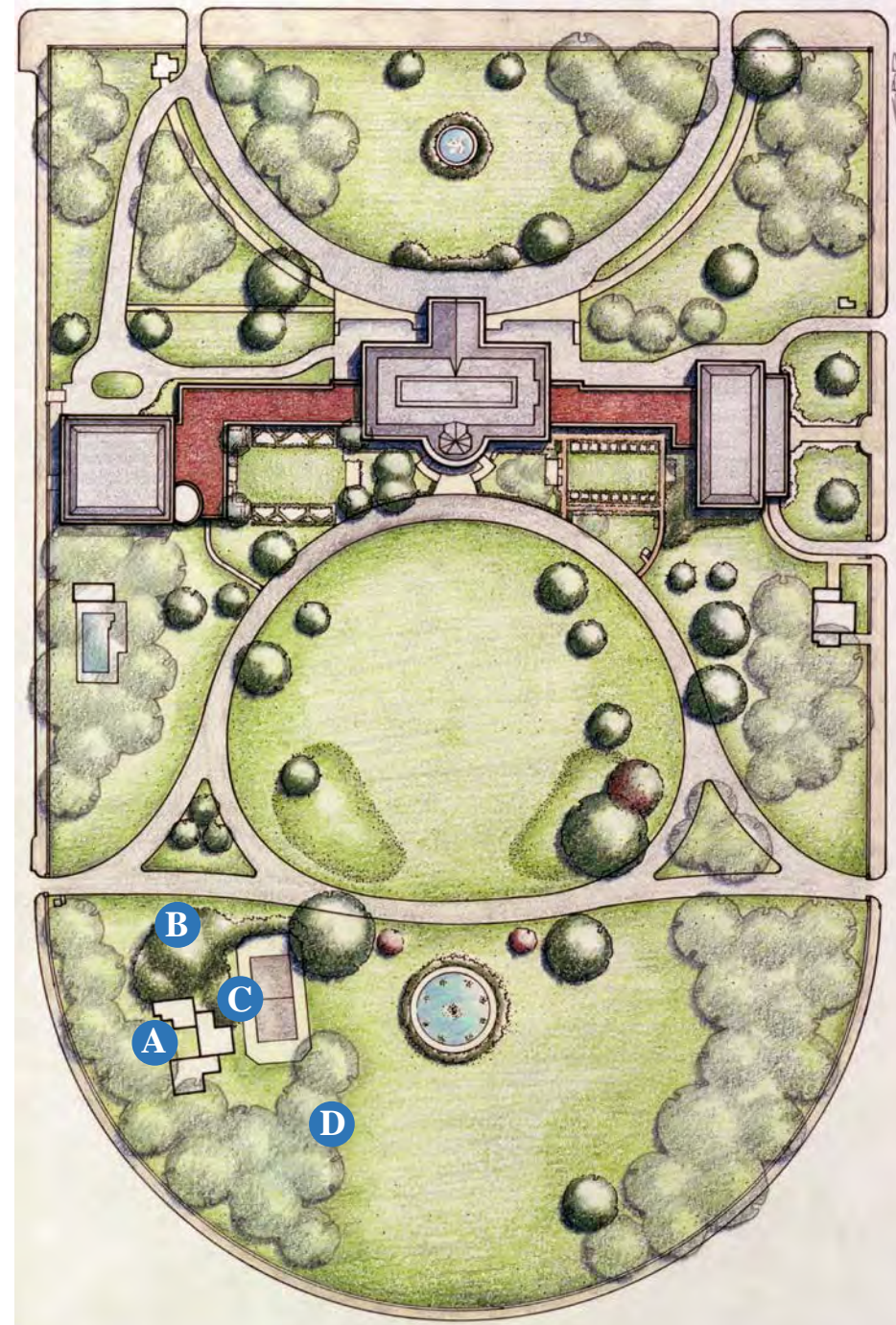
Since the early twentieth century, the White House tennis and basketball court has traditionally offered a place of recreation and activity within the busy framework of the lives of first families. Adjacent to the court stand a restroom/storage outbuilding.

C

### The Kitchen Garden:

The Kitchen Garden was installed by Michelle Obama to signify the importance of healthy eating and showcase the best of America's horticultural heritage. The tradition continues today with the encouragement of First Lady Melania Trump.

D







## EXISTING LANDSCAPE & COMPONENTS

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## EXISTING LANDSCAPE & COMPONENTS

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## EXISTING LANDSCAPE & COMPONENTS

### **Tennis/Basketball Court & Outbuilding**

*Since the early twentieth century, the White House tennis and basketball court has traditionally offered a place of recreation and activity within the busy framework of the lives of first families. Adjacent to the court stand a restroom/storage outbuilding.*







## EXISTING LANDSCAPE & COMPONENTS



### **Tennis/Basketball Court & Outbuilding**

*(Additional photography of  
the court and outbuilding)*







## EXISTING LANDSCAPE & COMPONENTS

### **The Kitchen Garden:**

*The Kitchen Garden was installed by Michelle Obama to signify the importance of healthy eating and showcase the best of America's horticultural heritage. The tradition continues today with the encouragement of First Lady Melania Trump.*







## DESIGN PROPOSAL

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*“The environment after all is where we all meet; where we all have a mutual interest; it is the one thing all of us share.” - Lady Bird Johnson*

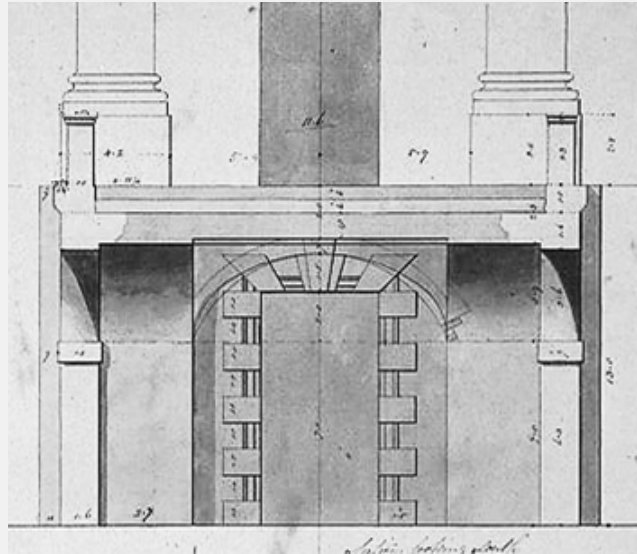
*Emphasizing the cultural and historic character of the White House and its grounds is a vitally important mission for us all. Providing for the maintenance of the landscape while enhancing the architectural elements of the existing buildings and locales demonstrates our responsibility to both the past and the future of the White House inhabitants and the American people.*





## DESIGN PROPOSAL

*The proposal to construct two new structures on the South Grounds is based on the necessity to modernize and elevate the current buildings. The proposed designs are specifically informed by the existing architecture of the White House, including the East and West Colonnades, fan windows, columns, stonework, and cornices. Architectural inspiration is drawn from the symbolic images of the White House that are so recognizable to the American public.*







## DESIGN PROPOSAL

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*The Tennis Pavilion would function as both a place of leisure and a gathering area linking the independent garden areas (Kitchen Garden and Children's Garden) on the South Grounds. It would provide the connecting framework for a larger, more integrated landscape.*

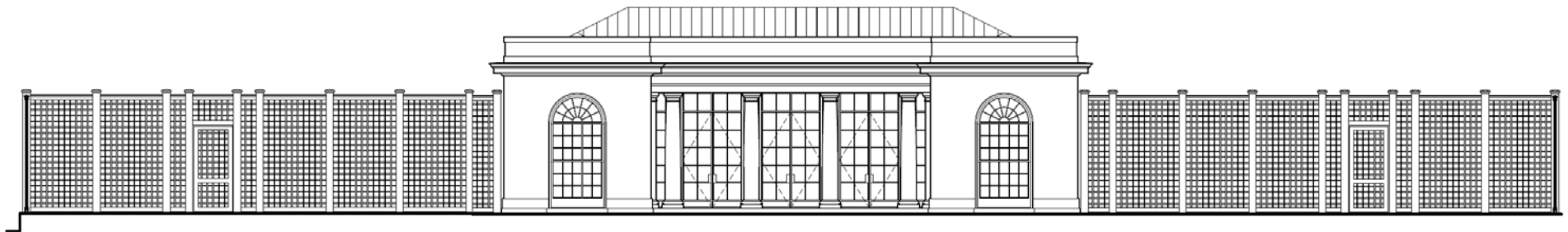
TENNIS PAVILION ELEVATION RENDERING

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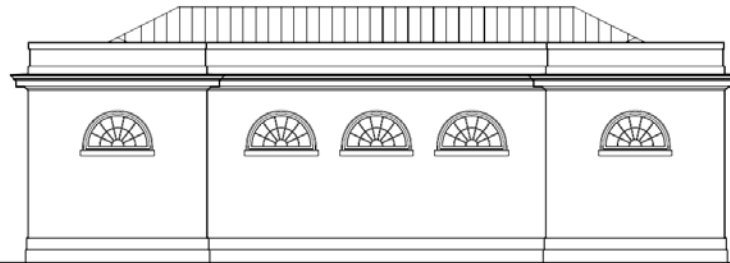




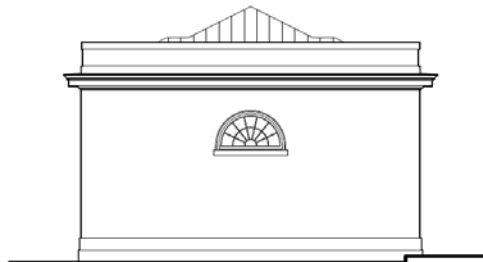
# DESIGN PROPOSAL



1 FRONT ELEVATION  
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"



2 REAR ELEVATION  
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"



3 SOUTH ELEVATION  
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"



4 NORTH ELEVATION  
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

TENNIS PAVILION ELEVATIONS





# DESIGN PROPOSAL

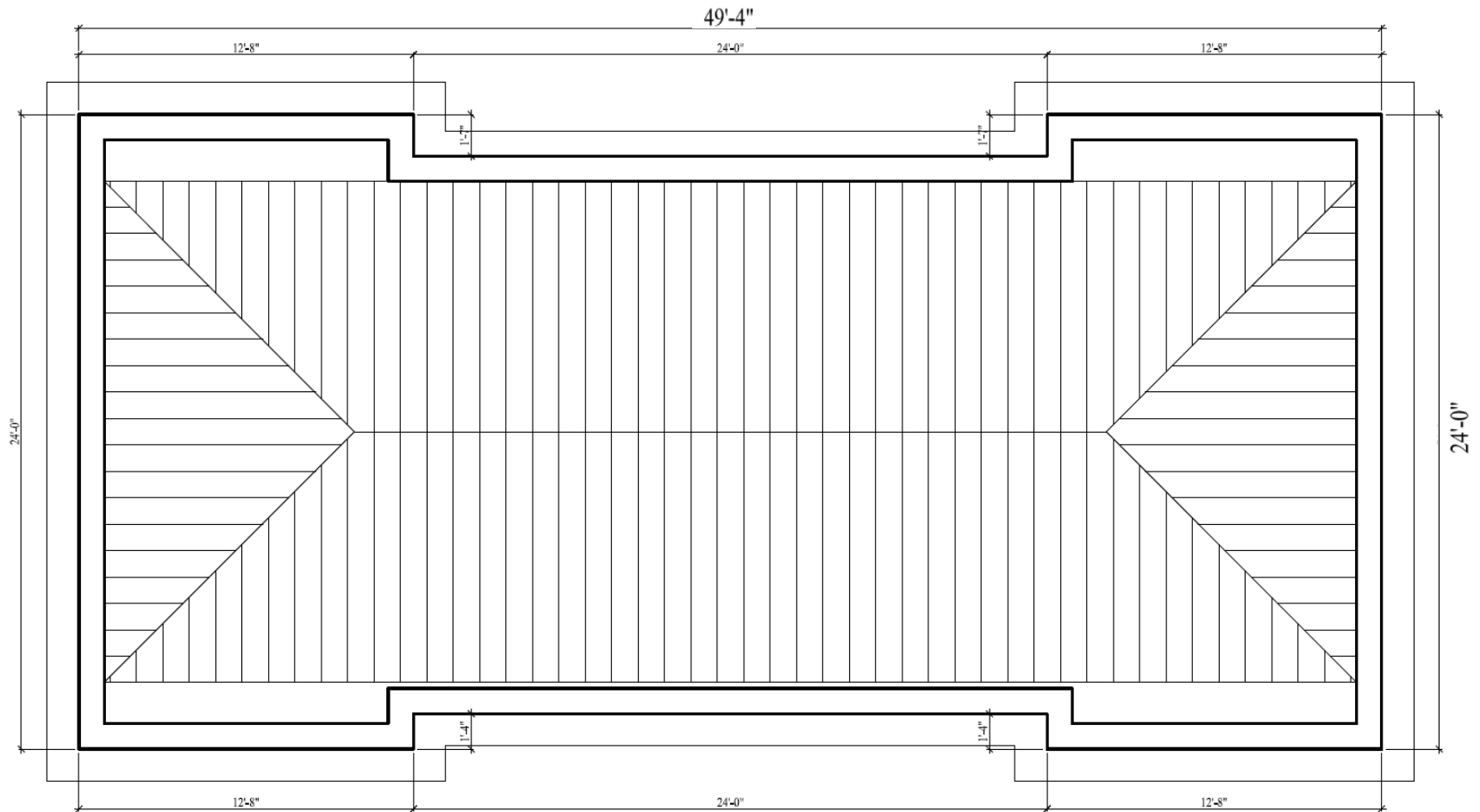


TENNIS PAVILION ELEVATIONS





# DESIGN PROPOSAL

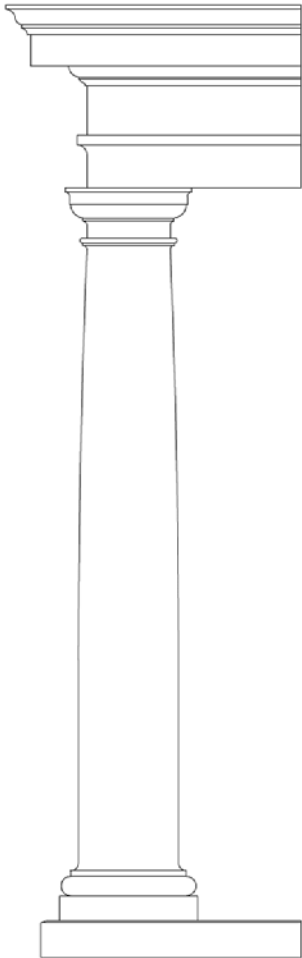


TENNIS PAVILION PLAN VIEW





# DESIGN PROPOSAL



DORIC ORDER - COLUMNS





## DESIGN PROPOSAL

*The restructured maintenance building will offer a more professional and aesthetically pleasing facility from which the National Park Service can discharge their duties.*

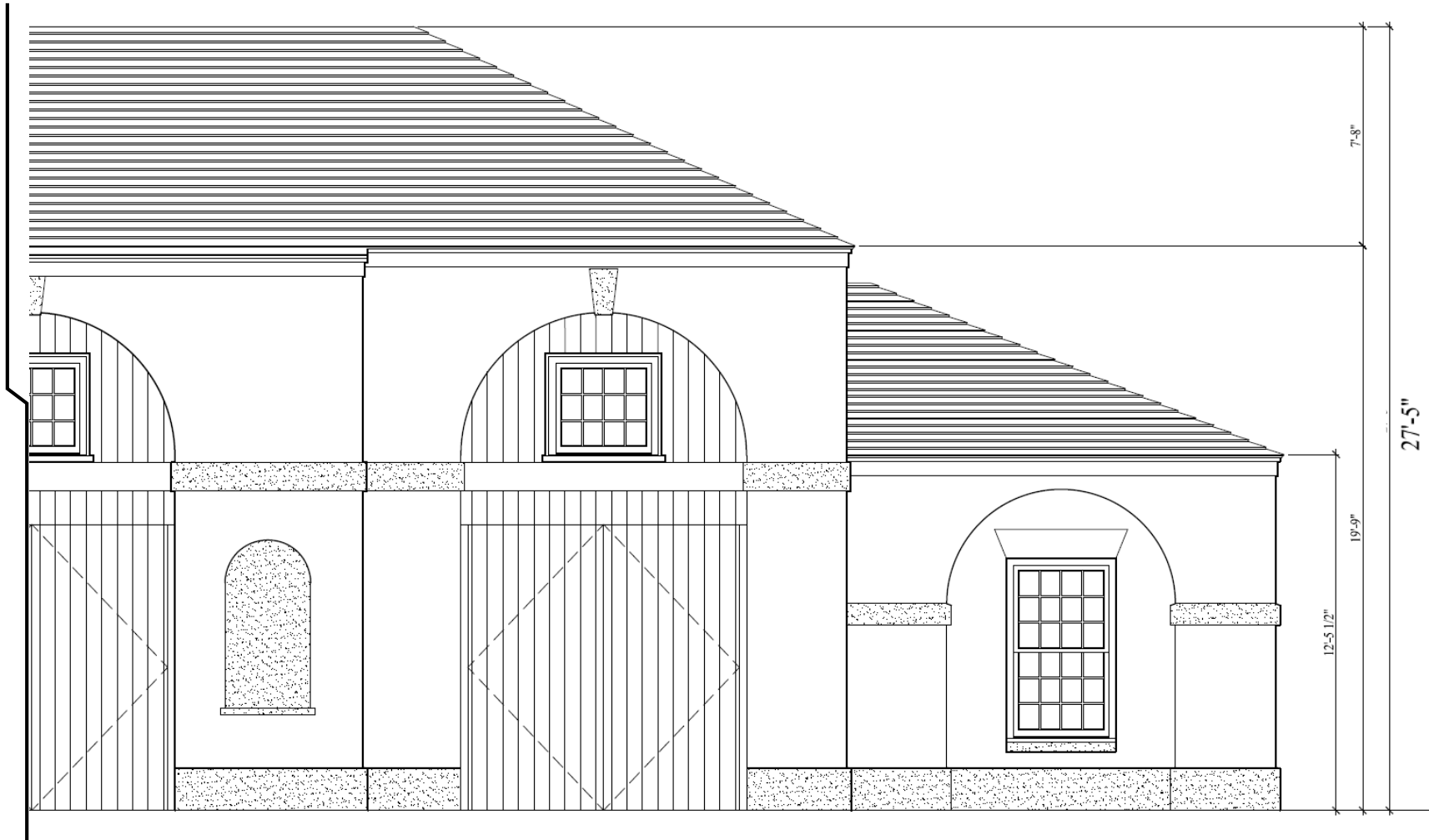


PONY SHED ELEVATION RENDERING





# DESIGN PROPOSAL

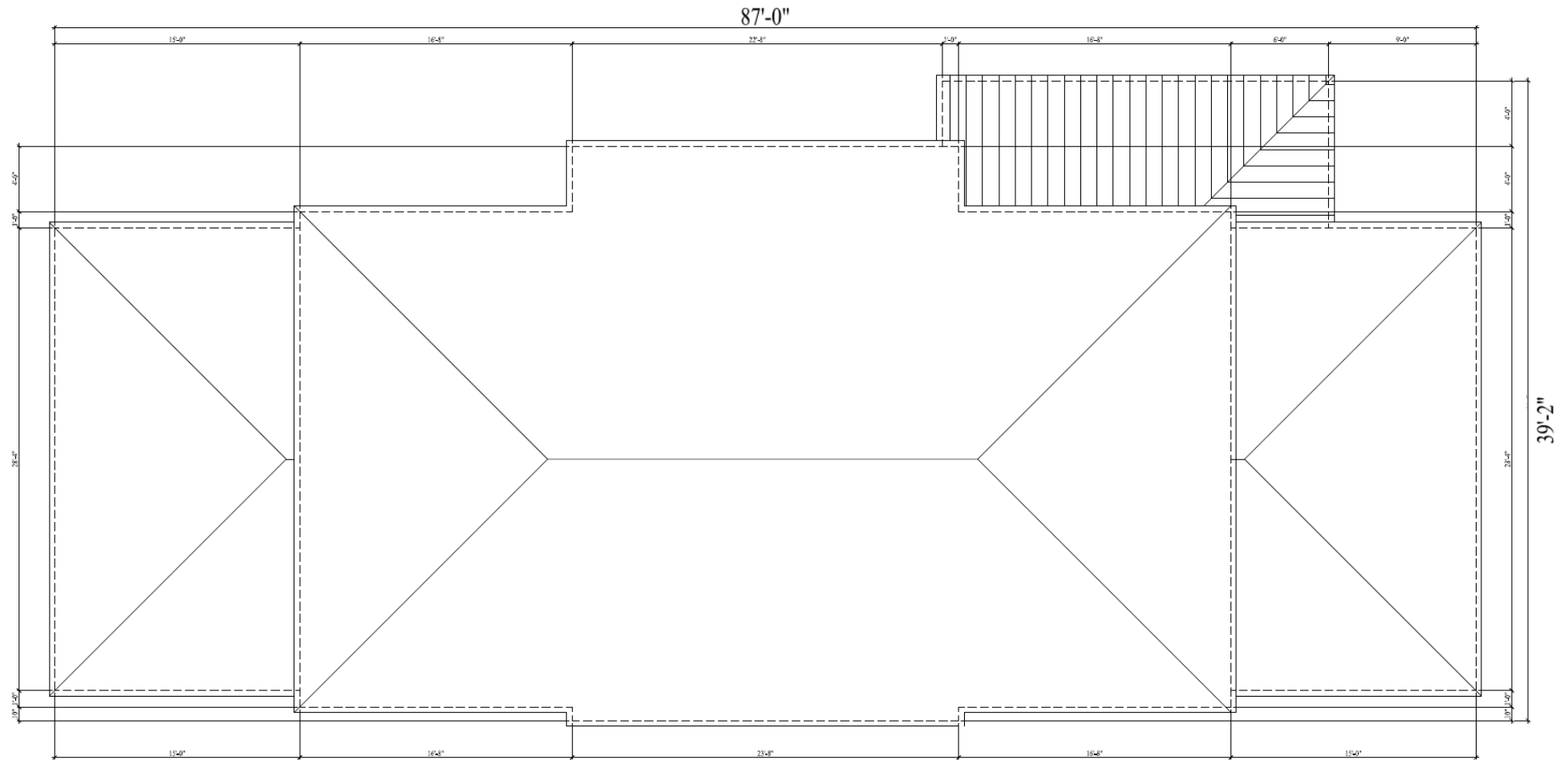


TENNIS PAVILION ELEVATIONS





# DESIGN PROPOSAL



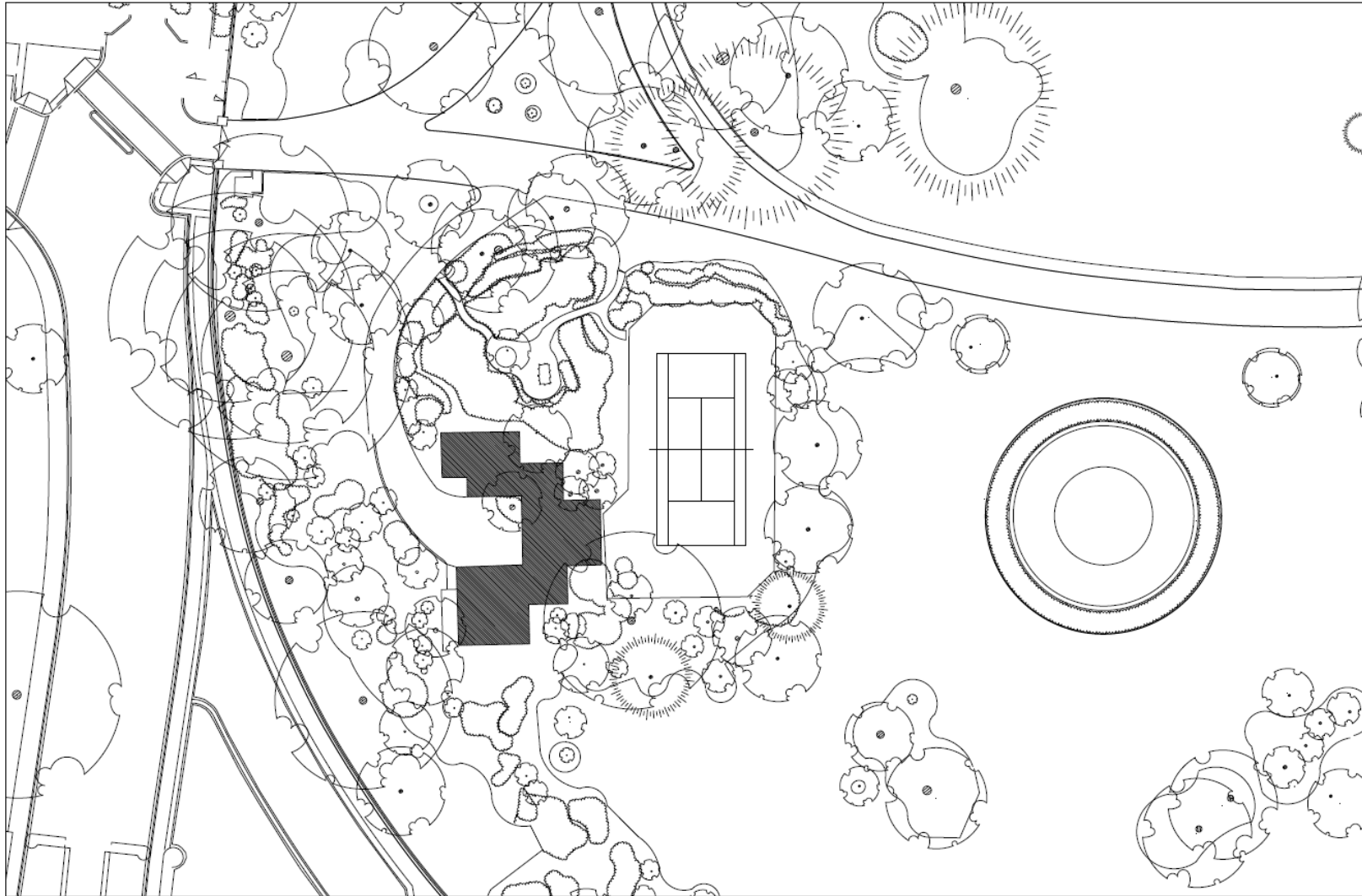
TENNIS PAVILION PLAN VIEW





## DESIGN PROPOSAL

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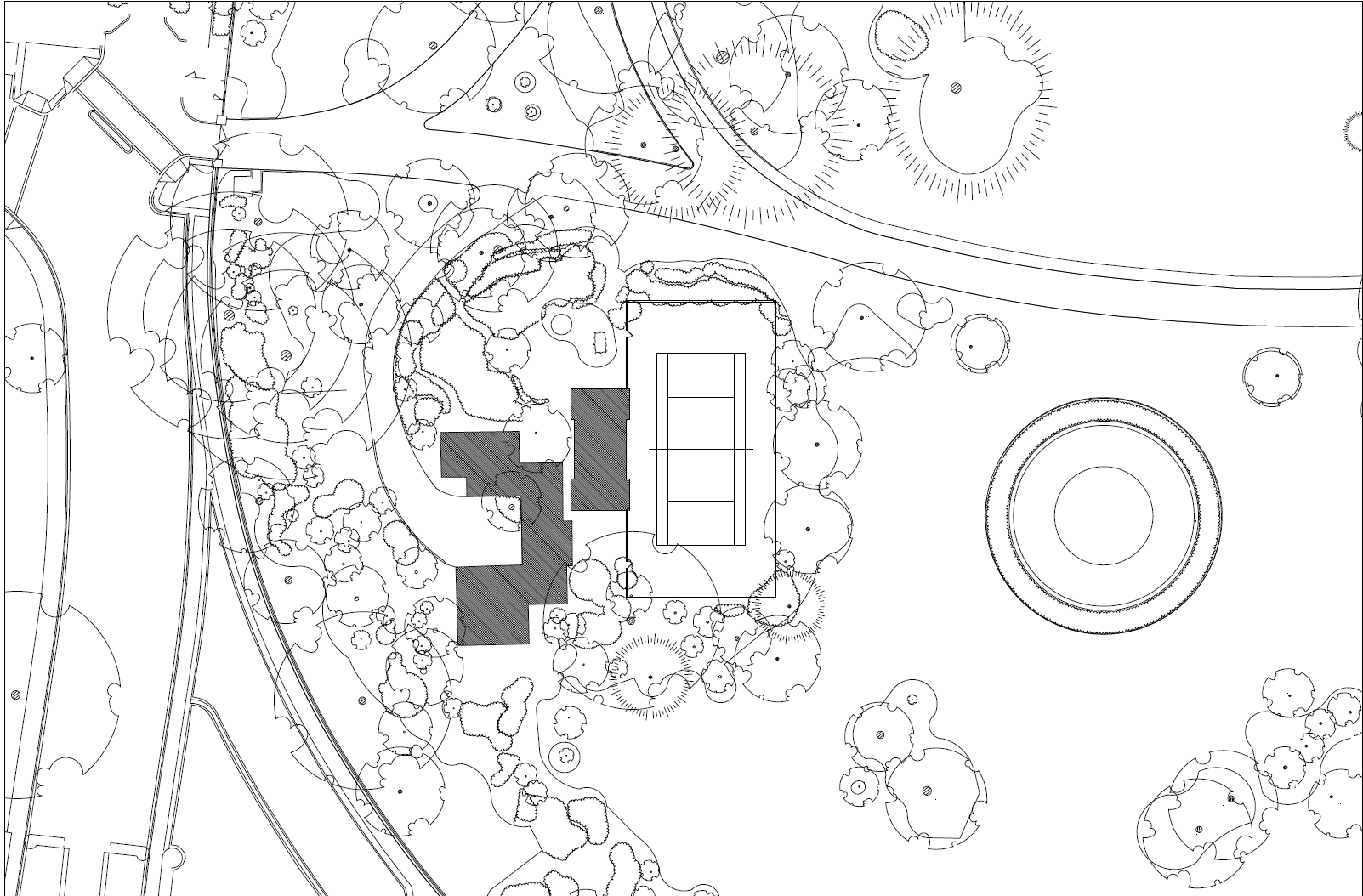
EXISTING SITE PLAN

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## DESIGN PROPOSAL

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SITE PLAN – PHASE 1

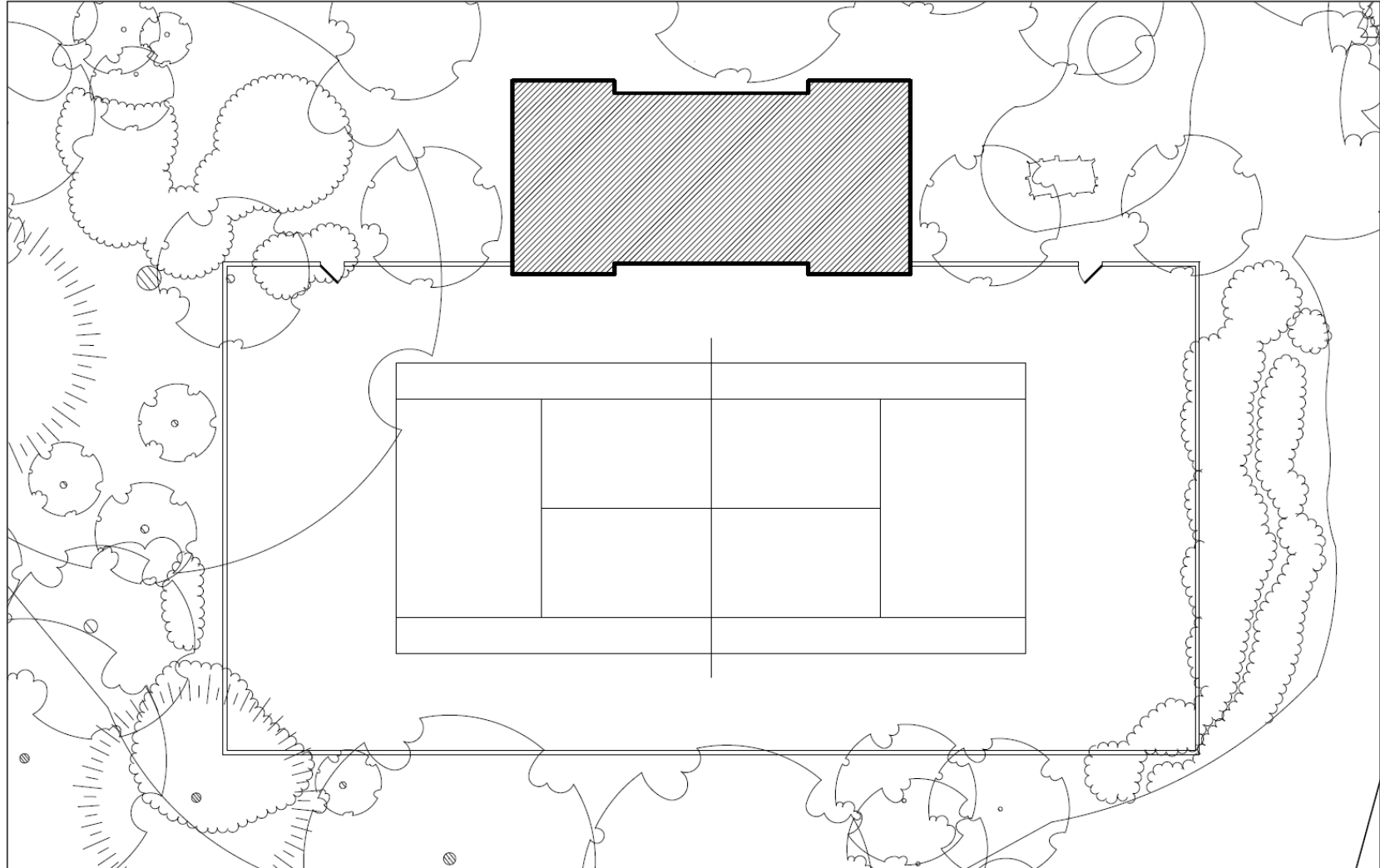
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## DESIGN PROPOSAL

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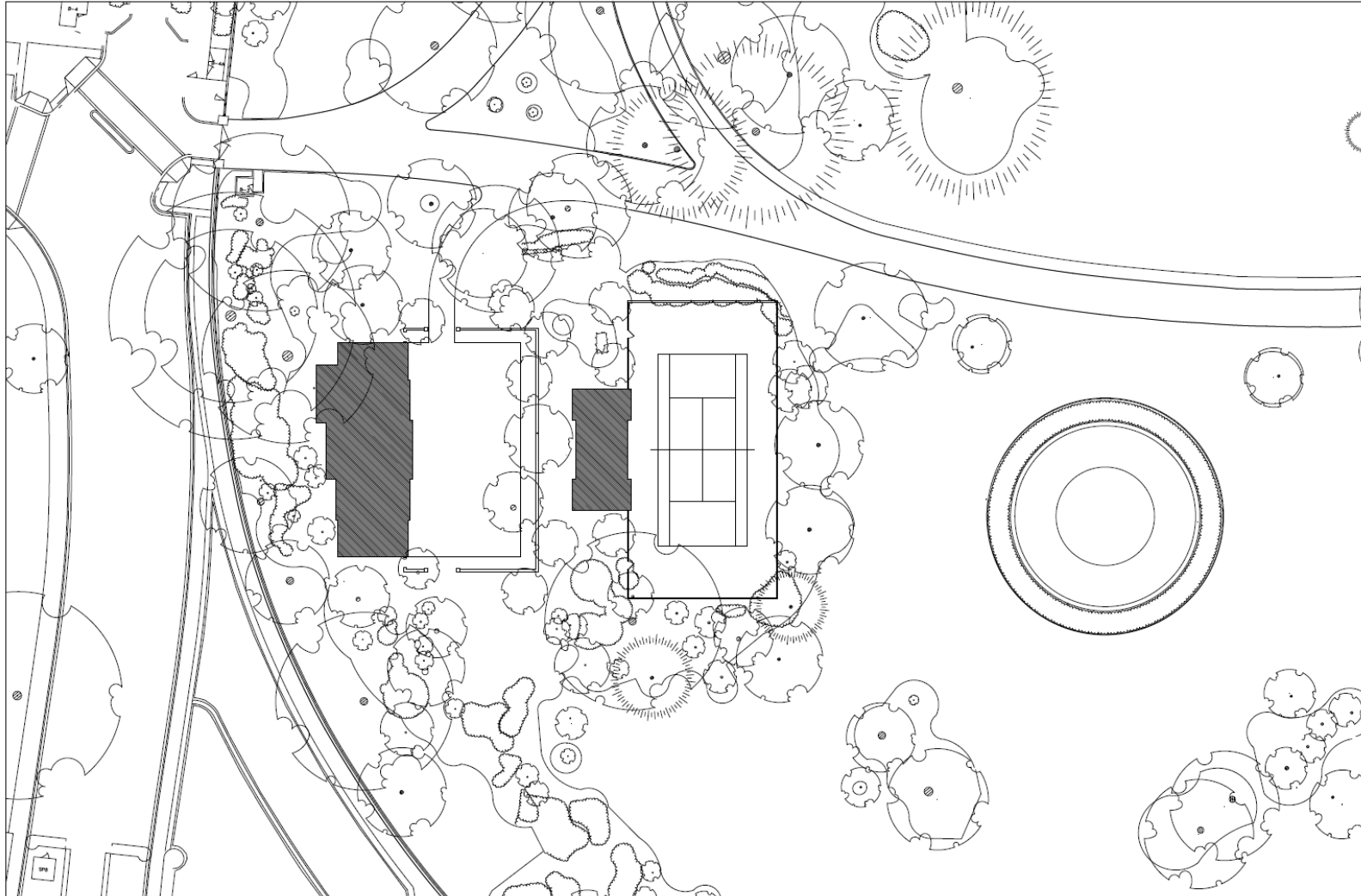
SITE PLAN – PHASE 1

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## DESIGN PROPOSAL

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SITE PLAN – PHASE 2

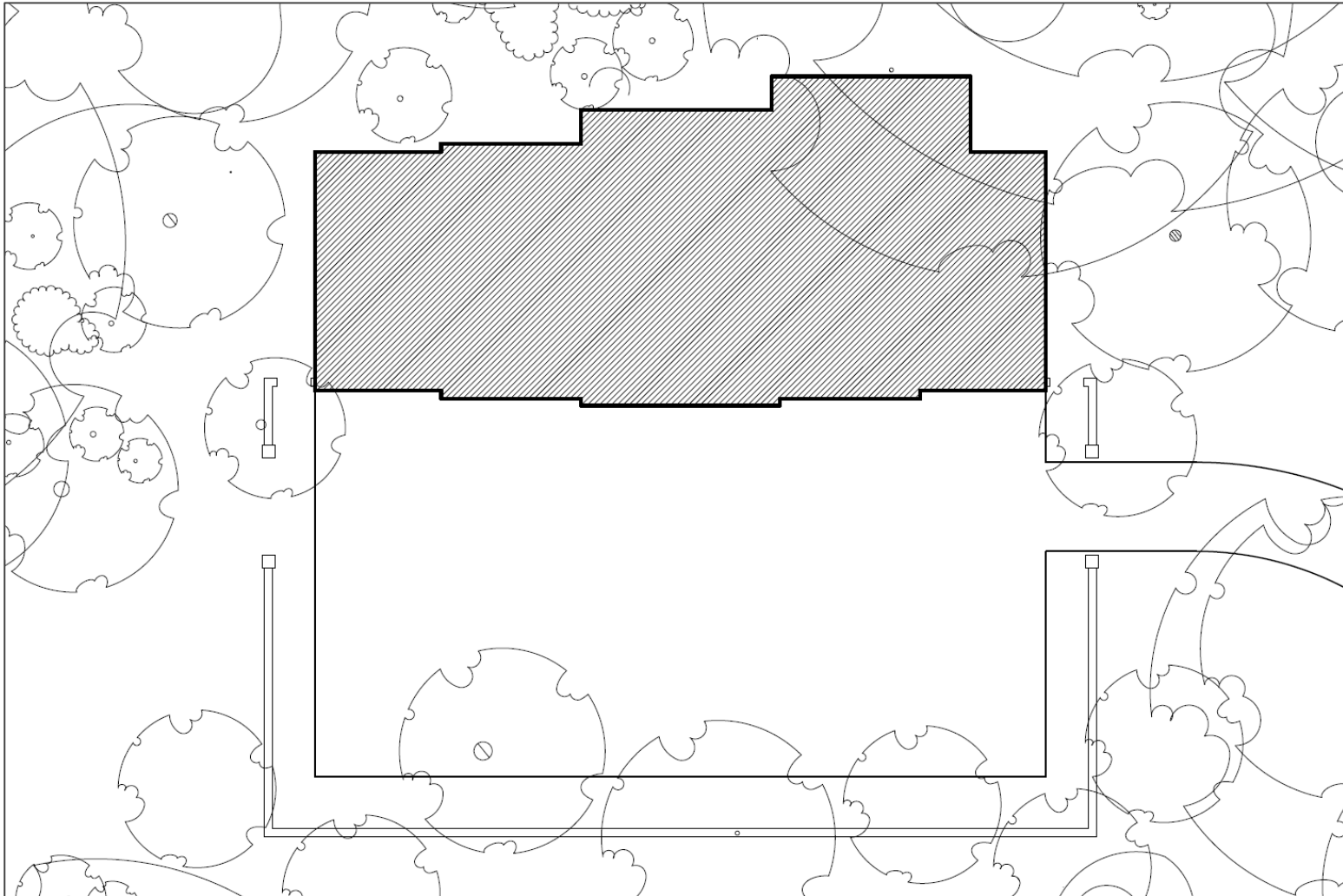
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## DESIGN PROPOSAL

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SITE PLAN – PHASE 2

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# LANDSCAPE DESIGN PROPOSAL

## *Landscape Goals:*

*While the parts of these defined projects are contrasting in their program of uses - contemplative, active recreation, and educational – the well known established plantings of specimen evergreen and shade trees will continue to be relied on to unify this landscape composition in keeping with the larger South Grounds landscape. Intimately scaled understory shrubs and herbaceous plantings as necessary, would be utilized to further enliven the specific individual character of these planned spaces.*



Holly



Yew



Magnolia



Saucer Magnolia





# LANDSCAPE DESIGN PROPOSAL

## The Children's Garden: \_\_\_\_\_

A

*The planned program improvements here allow for an opportunity to integrate the path circulation of the Children's Garden with a sensitively planted connection to the north elevation of the Tennis Pavilion while ensuring the unique context of this historic landscape space.*

*Opportunity here to introduce lower scaled native shrub and herbaceous seasonal plantings that were so central to the environmental causes of Lady Bird Johnson, all the while preserving the original free-form stone paths and intimately scaled water feature.*

## Tennis/Basketball Court & Outbuilding: \_\_\_\_\_

B

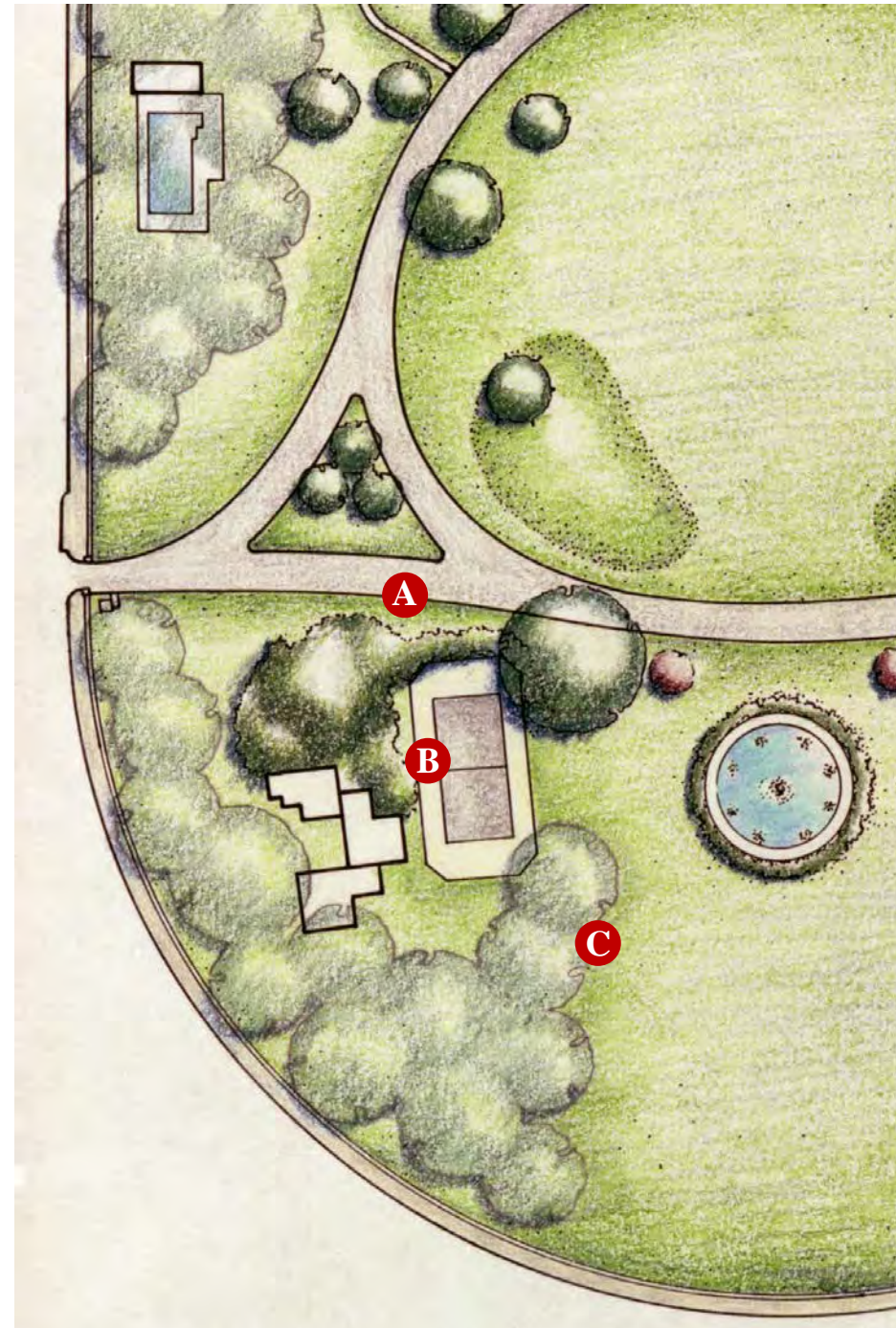
*The court is presently sited tucked in a densely planted perimeter of mostly holly trees. Over time in places, the light limiting black-out fabric has caused the thinning out of foliage. Goal here would be to maintain the integrity of the existing established plantings while under-planting as necessary the court borders with smaller holly shrubs to provide a consistent perimeter backdrop. Net result will be for the court presence and perimeter fencing to join seamlessly into the larger story of the lower South Grounds park plantings.*

## The Kitchen Garden: \_\_\_\_\_

C

*The graphic energy of patterns and joyful plantings here are entirely unique to the White House landscape in both in the continuing hands-on program function and symbolism of promoting healthy eating.*

*Goal of landscape here would be to create a visual and functional lawn connection between this singular garden space with the planned Tennis Pavilion sited just to the north.*







## SUMMARY



*Today we are faced with the necessity of modernizing an historic area to meet the needs of a growing presidency. The proposal to renovate the tennis/basketball court and construction of the Tennis Pavilion and maintenance building reflect a desire to unify the topography and celebrate the beauty of the area. By purposefully augmenting the scenery to enhance and unify the existing components of the lower South Grounds, we compliment the heritage and history of the White House landscape.*





## SUMMARY

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*We have the most beautiful flowers & grounds imaginable, and company & excitement enough, to turn a wiser head than my own.*

*- Mary Todd Lincoln*





COMMISSION FOR THE FINE ARTS  
TENNIS PAVILION PROPOSAL



*Thank You*