National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cultural Landscape Report for Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church: Part 2

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HUNTER RESEARCH
Historical Resource Consultants

Cultural Landscape Report for Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church National Historic Site

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Part 2: Landscape Treatment Recommendations



Cultural Landscape Report

Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church National Historic Site

Independence National Historical Park

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The Secretary of the Interior is "...authorized to develop, as part of the national historic site, federally owned lands within said block by landscaping in such manner as to provide a dignified open setting for Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church."

Public Law 85-709,
August 21, 1958

Part 2: Landscape Treatment Recommendations

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National Park Service, Boston, Massachusetts, 2024

FINAL

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Cover Photo: Gloria Dei Church, looking east with wharves and ships' masts in the background. *Circa* 1854.

Title Page: I. Acrelius. *The Swedes' Church Wicaco*. Engraving. 1759.

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FOREWORD

Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church National Historic Site is a religious, historical, and natural oasis in the bustling riverfront area of Philadelphia. The Gloria Dei Church is the oldest surviving church in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The splendor of the Church's architecture attests to the Swedish colonists who decided to build the church and to the church leaders and parishioners who have relentlessly preserved the church and its churchyard over a period of more than 300 years.

I extend a gracious thank you to Patrick Harshbarger of Hunter Research, Inc. and David Sitler of ETM Associates for numerous site visits, historical research, convening interviews and a 4-hour in-person workshop with NPS staff and the Gloria Dei Church congregation, and developing Landscape Treatment Recommendations that effectively balance the legislative mandate on the historical site with the needs of the congregation and the larger community of visitors.

This Cultural Landscape Report is a great management tool. It compiles the history of the site, documents changes made over time, and establishes what is important to preserve and what is in dire need of rehabilitation. In the future, as we embark on the work of implementing a rehabilitation of the Gloria Dei Church National Historic Site landscape, this report will be an invaluable guide in our endeavor.

Steven D. Sims
Superintendent
Independence National Historical Park
Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial
Gloria Dei Church National Historic Site
Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site

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The authors are especially grateful to the congregation of Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Episcopal Church and the members of the Historic Gloria Dei Preservation Corporation for their dedication to the care of the church's facilities and grounds. In particular, we would like to acknowledge those who participated in interviews and a workshop held jointly in November 2023 with the consultant team and NPS staff. The Reverend Christopher Micklewright, Sexton Jim Minacci and Sexton Paula Minacci were instrumental in organizing the workshop and opening Riverside Hall for a stimulating evening of discussion about the past, present and future of Gloria Dei's landscape. Others who generously shared their passion, knowledge and valuable perspectives included Ann Brilliant, Troy L. Cellmer, Teresa Delaney, Jill Duink, Amy Grant, John Gross, Allen Hauptman, Frances Kauffman, Amy Liberi, Chris Mullen, Anne L. Prosseca, Lisa Reeves, Candace Roberts, Mark Roberts, Michael Schreiber, Amanda Stevenson, Cindy Temple, Cathy Ufheil, Jeanette Woehr and Richard Woehr.

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INTRODUCTION

Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church National Historic Site (GLDE) honors the oldest surviving church in Pennsylvania and the Mid-Atlantic's connections to early Swedish settlement (Figure 0.1). Scandinavian colonists established the congregation in 1677 and built the existing Flemish-bond brick church between 1698 and 1700. After serving as a Swedish Lutheran church for nearly 150 years, Gloria Dei became an Episcopal church in 1845, adapting to a changing urban environment. Congress designated Gloria Dei as a National Historic Site in 1942.[1]

Presently, Gloria Dei is an active congregation that owns and manages a 1.5-acre historic Churchyard that is at the core of the Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') National Historic Site. The Churchyard contains a burial ground that has been in continuous use since the 1670s and four brick buildings – Gloria Dei Church (built 1698-1700), the Rectory (built 1832-33), the Sexton's House (built circa 1850) and Riverside Hall (built 1864). The Churchyard is encompassed by an additional 3.3 acres of parkland, which has been owned and managed by the National Park Service (NPS) in cooperation with Gloria Dei since 1958. Congress authorized the acquisition of the additional parkland in order that Gloria Dei be preserved in a "dignified open setting."[2]

In meeting its legislative mandate, the NPS demolished a range of non-church-related buildings to create Gloria Dei's urban park in the late 1950s to mid-1960s. The surrounding parkland reached its current appearance based on landscape plans that NPS and Gloria Dei developed in phases from 1961 to 1978, reaching a culmination with a flurry of new plantings, hardscaping and construction of a



Figure 0.1. Gloria Dei's Churchyard is the historic core of the site. Buildings pictured from right to left are Gloria Dei Church, the Rectory and Riverside Hall. View looking northeast from the burial ground. March 2024.

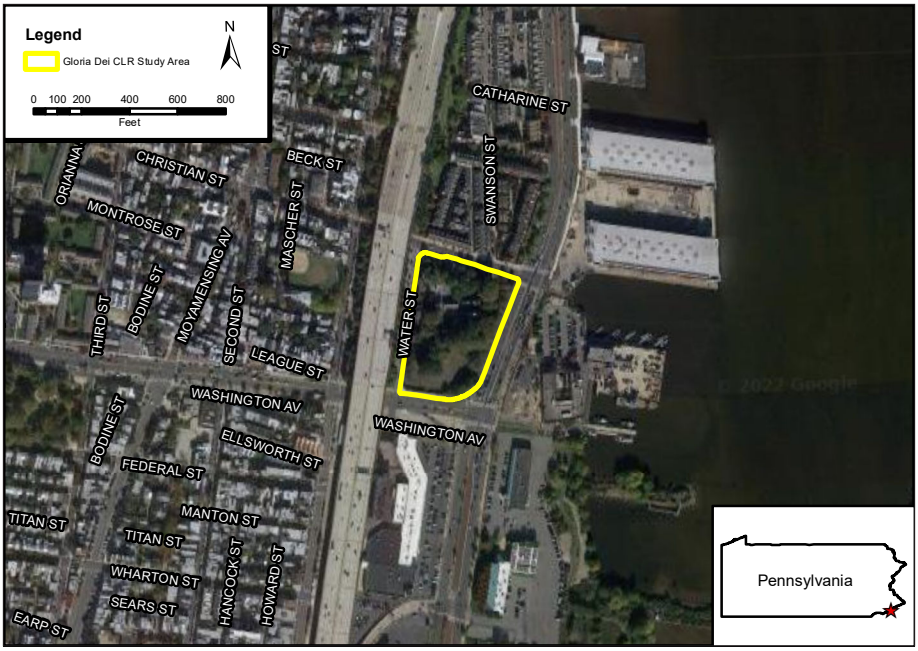


Figure 0.2. Location Map. Aerial photograph. 2022. Gloria Dei's location on a slightly raised terrace overlooking the Delaware River is one of its culturally key topographic and spatial characteristics.

perimeter barrier from 1978 to 1980. The closing off of South Swanson Street in front of the church and the conversion of the street into a forecourt area with a landscape and grading designed to screen the church from South Columbus Boulevard reached its conclusion in the late 1980s. The forecourt landscape design was a project led by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and the City of Philadelphia, in cooperation with Gloria Dei and the NPS. Together, the church and NPS-owned properties form the Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church National Historic Site, comprising an entire city block in South Philadelphia near the Delaware River waterfront, about 1 mile southeast of Center City (Figure 0.2). Gloria Dei is managed as a unit of Independence National Historical Park (INDE) and is physically separate from the main area of the park.[3]

This Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) Part 2 follows the CLR Part 1, which was authored by the same consultant team in 2022. The CLR Part 1 assembled and presented historical research, existing conditions assessments and analyses of historical significance and integrity related to the historic Churchyard complex and its park setting (Drawing 1). The purpose of the CLR Part 2 is to outline a program of tasks that renew Gloria Dei's urban park landscape, continuing the NPS's mission of preserving Gloria Dei within a dignified open setting.[4]

PURPOSE, SCOPE AND METHODS

The CLR is a valuable tool to assist in prioritizing park infrastructure needs by identifying the significance, historical integrity, existing threats and treatment priorities related to the landscape of Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') National Historic Site. Specifically, the CLR Part 2, building on the results of the CLR Part 1,

provides treatment guidance for short and long-term preservation of the NPS-owned portion of the site. The CLR Part 2's scope of work does not offer detailed treatment guidance for the Gloria Dei-owned and managed buildings and burial ground within the Churchyard. Some treatment recommendations for the NPS-owned portions of the site may have a bearing on the Gloria Dei-owned Churchyard, e.g., recommendations for changes in pedestrian circulation that may reopen gates and access points that have been closed for years, but the intent of the CLR Part 2 is to keep its focus on the 3.3 acres of NPS-owned parkland.

The CLR project is intended to support collaboration of NPS managers and stakeholders (including church leadership and congregational membership) through creating guidance for planning, implementing and interpreting Gloria Dei and its landscape. Improved knowledge of the resources ultimately leads to improved management decisions regarding the condition of the landscape and better visitor appreciation of the remarkable historic resources that the landscape is intended to protect and highlight.

The purpose of a CLR Part 2 treatment plan is to offer guidance and recommend specific treatment tasks for preserving and improving the landscape's characteristics and features in the context of Gloria Dei's significance, existing conditions and current and future uses. The overall intent is to provide a sound basis for NPS stewardship of the grounds, working in collaboration with Gloria Dei. The scope of the treatment tasks described in this report through narrative and graphics are at a schematic level. In most instances, further planning and design is required for implementation. While the tasks may touch on some activities that may be characterized as maintenance, it is not the purpose of the CLR Part 2 to address routine maintenance such as tree pruning and lawn mowing that are necessary to the upkeep of the property.

The methods used in this report conform to A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Content, Process, and Techniques.[5] A cooperative and interactive effort informs the treatment recommendations. The consultant team conducted separate interviews with NPS staff and Gloria Dei leadership, followed by a workshop involving both in November 2023. The 4-hour-long workshop, attended by more than 30 individuals, offered a lively and informative discussion of current use and threats to the landscape, as well as visions for its future. The findings from the interviews and workshop have been carefully considered by the authors and inform the following discussions of existing conditions, potential threats and recommended treatments.

This CLR Part 2 has been prepared in full awareness of the planning undertaken in 2017 by Community Design Collaborative (CDC), a volunteer organization composed of design professionals. Their reimagining of the Gloria Dei landscape was undertaken on behalf of the Historic Gloria Dei Preservation Corporation, a non-profit that advocates and raises funds to preserve Gloria Dei's historic

resources.[6] The authors acknowledge this prior effort and have considered its recommendations, many of which have merit; however, the CLR Part 2, per NPS guidelines, places an emphasis on an understanding of the cultural landscape and its resources and builds toward its own set of conclusions. Many of the CLR Part 2 recommendations align with the prior CDC study.

This report is organized into an introduction and three chapters. The following sections of this introduction offer an overview of the CLR Part 1's site history, existing conditions and analyses and evaluations. Readers are referred to the CLR Part 1 for a fuller treatment of these subjects. Since the CLR Part 1 was completed in 2022, existing conditions at Gloria Dei have not changed materially in the past two years; however, the existing conditions summary below offers some further observations and discussion of concerns and threats identified during the interviews and workshops. Chapter 1 articulates a landscape treatment framework that is an outgrowth of Gloria Dei's historical significance, character-defining features and an application of the NPS's mission statements, policies and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. Based on this treatment framework, the second chapter provides an overview of the landscape organized into five landscape treatment areas, with a focus on three of the five areas largely or entirely owned or managed by the NPS. It defines tasks to highlight and protect Gloria Dei's historic qualities and character-defining features and promote public accessibility and enjoyment of its unique and significant resources. The report concludes with a summary table of preferred options and treatment tasks that identifies priorities and suggests a sequence for implementation.

HISTORIC OVERVIEW

Gloria Dei's congregation traces its roots to the initial period of Swedish colonization of the Lower Delaware Valley between the 1630s and the 1650s, although a church was not established in this location, then known as Wicaco, until 1677. At this time, a log blockhouse was built, serving a dual purpose as a place of worship and defense. The congregation raised funds to build the existing architecturally distinguished Flemish-bond brick church to replace the blockhouse in 1698-1700. By this time, the adjacent ground to the south of the church was in use as a burial ground (Drawing 2). Gloria Dei was affiliated with the Church of Sweden (Svenska Kyrkan); its Lutheran pastors were trained in Sweden and appointed by the grace of the bishop in Uppsala, Sweden. Services were held in the Swedish language.[7]

During the first half of the 18th century, Gloria Dei was a rural church serving a small population of Swedish farmer and craftsman households on the southern edge of the rapidly growing city of Philadelphia (Figure 0.3). The congregation



Figure 0.3. I. Acrelius. *The Swedes' Church Wicaco*. 1759. This drawing, one of the earliest of the church, provides a perspective looking north with colonial Philadelphia in the background.

undertook to support the church and its pastor by acquiring neighboring land, eventually totaling over 25 acres and stretching westward from a narrow Delaware River frontage. By the 1750s, this land was beginning to be subdivided for lease or sale, providing the church with an important stream of income for nearly 75 years. During the 1730s, the congregation built a parsonage, located to the north of the present-day Rectory, which replaced the parsonage in the early 1830s. The parsonage is the first documentation of there being a permanent residence for clergy on the property. Church records mention a garden, well, stable and pasture for the pastor's use, as well as frequent upkeep of wood fences enclosing the burial ground and a garden, preventing livestock from entering these areas (Drawing 3). By the middle decades of the 18th century, activities associated with Philadelphia's commercial waterfront – warehousing, shipbuilding, manufacturing and the like – were coming to define the church neighborhood (Figure 0.4).[8]

Through several ups and downs, Gloria Dei remained a robust congregation until the late 1700s, but church membership declined as the descendants of the original Swedish and Finnish settlers became increasingly assimilated into Philadelphia society or moved away from the city. Gloria Dei remained a Swedish Lutheran congregation until 1831 and became affiliated with the Episcopal church in 1845. By this time, services were in English and the church mission had been reoriented to serve its Southwark neighborhood's working-class riverfront community (Figure 0.5). Between 1832 and 1864, the revived congregation built the Rectory, Sexton's House, Riverside Hall and a Sunday School, all of which survive except the Sunday School. By this time, the Churchyard was hemmed in on all sides by factories and row housing (Drawing 4).[9]



Figure 0.4. W.R. Birch. *Preparation for War to defend Commerce.* 1800. This view is looking north on South Swanson Street with Gloria Dei Church in the center background behind the scaffolding. It provides an accurate depiction of the church's location adjacent to an active commercial waterfront.

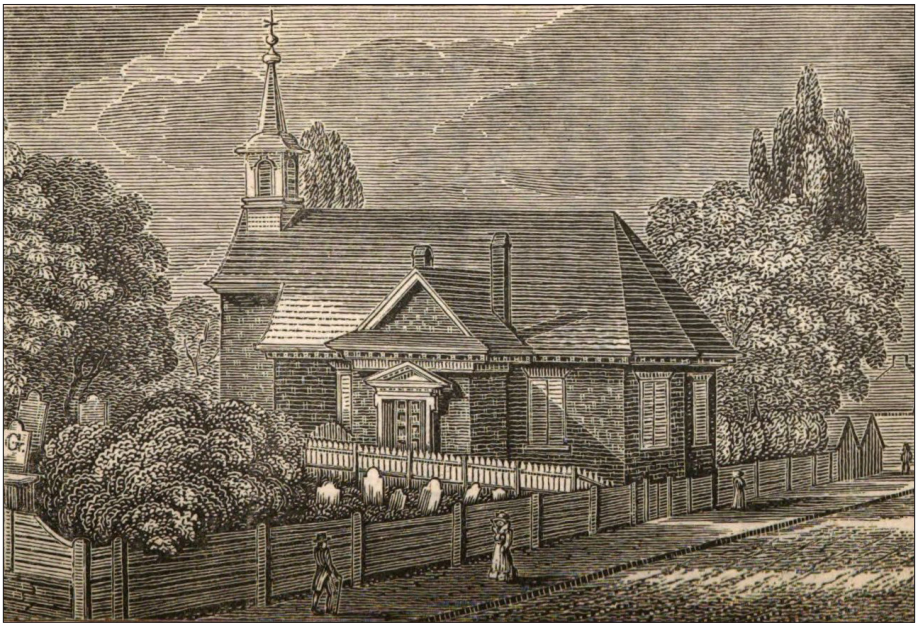


Figure 0.5. J.C. Clay. *South-east View of Wicaco Church.* 1835. This view looks northwest from South Swanson Street. The burial ground is neatly enclosed by a horizontal wood board fence while a picket fence lines the walk that served as the church's main entrance.



Figure 0.6. Aero Service Corporation, Aerial View, looking west with Columbus Boulevard in the foreground. *Circa* 1930. Gloria Dei Church, located right of center, is surrounded by urban development, including multi-story industrial buildings to its south in the area now occupied by the South Lawn.



Figure 0.7. J. E. Boucher, Aerial View, looking north with Columbus Boulevard to right of view. 1964. Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church Historic Site, with its steeple peaking above the trees, has started to take on more of a park-like character though a large industrial building and some rowhouses remain in the area of the South Lawn.

Interest in Gloria Dei's links to Swedish heritage reawakened in the middle decades of the 20th century with the congregation reinstituting many Swedish customs and celebrations. This occurred even as the surrounding neighborhood fell into economic decline and church leaders became concerned for the property's preservation and future (Drawing 5, Figure 0.6). In 1942, the church leadership gained federal recognition for Gloria Dei as a National Historic Site under the Historic Sites Act of 1935, only the second privately owned church in the nation to receive this honor. Church leaders followed up with a proactive and ultimately successful effort to protect Gloria Dei with a park-like buffer. Congress authorized NPS to acquire all of the neighboring properties within Gloria Dei's city block in 1958. The NPS subsequently pursued its Congressional mandate to create a dignified open setting by demolishing dozens of buildings and embarking on a concentrated period of park landscape planning and design implementation from the 1960s to the 1980s (Figure 0.7). It is the only time in the site's history that such a comprehensive approach to landscape design was undertaken and executed. The goal of transforming the church's immediate surroundings into urban parkland had been achieved by 1990, resulting in the lawns, vegetation, circulation patterns, perimeter barrier and entrances that exist today.[10]

EXISTING CONDITIONS SUMMARY

The Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church National Historic Site is approximately 4.8 acres encompassing the city block bounded to the north by Christian Street, to the east by South Christopher Columbus Boulevard, to the south by Washington Avenue and to the west by South Water Street (Drawing 1). Neighboring blocks



Figure 0.8. Gloria Dei Church, view looking north from the east end of the burial ground. March 2024.

offer a mix of modern residential, commercial and transportation land uses. Most of the built environment around Gloria Dei can be associated with urban renewal and redevelopment of the past 75 years. A measure of the intrusion on the visual and auditory setting of Gloria Dei is the Interstate 95 (Delaware Expressway) elevated viaduct located immediately west of South Water Street. Today, the historic site feels like a walled off and park-like island set apart from its setting, whereas it was once integrated into a working waterfront neighborhood of the 18th and 19th centuries.

At the heart of Gloria Dei is a tightly knit grouping of five brick buildings, a graveyard and associated landscape features referred to collectively as the Churchyard, which is one of five landscape character areas identified by the CLR Part 1 (Drawing 6). The oldest and most significant of the buildings is the Gloria Dei Church, a two-story brick edifice with a cruciform-shaped plan and three-story tower with steeple (Figure 0.8). The church anchors the east end of the Churchyard and is definitively dated to 1698-1700 with some later 18th-century additions. To the south and west of the church is a burial ground with gravestones dating from the early 1700s to the present (Figure 0.9). The burial ground fills the churchyard with the exception of its far western end where the gravestones are sparse and of lesser age (Figure 0.10). The church and burial ground at the eastern end of the Churchyard are located on a slight elevated terrace that historically overlooked the Delaware River to the east. This significant view is still accessible, although over the years the construction of wharves and highways has pushed the river several hundred feet to the east of its historic position almost on Gloria Dei's doorstep (Figure 0.11). At the southwest corner of the burial ground, and set slightly apart, is a cluster of gravestones, some of which commemorate associations with the Revolutionary War and the Scottish Thistle Society (Figure 0.12). These stones were moved to Gloria



Figure 0.9. Gloria Dei burial ground, view looking southwest from the church. March 2024.



Figure 0.10. Gloria Dei burial ground, view looking southwest in the western end of the burial ground. The Roak Building is in the background to right of view. March 2024.



Figure 0.11. Delaware River, view looking east from the Gloria Dei burial ground. The river is visible in the distance beyond Columbus Boulevard. The coping of the burial ground's eastern perimeter wall is at bottom of view. This section of brick wall fronting the old alignment of Swanson Street to the east of the Churchyard was built in 1898. The perimeter wall surrounding the entire site was built in 1978-80 and mimics the appearance of the older historic wall of 1898. March 2024.

Dei around 1950 from a threatened graveyard in the city. Per NPS research documentation, they do not mark the locations of actual human remains.[11]

Arrayed along the north side of the Churchyard are supporting brick buildings, arranged in east-to-west order as the two-story Rectory (built in 1832-33, serving as church offices beginning in August 2023) (Figure 0.13), the single-story Riverside Hall (built in 1864, still serving as church community meeting space) (Figure 0.14) and the two-story Sexton's House (built circa 1850, still serving as a residence) (Figure 0.15). The Roak Building (completed in 1971) (Figure 0.16), a two-story Colonial Revival-style building currently houses a preschool, encloses the west end of the Churchyard and replaced an earlier Sunday School near the same location. The CLR Part 1 noted no significant emerging threats or condition issues with the landscape resources in the Churchyard beyond those that might be anticipated for resources of exceptional age such as erosion of gravestones.[12]

NPS redeveloped the areas immediately to the north and south of the Churchyard from the 1960s to the 1970s. NPS's land acquisition buffered the historic site from a waterfront neighborhood that was at the time in economic decline. NPS razed close to two dozen buildings, mostly row houses and industrial buildings dating to the late 18th and 19th centuries. Historical documentation undertaken at the time of demolition, which mostly took place between 1958 and 1969, indicated that the NPS left building foundations in place and filled them with demolition debris.[13] The Gloria Dei National Historic Site is suspected to have high pre-contact and historic archeological potential throughout much of its extent, with the possibility of preserved structural remains of buildings, privies, wells and artifact deposits. The most likely locations for these types of archeological resources to have survived are in the interior portions of the block where there were once backyards and workspaces that have been less likely to be impacted by later construction activities. The site has



Figure 0.12. Revolutionary War and Scottish Thistle Society markers, view looking southwest. These markers were moved to this location from another burial ground around 1950. March 2024.



Figure 0.13. Rectory, rear (left) and south (right) elevations, looking northeast from the burial ground. March 2024.



Figure 0.14. Riverside Hall, south elevation, view looking north. March 2024.



Figure 0.15. Sexton's House, view looking northwest from the burial ground. March 2024.



Figure 0.16. Roak Building (preschool), east elevation, view looking west. March 2024.



Figure 0.17. North Lawn, view looking southeast from the Christian Street entry lane with the Rectory in the background. March 2024.



Figure 0.18. North Lawn, view looking north from the parking lot with townhouses, constructed around 2006, in the background. March 2024.

little record of archeological investigation to test the hypothesis, although the perimeter of the block is known to be disturbed by construction of sidewalks, utilities and the barrier wall, the latter of which was a monitored by NPS archeologists in 1978-79.[14] The new perimeter barrier consisted of two wall designs, the first a high solid brick wall with paneled spandrels and the second a low brick wall capped by a picket metal fence. The former largely encloses the South Lawn and the latter the North Lawn.

The landscape character areas to the north and south of the Churchyard are referred to as the North Lawn and the South Lawn. The Rectory, Riverside Hall and Sexton's House form the North Lawn's southern edge and the low perimeter wall capped by a picket fence encloses the other three sides (Figures 0.17 and 0.18). The wall has a vehicular gate on the north along the Christian Street frontage with a lane connecting the street to a surface parking lot to the rear of Riverside Hall and the Sexton's House. This offers the only vehicular circulation within the bounds of the historic site. The North Lawn is divided into two grassy areas by the lane. A dozen trees, about 40 years of age, offer shade and include ginkgo, pin oak, sweetgum and white pine. In the southeast corner of the North Lawn is a privacy fence enclosing a side yard to the north of the Rectory. This fence has provided shelter to a massing of volunteer mulberry and weeping cherry trees.

The South Lawn is bounded to the north by the burial ground and on the other three sides by the high perimeter wall. This space, about twice the size of the North Lawn, is defined by a central lawn flanked by plantings (Figures 0.19 and 0.20). A row of white pine and honey locust trees frame the west side of the lawn, a viburnum hedge is along the south perimeter wall, and there is a cluster of Chinese rubber trees in the southeast corner. The boundary between the South Lawn and the Churchyard is created by a forsythia hedge interspersed with



Figure 0.19. South Lawn, view looking southwest with the elevated I-95 freeway and shopping center on Washington Street in the background. March 2024.



Figure 0.20. South Lawn, view looking north toward the Churchyard. March 2024.



Figure 0.21. Swanson Street Forecourt, looking southeast. March 2024.



Figure 0.22. Swanson Street Forecourt, view looking northwest with Christian Street and South Swanson Street intersection in the background. South Swanson Street continued through the forecourt area until being closed off and turned into a park around 1989-90. March 2024.



Figure 0.23. The east end of Gloria Dei Church flanked by wrought-iron gates with brick posts capped by ball finials. This is the historic front entry to the church from South Swanson Street, which has been converted into a forecourt. The entry is seldom used and the gates currently kept locked. March 2024.

several specimen trees including honey locust, Kentucky coffee tree, northern red oak and Siberian elm. Hardscaping is limited in the South Lawn to a single, arcing brick path leading from the western end of the burial ground to a small, circular amphitheater.

Gloria Dei's neighbors make regular everyday use of the North and South Lawns as urban parkland for walking dogs and outdoor relaxation and play. The preschool has a small, enclosed playground just to the south of the Roak Building and also uses the grounds for supervised fresh air and play, while the Gloria Dei congregation tends more toward occasional activities such as special events, weddings (mostly under a tent in the North Lawn parking lot), an annual Lucia Fest and small group gatherings in the amphitheater. Some members of the Gloria Dei community expressed concern that dog walkers often fail to obey park rules regarding leashing and cleaning up feces. Security in an urban environment is another pressing concern with the lawns sometimes attracting unsafe activities, especially after dark. Outdoor lighting is currently minimal within the lawn areas. Gloria Dei and NPS have a good working relationship in acknowledging and addressing these issues. Gloria Dei is fortunate to have resident Sextons who keep close watch on the day-to-day activities. NPS staff visit the park daily and undertake basic maintenance and security; however, there is not full-time, on-site presence of NPS personnel.

At the northeast corner of the Gloria Dei property, outside the perimeter barrier enclosing the Churchyard, North Lawn and South Lawn, is a triangular-shaped parcel with a small paved plaza that forms an area referred to as the Swanson Street Forecourt (Figures 0.21 and 0.22). This area harbors two pedestrian wrought-iron gates in the wall that once served as the main entrances to Gloria Dei Church (Figure 0.23). Until the 1980s, this area was an active street frontage with parking. The City of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Department of

Transportation and NPS cooperatively closed the street and created a park landscape in this space after 1985. NPS has taken the lead in maintaining and managing the space ever since, though there is no record of a formal agreement. The central feature of the forecourt is a granite-block paved courtyard on the footprint of a segment of Swanson Street. A secondary low brick wall, earthen mounds and plantings of trees and shrubs between South Christopher Columbus Boulevard and the forecourt create a dense visual barrier, obscuring key views and vistas of the church from what was once its most publicly accessible and visually prominent exposure. The barrier was undoubtedly meant to create a shield between the church and the highway, but it has proven to be a double-edged sword as it has hidden the church's front entrance, made Gloria Dei less accessible and in some ways uninviting to new visitors, most of whom are not familiar with the less obvious entrances to the site. The NPS and Gloria Dei have reached the conclusion that the Swanson Street Forecourt is currently an isolated and underused space that attracts unsafe urban activities. In its current landscape configuration, it is difficult to maintain and secure with available resources.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Gloria Dei National Historic Site was established in 1942 under the Historic Sites Act of 1935 and administratively listed on the National Register of Historic Places following passage of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The NPS has not completed a formal nomination form for Gloria Dei. The CLR Part 1 recommends that Gloria Dei has significance in architecture, ethnic heritage, exploration/settlement and religion with a period of significance of 1677 to 1958 for its associated cultural landscape. The NPS's Foundation Document Overview, Gloria Dei Church National Historic Site, Pennsylvania describes the significance of the site in terms of "opportunities to explore more than 300 years of religious freedom in America and the area's connections to early Swedish settlement" and "intricacies of European colonization in Pennsylvania."[15]

TREATMENT SUMMARY

This CLR Part 2 technical report provides a sound basis and recommendations for treatment of the NPS-owned or managed portions of Gloria Dei National Historic Site. The NPS-owned areas are the North Lawn and South Lawn while the NPS manages the Swanson Street Forecourt, an area owned mostly by the U.S. Coast Guard and the City of Philadelphia. These character areas were largely developed after 1958 and thus after Gloria Dei National Historic Site's recommended period of significance of 1677 to 1958. Contributing landscape resources in these areas are principally limited to spatial relationships, views

and vistas, circulation patterns and potential archaeological resources. Chapter 1 of this report defines a landscape treatment framework for these areas that is grounded in the NPS's legislated mission to provide an "open dignified setting" for Gloria Dei. The preferred treatment approach is defined as rehabilitation with an emphasis on consideration of ways whereby the parkland landscape can further preserve, interpret and enhance public appreciation of, and access to, the historically significant Churchyard resources at the core of the site. The treatment approach is influenced by practical considerations of contemporary uses, security, maintenance capacity and cost.

Treatment tasks included in Chapter 2 are organized according to the five landscape character areas of the Churchyard, Swanson Street Forecourt, North Lawn, South Lawn and Perimeter, with most of the emphasis on the Swanson Street Forecourt, North Lawn and South Lawn as NPS-owned and managed parkland. Chapter 2 begins with a sitewide overview of treatment considerations and follows with a narrative for each of the five landscape character areas. The narratives outline treatment objectives and pertinent management concerns, and provide a brief analysis of the historic and existing conditions within each area. Where relevant, the narratives point out landscape characteristics that serve to protect, highlight or increase appreciation of Gloria Dei's resources and areas of significance. Specific tasks point toward reestablishing the historic spatial arrangements of the landscape, largely defined by key views of Gloria Dei Church and circulation patterns that have been lost or diminished. Treatment recommendations are supported by photographs and schematic figures and drawings.

In several instances, Chapter 2 describes treatment options for areas where there may be more than one approach that can achieve desirable outcomes. The options reflect treatment ideas that the NPS, Gloria Dei and the consultant team explored. They are included to offer a balance of perspectives and acknowledge that future conditions and opportunities may make certain options more viable than others. Among the options discussed are the uses of walls or fences to reestablish historic property boundaries and expand the site's perimeter to enclose the Swanson Street Forecourt, approaches to improving pedestrian circulation and site security with and without moving existing perimeter barriers, improving the safety of vehicular and pedestrian access from Christian Street and planting schemes for the South Lawn. The options have relative advantages and disadvantages such as constructability, cost and appropriateness to the NPS mission and policies, which are noted. The consultant team has indicated preferred options when one stood out above the rest or was comprehensive in achieving the desired outcomes.

Many of the treatment recommendations in Chapter 2 involve reconnecting the Swanson Street Forecourt area to the historic site in ways that facilitate a return

to its historic function as an entrance to the Churchyard, while also addressing maintenance and safety concerns. Integration of the Swanson Street Forecourt into a comprehensive vision for the site involves treatments impacting the forecourt's boundaries with the Churchyard, North Lawn, South Lawn and Perimeter areas. Chapter 2's preferred set of options remove or relocate of some portions of the existing non-historic perimeter barrier, establish new circulation pathways and gates, and update planting schemes with an emphasis on native trees. The aging of Gloria Dei's planting treatments of the 1960s and 1970s currently provides an opportunity to consider recommendations for the renewal and improvement of the vegetative character of the site. An emphasis on native plantings, as well as plantings that are low maintenance and that do not obscure key views of the church, is recommended. NPS and Gloria Dei leadership wish to improve visitor access, site security and maintenance for contemporary uses and this has been factored into the treatment tasks described in Chapter 2.

In summary of this introduction, the report's authors wish to reiterate and emphasize that preservation treatments of the Churchyard, which is a Gloria Dei-owned property, and the significant buildings, burial ground, monuments, walkways and plantings within the Churchyard proper, are not the subjects of this CLR Part 2 study. This study's focus is on the setting in which these jewels are located rather than the jewels themselves. It is hoped that the recommendations contained herein for Gloria Dei's urban park fit seamlessly with the higher goal of preserving the nationally significant resources of the Churchyard.

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3 Donald M. Fox, Alan Kent, and Chester Brooks, "Design Analysis" (National Park Service, 1971), INDE 74046, Box 32, Folder 7, INDE Archives; Robert Steenhagen, "Design Directive," October 9, 1972, 2, INDE 74046, Box 32, Folder 3, INDE Archives; Synterra, Grounds Improvement 1973 (NPS, June 21, 1973), eTic; Synterra, Grounds Improvement 1974 (NPS, April 29, 1974), eTic; Synterra, GLDE Landscape Improvement Plan 004_41002 (NPS, January 25, 1978), eTic; Witmer, Corner Improvement 1980 (NPS, June 15, 1979), eTic; Landscaping Delaware Avenue, ca 1985, , eTic.

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13 Richard Fitzgerald, Archeological Monitoring of Excavations for Wall Footings, Gloria Dei National Historic Site, Philadelphia, PA (National Park Service, Denver Service Center, February 1979), on file at INDE Archives, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

14 Ibid.

15 NPS, Foundation Document; Hunter Research, Inc. and ETM Associates (2022), 165-168.

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Cod	Botanical Name	Common Name
Abco	*Abies concolor*	white fir
Ac	*Amelanchier canadensis*	Serviceberry
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As	*Acer saccharinum*	Silver Maple
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Cs	*Cytisus scoparius*	Scottish Broom
Eu	*Eucommia ulmoides*	Chinese Rubber Tree
Fx	*Forsythia x intermedia*	Border Forsythia
Gb	*Ginkgo biloba*	Ginkgo
Gd	*Gymnocladus dioicus*	Kentucky Coffeetree
Gt	*Gleditsia triacanthos*	Honey Locust
Hm	*Hydrangea macrophylla*	Hydrangea
Io	*Ilex opaca*	American Holly
Jn	*Juglans nigra*	Black Walnut
Lm	*Lonicera maackii*	Amur Honeysuckle
Ls	*Liquidambar styraciflua*	Sweetgum
Ma	*Morus alba*	Mulberry
Ms	*Magnolia stellata*	Star Magnolia
Ns	*Nyssa sylvatica*	Black Gum
Pa	*Platanus acerifolia*	London Planetree
Pe	*Prunus serotina*	Black Cherry
Pn	*Pinus nigra*	Austrian Pine
Po	*Platanus occidentalis*	Sycamore
Pp	*Prunus pendula*	Weeping Cherry
Ps	*Picea spp.*	Spruce
Pt	*Pinus strobus*	White Pine
Py	*Pinus sylvestris*	Scotch Pine
Qp	*Quercus palastrus*	pin oak
Qr	*Quercus rubra*	Northern Red Oak
Rh	*Rhododendron*	Rhododendron
Ss	*Spiraea sp.*	Spyrea
Tb	*Taxus baccata*	Yew
Tc	*Tilia cordata*	Littleleaf Linden
Ua	*Ulmus americana*	American Elm
Up	*Ulmus pumila*	Siberian Elm
Vo	*Viburnum opulus*	Viburnum
X	*Unknown*	Unknown
Zs	*Zelkova serrata*	Zelkova



Cultural Landscape Report

Independence National Historical Park

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Gloria Dei Church National Historic Site

HUNTER RESEARCH
Historical Resource Consultants

National Park Service

Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation

www.nps.gov/oclp

SOURCES

1. City of Philadelphia Orthoimagery, 2020
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3. Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, 2020
4. NPS Landsnet Boundaries and Tracts
5. Field Review, January 2022

DRAWN BY

Kelsey Little, Olmsted Center, ArcGIS Pro 2.6, 2021

UPDATED/REVISED BY

Evan Mydlowski, Hunter Research, Inc., ArcGIS Pro 3.2.2, 2024

LEGEND

- CLI Boundary
- Property Owned by Swedes Corporation Rector Church Wardens
- Lawn
- Road
- Brick Walkway
- Concrete Walkway
- Building
- Fence
- Wall
- Deciduous Tree
- Evergreen Tree
- Gravestone
- Sign
- Trash Can
- Lamp Post
- Manhole
- Drain Drop Inlet
- Basement Vent
- Basement Entry
- Bench
- Gate

NOTES

1. Projection: NAD 1983 State Plane Pennsylvania South
2. Contour Interval = 1'
3. All features shown in approximate scale and location

0 15 30 60 Feet

Drawing 1

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Cultural Landscape Report

Independence National Historical Park

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Gloria Dei Church
National Historic Site
1700 Period Plan

HUNTER RESEARCH
Historical Resource Consultants

National Park Service

Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation

www.nps.gov/oclp

SOURCES

"The Swedes' Church Wicaco," engraving in Israel Acrelius, *Description of the Former and Present Condition of the Swedish Churches* (Stockholm, Sweden 1759).

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DRAWN BY

Kelsey Little, Olmsted Center, ArcGIS Pro 2.6, 2021

UPDATED/REVISED BY

Evan Mydlowski, Hunter Research, Inc., ArcGIS Pro 3.2.2, 2024

LEGEND

- 2021 CLI Boundary
- Land
- Water
- Road
- Parcel
- Marsh
- Burial Ground
- Building
- Building (Location Approximate)

NOTES

1. Projection: NAD 1983 State Plane Pennsylvania South
2. All features shown in approximate scale and location

0 15 30 60 Feet

Drawing 2

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Cultural Landscape Report

Independence National Historical Park

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Gloria Dei Church
National Historic Site
1755 Period Plan

HUNTER RESEARCH
Historical Resource Consultants

National Park Service

Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation

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SOURCES

"The Swedes' Church Wicaco," engraving in Israel Acrelius, *Description of the Former and Present Condition of the Swedish Churches* (Stockholm, Sweden 1759).

David Coombs, *Survey and Draught [of Church Lands]* (Philadelphia, PA, 1828).

Peter Stebbins Craig, ed., *Colonial Records of the Swedish Churches in Pennsylvania*, vol. 1 (Philadelphia, PA: Swedish Colonial Society, 2006).

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Evan Mydlowski, Hunter Research, Inc., ArcGIS Pro 3.2.2, 2024

LEGEND

- 2021 CLI Boundary
- Land
- Water
- Road
- Parcel
- Building
- Pathway
- Garden
- Docks
- Wood Fence
- Gate
- Burial Ground

NOTES

1. Projection: NAD 1983 State Plane Pennsylvania South
2. All features shown in approximate scale and location

0 15 30 60 Feet

Drawing 3

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Cultural Landscape Report

Independence National Historical Park

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Gloria Dei Church
National Historic Site
1844 Period Plan

HUNTER RESEARCH
Historical Resource Consultants

National Park Service

Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation

www.nps.gov/oclp

SOURCES

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DRAWN BY

Kelsey Little, Olmsted Center, ArcGIS Pro 2.6, 2021

UPDATED/REVISED BY

Evan Mydlowski, Hunter Research, Inc., ArcGIS Pro 3.2.2, 2024

LEGEND

- 2021 CLI Boundary
- Land
- Road
- Parcel
- Building
- Railroad
- Tree
- Water
- Pathway
- Sidewalk
- Wood Fence
- Gate
- Brick Wall
- Burial Ground

NOTES

1. Projection: NAD 1983 State Plane Pennsylvania South
2. All features shown in approximate scale and location

0 15 30 60 Feet

Drawing 4

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Cultural Landscape Report

Independence National Historical Park

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Gloria Dei Church
National Historic Site
1958 Period Plan

HUNTER RESEARCH
Historical Resource Consultants

National Park Service

Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation

www.nps.gov/oclp

SOURCES

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Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), Aerial, 1965.

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DRAWN BY

Kelsey Little, Olmsted Center, ArcGIS Pro 2.6, 2021

UPDATED/REVISED BY

Evan Mydlowski, Hunter Research, Inc., ArcGIS Pro 3.2.2, 2024

LEGEND

- 2021 CLI Boundary
- Land
- Road
- Parcel
- Building
- Railroad
- Tree
- Brick Walkway
- Sidewalk
- Metal Fence
- Wood Fence
- Gate
- Brick Wall
- Burial Ground

NOTES

1. Projection: NAD 1983 State Plane Pennsylvania South
2. All features shown in approximate scale and location

0 15 30 60 Feet

Drawing 5

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Cod	Botanical Name	Common Name
Abco	*Abies concolor*	white fir
Ac	*Amelanchier canadensis*	Serviceberry
Ap	*Acer palmatum*	Japanese Maple
As	*Acer saccharinum*	Silver Maple
Cf	*Cornus florida*	Dogwood
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Ss	*Spiraea sp.*	Spyrea
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Tc	*Tilia cordata*	Littleleaf Linden
Ua	*Ulmus americana*	American Elm
Up	*Ulmus pumila*	Siberian Elm
Vo	*Viburnum opulus*	Viburnum
X	*Unknown*	Unknown
Zs	*Zelkova serrata*	Zelkova



Cultural Landscape Report

Independence National Historical Park

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Gloria Dei Church National Historic Site

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Kelsey Little, Olmsted Center, ArcGIS Pro 2.6, 2021

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Evan Mydlowski, Hunter Research, Inc., ArcGIS Pro 3.2.2, 2024

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- Basement Entry
- Bench
- Gate

NOTES

1. Projection: NAD 1983 State Plane Pennsylvania South
2. Contour Interval = 1'
3. All features shown in approximate scale and location

0 15 30 60 Feet

Landscape Character Areas
Drawing 6

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Treatment Framework

This chapter describes the legislative foundation, mission statements, policies and guidelines that inform treatment of Gloria Dei's landscape, specifically the NPS-owned or managed urban park that forms a setting for the Gloria Dei-owned and managed Churchyard. NPS and Gloria Dei have a decades' long partnership jointly stewarding the historic site and its resources. This treatment framework acknowledges the partnership and does not draw too fine a line in terms of legal ownership of the parcels. It recognizes that treatments that happen within the areas defined herein as the North Lawn, South Lawn, Swanson Street Forecourt and the Perimeter, mostly on federal land, necessarily may influence spatial relationships, views, circulation patterns and landscape treatments in the area within and immediately bounding the historic Churchyard, mostly on church-owned land. This treatment framework does not specifically address the key historically significant buildings, burial ground and landscape features within the Churchyard but it does specifically address the landscape in which those resources are set and which was acquired and managed by NPS after the passage of legislation in 1958. The Swanson Street Forecourt includes a former City of Philadelphia street right-of-way and a parcel owned by the U.S. Coast Guard. The NPS has managed this property since the early 1990s as part of Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') National Historic Site.

This chapter articulates a landscape treatment philosophy that calls for rehabilitating the park grounds for compatibility with the historic resources that are concentrated within the Churchyard, while respecting the past spatial relationships and resources, mostly archaeological or small historical landscape features, which remain in the federally owned or managed section of the park. Maintenance and future use of the grounds also factor into the treatment framework consistent with NPS's mission to promote the public's ability to access and appreciate Gloria Dei's significance within a dignified and open setting.

LEGISLATIVE FOUNDATION, MISSION STATEMENTS AND POLICIES

NPS's legislative foundation, drawing from the relevant section of the National Park Service Organic Act of 1916, is "to conserve the scenery and natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."[1] In 1942, under authority of the Historic Sites

Act of 1935, the Secretary of the Interior established Gloria Dei National Historic Site "as possessing national significance as a splendid example of the cultural and religious aspects of Swedish colonization in North America."[2] Apropos to this overarching mission and significance statement, Congress authorized the Secretary of the Interior via Public Law 85-709 of August 21, 1958 to acquire "interests in lands within the city block of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania bounded by Washington Avenue, Christian, Swanson and Water Streets, exclusive of Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church" and "to develop, as part of the national historic site, federally owned lands within said block by landscaping in such a manner as to provide a dignified open setting for Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church."[3] This law relates specifically to the landscape character areas referred to in this report as the North Lawn and the South Lawn, which were as directed by Congress landscaped as open spaces in the following years.

Since 1958, the NPS has worked in partnership with Gloria Dei to protect and commemorate the site's cultural resources and their significance. The Corporation of Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church is the Episcopal organization that owns and operates the church and has a religious mission that honors God by following the teachings of Jesus, sustaining community, honoring diversity, responding to the needs of the parish, and building on the heritage and traditions of Gloria Dei as a sacred place.[4] Historic Gloria Dei Preservation Corporation is a non-profit organization established in 2013 to operate independently from the church. Its mission is "to fund, support and supervise restoration and renovation of the buildings, grounds and churchyard."[5]

In addition to its mission statements, NPS has specific policies with relevancy to the treatment framework of this CLR Part 2. Specifically, NPS's Approved Resource Management Plan (ARMP) – Gloria Dei NHS (Updated 2002) states that NPS's goals are to see that Gloria Dei's "natural and cultural resources are protected, preserved, rehabilitated and maintained in good condition." The ARMP specifies that NPS maintains "lawns, shrubs, trees, park furniture and retaining walls, etc." and that a goal is for visitors to safely enjoy and be satisfied with the "availability, accessibility, diversity and quality of park services and appropriate permitted activities."[6] The Independence National Historical Park Superintendent's Compendium further establishes, among other park rules, that Gloria Dei's grounds are currently closed from 11:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m., that Gloria Dei Church establishes hours for its buildings and property, that pets must be leashed and owners must pick up after pets, and that special events on NPS property are allowable with permits.[7]

THE SECRETARY'S STANDARDS

NPS's legislative mandate to protect and preserve Gloria Dei in an open dignified setting is guided by *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*.[8] The Standards promote responsible preservation practices to protect the nation's irreplaceable cultural resources and are built on a foundation of four broad-based treatment approaches, described therein as Preservation, Rehabilitation, Restoration and Reconstruction. Briefly, Preservation is expressed as the goal of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity and materials of a historic property; Rehabilitation makes compatible use of a property possible through repair, alterations and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey cultural values; Restoration is the act of accurately depicting a property as it appeared at a particular time by removing features from other periods and reconstructing missing features; and Reconstruction is the process of new construction to replicate a non-surviving property's appearance at a specific period of time in its historic location.

The *Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes* identify a range of factors to consider when selecting one of the four treatment approaches. Of these, several have figured prominently in the development of this CLR Part 2 report.

Geographical Context is defined as the surroundings of a cultural landscape, which in Gloria Dei's instance is both the park that surrounds the historic Churchyard and the urban neighborhood that surrounds the park that defines the national historic site. This overall context informs the patterns of circulation networks – both pedestrian and vehicular – and comprises views and vistas into and out of the landscape. The historic site's spatial relationship to the Delaware River is also critical to understand since the river was the principal transportation artery uniting the Swedish colonists in the Lower Delaware Valley. The park buffers and secures the Churchyard yet it is also a space through which neighbors and visitors may transit or relax, requiring a certain degree of permeability and accessibility. Balancing the *Geographical Context*, particularly the goals of security and accessibility within an urban environment, is among the most significant of the factors informing proposed treatments.

Use of the cultural landscape must be considered prior to treatment selection. *Use* encompasses historic, current and future uses. In Gloria Dei's case, historic uses have been urban in character and included prior to 1958 residential, industrial and transportation uses that are no longer present within the historic site's city block. The park uses of today and the future must balance a variety of activities that include visitors arriving and passing through the park on their way to church services and events centered within the Churchyard, historic site tourism, outdoor church events in the North and South Lawns, and casual passive recreation (Figures 1.1 to 1.3).



Figure 1.1. South Lawn, dog walkers looking northeast toward Gloria Dei Church. The turf conditions, bare of grass and rutted from dog activity, are typical in late winter.



Figure 1.2. Dog walkers and preschoolers arrive at the South Water Street gate next to the Roak Building (right of view) every morning. The barrier in the foreground separates the brick sidewalk from the parking lot, which currently lacks permanent bollards or similar. March 2024.



Figure 1.3. Lucia Fest at Gloria Dei, view looking east in the burial ground. *Circa* 2020. Source: Gloria Dei, Facebook Page.



Figure 1.4. Gloria Dei's front gate, view looking northeast from the south side of the church. This gate, the historic front entrance, is kept locked and seldom used. March 2024.

Archeological Resources have high potential to exist at Gloria Dei within the NPS and Gloria Dei-owned properties. These resources may encompass Native American and historic resources based on an analysis of the data collected for the CLR Part 1.[9] Data on these resources and an assessment of their state of preservation is presently limited, so any subsurface groundwork that may be proposed requires, at a minimum, base-level archeological surveys and evaluations. Appropriate treatment includes the identification and preservation of significant archeological resources. An archeological sensitivity study is currently a non-existent treatment tool that could be useful to better-informed site management.

Management and Maintenance strategies have been identified by NPS and Gloria Dei leadership as important components of selecting appropriate treatments. While this CLR Part 2 is not intended to address routine, cyclical day-to-day maintenance such as mowing, weeding or trash pick-up, every recommended treatment that is conceived and implemented carries specific management and maintenance requirements if it is to be sustained over an extended period. Some treatments are more intensive in their needs than others. Recommendations are informed by those treatments that have greater likelihood to be sustainable based on NPS resources.

Interpretation consists of the tools and techniques used to help visitors understand and appreciate resources and their significance. Interpretive goals should complement treatment selection. At present, Gloria Dei Church offers self-guided tours, open hours to view the church's interior and occasional programs such as presentations and special events. NPS's interpretive presence at the site is minimal and mainly in a supportive role. Interpretation can be enhanced by highlighting certain key historic views and vistas, as well as restoring older historic circulation patterns; for example, drawing visitors toward the view eastward to understand

the site's spatial relationship to the Delaware River or to experience the site as it was intended by entering through the front gates from Swanson Street, which is currently seldom used and not ADA compliant (Figure 1.4).

LANDSCAPE TREATMENT PHILOSOPHY

The landscape treatment philosophy articulates the qualities in a landscape that convey its significance and establishes principles intended to enhance and perpetuate those qualities. The philosophy consists of a broad approach derived from the site's significance. It helps to guide decisions and provides the context for general guidelines and specific treatment tasks.

Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') National Historic site is a rare religious property that traces its roots to the Swedish settlement of the Lower Delaware Valley in the 17th century and tangibly expresses this through church architecture and a burial ground with integrity to that early period. The long-term historical association of the congregation with the property and an embracing of its Swedish heritage, even as it reached out to serve new non-Swedish communities, further enhances the site's significance. Today, ongoing preservation, community and religious missions inform the Corporation of Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church and the congregation's management and use of its Churchyard property. The NPS manages a federally owned urban park that surrounds the Churchyard and works collaboratively with Gloria Dei on preservation activities and overall site supervision.

Rehabilitation is the landscape treatment philosophy that best fits NPS-owned and managed park property that creates a setting for Gloria Dei National Historic Site. Rehabilitation allows for tasks to: 1). enhance an appreciation and interpretation of the site's significant historic resources; 2). maintain or revitalize significant historic spatial relationships and circulation patterns within the city block occupied by the site; 3). acknowledge, protect or restore significant small-scale landscape features that survive in or near the Gloria Dei Church and NPS property lines, such as historic walls, fences and boundary markers; and 4). protect the historical integrity of the property and its environment. Significance from a cultural landscape perspective is derived from Gloria Dei's highly intact Churchyard and the built environments that frame views, vistas and circulation patterns leading to and from it, which are key to any visitor experience of the historic site.

PRIMARY TREATMENT

The recommended primary treatment for the NPS-owned or managed portions of the Gloria Dei landscape is Rehabilitation. Rehabilitation allows for NPS to continue its mission to provide Gloria Dei with an "open dignified setting" and adapting or altering the landscape to present-day or future uses and needs that fit that definition. It requires identification of the historic site's significant character-defining landscape features and protecting them while accommodating Gloria Dei as an active congregation and the park's role in the community. Rehabilitation offers opportunities to alter the existing landscape to enhance the historic character of the property, for instance, by acknowledging and better highlighting key views to and from the church or restoring historic circulation patterns at the church's Swanson Street frontage. It also allows for changes in the landscape that better encourage appropriate and safe uses of the park.

The Secretary of the Interior defines the following ten standards under Rehabilitation:[10]

1. A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships.

2. The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize the property will be avoided.

3. Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other historic properties, will not be undertaken.

4. Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right shall be retained and preserved.

5. Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.

6. Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration required replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture, and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.

7. Chemical or physical treatment, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.

8. Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources

must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.

9. New additions, exterior alterations or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.

10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

In their application to Gloria Dei, Standards 1 through 8 emphasize the protection and preservation of extant historic buildings, features, spatial relationships and landscape elements. Within the NPS-owned landscape character areas, these types of resources are minimal except as they inform the setting through persistent land uses and spatial relationships, such as the footprint of Swanson Street in the forecourt or the entry lane from Christian Street in the North Lawn (Figure 1.5). This latter lane has been in the landscape since the early 18th century and originated as a lane accessing a stable and pasture to the rear of the original parsonage. Standards 3 and 4 provide a basis for acknowledging that Gloria Dei's existing park setting is a creation of its time (*circa* 1958-1990) and that conjectural landscape features or restorations of landscapes believed to have once existed prior to that time are best avoided.

Gloria Dei's park is a former urban landscape of the 19th century and before that a colonial rural landscape and before that a precontact landscape. Standard 8 acknowledges that archeology has the potential to provide significant data on how this landscape evolved, as well as to shed light on the lives of past inhabitants. Ground disturbing treatments must always be evaluated for archeological impacts during planning and appropriate investigations undertaken, as needed, prior to any landscape treatment implementation.

Standards 9 and 10 are warranted and perhaps the most relevant of the standards to this CLR Part 2. These standards acknowledge the need to adapt the landscape to existing and future public uses. Any contemplated changes to the park setting should follow a philosophy of being compatible with historically significant features and being differentiated from them so as to not create a false sense of the Churchyard extending beyond its historic boundaries and into the surrounding park. These standards also offer flexibility to address contemporary management considerations such as the use of native plants or treatments that have net long-term maintenance benefits.

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties – Rehabilitation do not require that Gloria Dei's park be maintained in a static

appearance or be set to any specific treatment date that provides a benchmark for managing its character. The purpose of the application of the Rehabilitation standards is to offer a means for acknowledging those aspects of the landscape that illustrate Gloria Dei's significance. In Chapter 2, these attributes are described within each landscape character area and include such topics as historically important views or circulation patterns, as well as treatments that contribute to an open dignified setting. Integral to this process of developing treatment tasks is acknowledging that some landscape characteristics are more important or more of a priority than others. Chapter 2 develops specific treatment tasks that properly acknowledge and perpetuate significant landscape characteristics. It also offers approaches that are consistent with managing current and future public uses, accessibility and maintenance considerations.

ENDNOTES, TREATMENT FRAMEWORK

1 16 U.S.C. § 1 (1994)

2 "Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church National Historic Site" in *Proclamations and Orders Relating to the National Park Service. Up to January 1, 1945* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1947), 79

3 National Park Service, *Laws Relating to the National Park Service Enacted by the 85th Congress, 1957-58* (July 1, 1959), 41.

4 Gloria Dei Old Swedes' Episcopal Church, "Who We Are," electronic document, www.old-swedes.org/about [accessed January 2024].

5 Historic Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Preservation Corporation, "Mission and History," electronic document, preserveoldswedes.org/hgdpc/ [accessed January 2024].

6 National Park Service, Independence National Historic Park, Approved Resource Management Plan for Independence National Historical Park, Gloria Dei (Old Swede's [sic] Church National Historic Site, Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site, Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (September 29, 1994, Updated 2002).

7 Independence National Historical Park, Pennsylvania, Superintendent's Compendium (October 28, 2022), electronic document, www.nps.gov/inde/learn/management/compendium.htm [accessed January 2024].

8 Charles A. Birnbaum and Christine Capella Peters, eds., Historic Landscape Initiative, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes* (1996), electronic document, https://www.nps.gov/crps/tps/landscape-guidelines/index.htm [accessed January 2024].

9 Hunter Research, Inc. and ETM Associates, Cultural Landscape Report, Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church National Historic Site, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: Site History, Existing Conditions, Analysis and Evaluation (2022), 156-157, 208.

10 National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties: Rehabilitation as a Treatment and Standards for Rehabilitation,* electronic document, https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/treatment-standards-rehabilitation.htm [accessed January 2024].

TREATMENT TASKS

This chapter provides treatment recommendations for the Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church National Historic Site within the NPS-owned or managed property. The chapter begins, however, with an overview of the entire site with a general discussion of sitewide conditions and some overarching design concepts for recommended treatments. It then delves down into each of the landscape character areas that are NPS-owned or managed, offering a brief analysis followed by specific recommendations for individual treatment tasks within the framework of Rehabilitation that is discussed in Chapter 1.

SITEWIDE OVERVIEW AND DESIGN-RELATED GOALS

The 4.5-acre Gloria Dei site has been divided into five distinct landscape character areas identified during the CLR Part 1 (Drawing 6). Cultural landscape character areas are defined by the physical qualities of a landscape and the type and concentration of cultural resources, as well as the existing conditions of landscape features. The five landscape character areas making up the totality of Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') National Historic Site are:

- Churchyard
- Swanson Street Forecourt
- North Lawn
- South Lawn
- Perimeter

During the course of this CLR Part 2 study, NPS staff and Gloria Dei leadership, volunteers and workshop participants made key observations regarding the site's current conditions. These observations relate to the site's overall safety, connectivity/circulation, significant resources and visitor experiences. These issues are mentioned briefly here and then elaborated upon, as needed, in the following detailed discussions of the landscape character areas and specific treatment tasks.

An issue raised repeatedly by NPS staff and Gloria Dei stakeholders was concern for site safety and inappropriate park uses. Landscape treatments that create secluded, infrequently visited locations have attracted undesirable activities, mostly related to vagrancy and drug use. The Swanson Street Forecourt is the foremost of the areas of concern since it was purposely designed several decades ago to create a sheltered, screened area, but similar issues have been noted in the South Lawn where the high perimeter wall and plantings combine to create

sheltered locations. At night, Gloria Dei's interior landscape is poorly lit and visitors must rely almost entirely on light filtered from the street lighting around the perimeter and building-mounted flood lighting in the Churchyard. A general comment is that a comprehensive review of outdoor lighting, with a closer eye toward discreet low-voltage landscape lighting, would benefit the entire site, not just the NPS-owned and managed areas.

Pedestrian circulation is sub-optimal at Gloria Dei. Currently, a combination of the perimeter barriers, locked gates and a lack of an integrated internal system of circulator paths creates significant spaces that receive limited visitation and use. Pedestrian movement into and out of the site is limited most days to the Christian Street vehicular/pedestrian and South Water Street pedestrian gates in the northwest corner of the site. Visitors usually continue from those two gates to the Churchyard or the South Lawn and then directly back again (Figure 2.1). The lack of pedestrian movement is particularly pronounced in the Swanson Street Forecourt and North Lawn areas. The South Lawn is a common destination for dog walking but the pedestrian circulation is unstructured and few visitors have reasons to follow the only paved pathway between the Roak Building and the amphitheater. As presently configured, there are also pedestrian safety issues including the lack of a sidewalk from the South Christian Street gate to the Churchyard area, meaning that pedestrians walk in the narrow vehicular lane and across the parking lot. Uneven brick pathways in the Churchyard create

Figure 2.1. Current pedestrian circulation patterns, indicated by arrows. Note that the dominant circulation pattern is entry and exit following the same path. There is very little circulation.

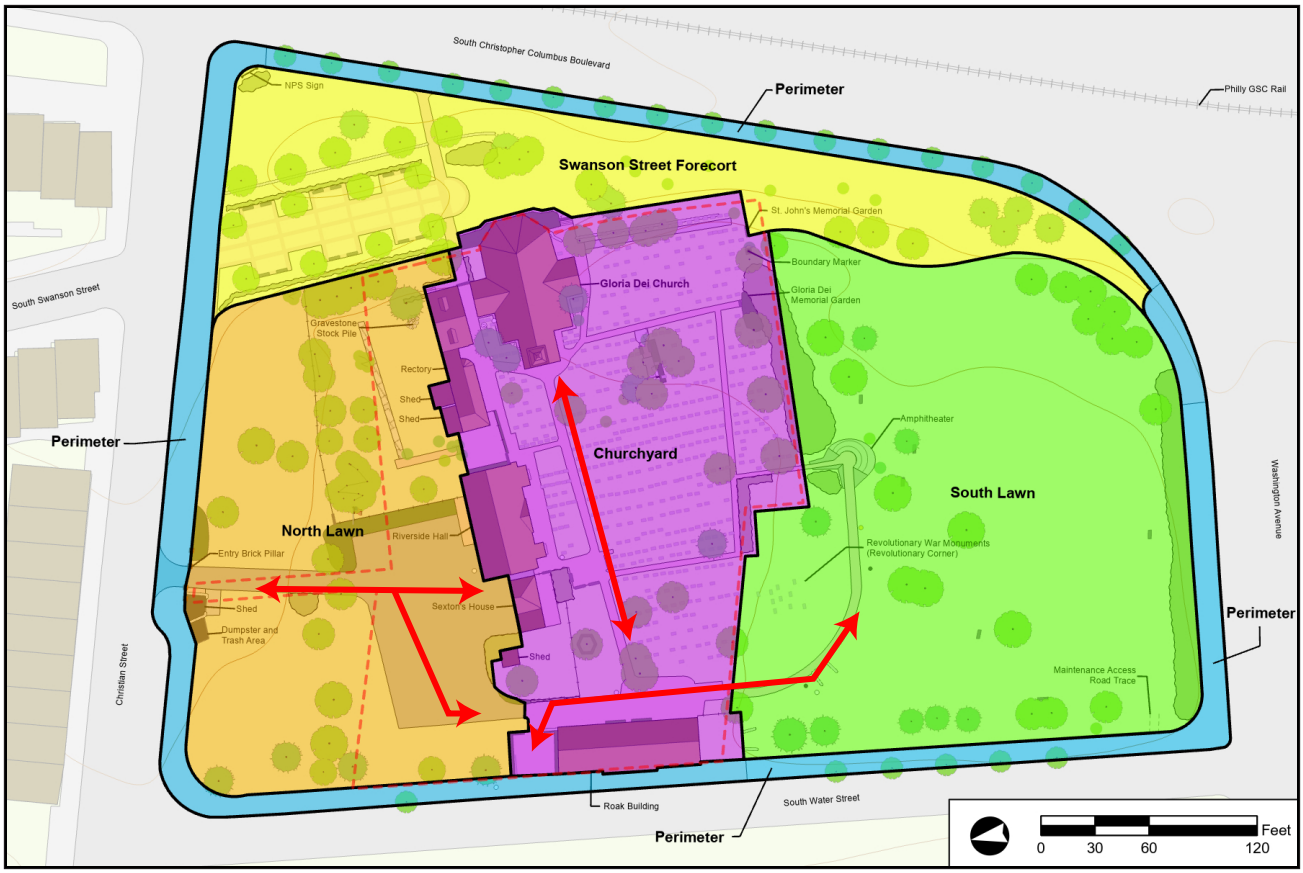




Figure 2.2. Example of an uneven brick pathway in the burial ground. Although not on NPS-owned property, the brick path circulation system that connects to NPS paths needs resetting. March 2024.

tripping hazards and these sidewalks have reached an age when they need to be reset (Figure 2.2). A general comment is that walking surfaces throughout the Churchyard need repair and evaluation for improved universal accessibility to the buildings. There are very few sidewalks within the remainder of the site and some of these lead to locked gates and dead ends. This CLR Part 2 plan recommends a 360-degree walking loop and reconfiguration of perimeter access points that comprehensively addresses these circulation and safety issues.

Vehicular access, while perhaps less problematic than pedestrian circulation, is via a two-way lane that is only one-lane wide (Figure 2.3). The lane, though less than 100 feet long, provides access between Christian Street and a parking lot with about 20 parking spaces in the southwest corner of the North Lawn. The lane's entrance gate on Christian Street has poor sight lines; drivers turning from Christian Street to enter the site are unable to see if a car is exiting the parking area at the same time. The narrowness of the entry has resulted in at least one accident where a truck knocked over one of the gate's brick entry posts. As previously mentioned, there is no provision for separating vehicles and pedestrians using the Christian Street entrance. The construction of townhouses north of Christian Street in the past 20 years has increased the number of local residents using this entrance, especially for dog walking.

From an interpretive perspective, Gloria Dei currently fails to offer much to a casual drop-in visitor with an interest in heritage tourism. Two existing NPS interpretive signs – one at the parking lot behind Riverside Hall and the other on South Water Street outside of the perimeter barrier – are easy to miss, outdated and showing their age (Figures 2.4 and 2.5). Visitors at the site are not drawn to the key resources and views that could provide valuable historical context and allow for appreciation of the architecture (Figure 2.6). Recreational visitors making use



Figure 2.3. Christian Street entry gate, view looking north from Gloria Dei site toward Christian Street. Vehicular access to Gloria Dei is confined to a narrow entry gate and single lane used by cars traveling two directions, as well as pedestrians. The two side pedestrian gates are locked and currently unused. The condition is less than optimal for safety. March 2024.



Figure 2.4. Wayside interpretive sign behind Riverside Hall on church property, view looking south. This sign is reaching the end of its life due to weathering. Currently, it is the only interpretive sign within Gloria Dei's grounds. It is next to the parking lot in a location that is easy to miss. March 2024.



Figure 2.5. An upright interpretive sign is located outside the perimeter wall on the South Water Street frontage. Visitors arriving by car and parking inside the perimeter miss this sign, which is informative though text heavy. View looking north on South Water Street. March 2024.



Figure 2.6. Key views and vistas. Compare the location of these views with the current circulation patterns in Figure 2.1. The circulation patterns do not facilitate access to the majority of the key views and vistas.

of the South and North Lawns do not always appreciate that when their activities spill over into the Churchyard they may be harming valuable cultural resources such as when dogs relieve themselves on gravestones or the crypts are used as benches.

The Gloria Dei site as a whole has a largely unexplored potential to contain pre-contact and historic archeological resources in most of its landscape character areas. This has been made abundantly clear by the period drawings (Drawings 2-5) and many project participants noted how much these drawings helped them to appreciate past uses of the site and the potential for those uses to have left archeological features. Any treatments that result in ground disturbances should follow NPS archeological guidelines and protocols prior to digging, including a sensitivity assessment by a qualified archeologist. The whole site would benefit from an archeological management plan.

Based on the data from the CLR Part 1 and feedback from NPS and Gloria Dei project participants, general design-related goals and concepts have been compiled onto Drawing 7. This drawing allows for a visualization of the multiple goals and concepts that the specific treatments discussed later in this chapter are intended to address through presentation of options, preferred options and recommended treatments.

1. Landscape treatments that create secluded spaces with low visibility are

to be avoided to promote the safety and comfort of site staff, volunteers and visitors. Consideration is given to improved lighting since the park is open after dark and the church has evening programs.

2. A pedestrian circulatory pattern that promotes visitation to all of the site's landscape character areas and to key views and vistas is desirable. A pedestrian walking loop is more desirable than the current one-way in and one-way out patterns. As proposed in this CLR Part 2, a loop circles the Churchyard and a loop circles the South Lawn (Figures 2.1 and 2.6).
3. Reconnecting Gloria Dei Church to its historic frontage on South Swanson Street and better integration of the Swanson Street Forecourt with the rest of the site is desirable to promote visitor use of the forecourt and discourage unwanted activities.
4. Improving the safety of the Christian Street vehicular/pedestrian gate and entrance lane is desirable (Figure 2.3).
5. Offering updated passive interpretation through wayside signage is desirable to offer a more robust interpretation on an everyday basis (Figures 2.4 and 2.5).
6. Using landscape to define spaces and appropriate uses that protect and preserve valuable cultural resources, with an emphasis on the key resource within the Churchyard and the potential contained in below-ground archeology throughout the site.

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP AND SCOPE OF TREATMENT TASK RECOMMENDATIONS

This CLR Part 2 has as its scope of work offering specific treatment tasks for NPS-owned or managed property only (see Drawing 1 for boundary). Treatment tasks are not being offered for church-owned property, which comprise all of the historic buildings and the burial ground. These key resources present their own set of issues such as the conservation of building architectural fabric and gravestones, accessibility and plantings within the Churchyard proper. These types of treatments are not the subject of this CLR Part 2. Church-owned property also includes the southern portion of the North Lawn containing most of the parking lot and part of the Rectory's side yard. Therefore, this CLR Part 2 offers no specific treatment task recommendations for the Churchyard, parking lot or Rectory's side yard, aside from those that relate to boundaries shared with the adjacent NPS-owned and managed landscape character areas.

The recommended treatment tasks throughout this document are keyed to a comprehensive Treatment Plan (Drawing 8). The tasks employ a standard coding/identification system used by the NPS (BS – buildings and structures, CR – circulation, VG – vegetation and SSF – small-scale features). The treatment tasks

illustrated by Drawing 8 are the preferred recommended options and treatment tasks of the project team. Some treatments that do not appear on Drawing 8 are discussed in the Chapter 2 narrative as "options." The options are intended to document viable alternatives that the project team considered but ultimately determined to be less than optimal. The options may be useful to project development at a later date and may, for instance, have reasons to rise to the fore due to practical constraints such as funding. In those instances where an existing landscape feature is not specifically called out for treatment by this document and its supporting drawings, the default recommendation is for that feature is to be maintained in service. Chapter 3 is a summary and prioritization of the recommended treatment tasks in a tabular format (Table 3.1).

CHURCHYARD/SOUTH LAWN BOUNDARY TREATMENT TASKS

RATIONALE

The Churchyard is the historic core of the site, entirely within the acreage privately owned by Gloria Dei and thus beyond the treatment scope of this CLR Part 2, which is intended to focus on NPS-owned and managed parkland. The Churchyard of today generally corresponds to the historic property lines of the Gloria Dei Church tract, as shown on 18th- and 19th-century maps, so this division of space is character defining and relevant to maintaining the integrity of spatial relationships. The Churchyard encompasses the Gloria Dei Church, burial ground, Rectory, Riverside Hall, Sexton's House and Roak Building. The Churchyard measures approximately 335 feet east/west between South Swanson Street and South Water Street and 100 to 125 feet north/south between the North Lawn and South Lawn.

In this instance, the principal location of concern is the Churchyard's south perimeter with the South Lawn since the east, north and west perimeters are reasonably well defined by buildings, walls and fences with gates or passages that control pedestrian circulation and create clear demarcations. Many local residents currently use the South Lawn for dog walking, meaning the walkers passing through the burial ground going to and from the South Lawn to the gated entrances on South Water Street and Christian Street. NPS and Gloria Dei leadership have identified the dog walking (i.e., dog urine is damaging gravestones) and other recreational uses that bleed into the burial ground from the South Lawn as a concern. Presently the Churchyard/South Lawn boundary is partially defined by an overgrown hedge, mostly composed of forsythia, along its eastern extent (Figure 2.7). Several dirt tracks have developed following "desire lines" through the hedge, frequently used by dogs. There is no demarcation of the boundary between the Churchyard and the South Lawn along its western



Figure 2.7. Mixed shrubs currently define the boundary between the South Lawn (left of view) and the Churchyard (right of view, other side of vegetation). Numerous dirt paths follow "desire lines" across this boundary. Removal and thinning of the shrubs are activities recommended in Task VG-1. March 2024.

extent, roughly between the Roak Building and the boxwood hedge near the amphitheater. A distinct separation of the burial ground's southern perimeter from the South Lawn better defines the Churchyard and support its preservation.

TREATMENT TASKS

Task SSF-1 – Install barrier to south side of burial ground to reestablish historic boundary

Historic documents, drawings and photographs from the 1740s through the 1880s indicate that Gloria Dei's burial ground was enclosed by a wood fence. The depictions from this entire 150-year period are mostly uniform in depicting a wood fence composed of vertical wood posts and horizontal boards. The fence stood about head high (Figure 2.8). After 1898, the east end of the burial ground was separated from South Swanson Street by the existing high brick wall while there is physical evidence that a low brick wall continued along the south side of the burial ground, separating it from the industrial and residential uses to the south. A small remnant of this low brick wall, about 2 feet high, remains near the amphitheater and appears to have been intentionally left as a "gateway" in the walkway from the amphitheater to the burial ground (Figure 2.9). The short remnant of the original Churchyard low brick wall near the amphitheater should be preserved in place.

Given the historic precedents for a barrier to the south side of the burial ground to separate it from other urban land uses, reestablishing the barrier is recommended. A barrier strengthens the spatial definition of the historically significant Churchyard and deter dog walking or other recreational activities that are currently bleeding over from the South Lawn and taking place among the gravestones. Removal of the existing overgrown hedges opens the views in the



Figure 2.8. W.L. Breton. *The Swedes Church*. 1828. Note the horizontal wood board fence shown along South Swanson Street and turning the corner (left) along the burial ground's southern boundary. This fence remained in place until being replaced by a brick wall in 1898. This and other similar images can provide a pattern for reestablishing a boundary fence to the south side of the burial ground (Boundary Option B, Task SSF-1).

understory providing a key view of the Churchyard from the South Lawn (Figure 2.6).

Archeological evaluation is needed in advance of the detailed planning or construction of any barrier. Further remnants of the wall may remain as physical evidence of its construction and placement, or there may be evidence of fence postholes or remnant features that could inform the design and our understanding of this historic landscape feature. An additional archeological concern could be the presence of outlying burials or foundations of buildings, including the 19th-century soap factory that burned and stood hard against Gloria Dei's southern property boundary.

Based on historic precedent two options are presented for defining the Churchyard/South Lawn boundary – Boundary Option A) a low brick wall that is patterned after the existing remnant at the amphitheater or Boundary Option B) a low, horizontal, wood-plank fence, shorter than those in pre-1898 photographs and drawings but similar in character (Figures 2.10 and 2.11). Archeology may be less of a cost factor with the fence since the disturbance is limited to postholes. The wood fence is likely to be less expensive to build than a low brick wall and may have more visual transparency but requires more frequent maintenance. The preference of the CLR Part 2 project team is for the fence (Boundary Option B) because it is easier to see through and less expensive to install.

Task VG-1 – Remove shrubbery along Churchyard/South Lawn boundary

The area of unmanaged shrubbery along the Churchyard/South Lawn boundary should be removed (Figure 2.7). There is no historic precedent within the period of significance of 1677 to 1958 for a vegetative screen along the burial ground's south side and the forsythia is serving as an area to collect wind-blown litter. It



Figure 2.9. Remnant low brick boundary wall, south side of burial ground, view looking northwest from near the amphitheater. The portion with the hipped concrete cap appears to be the oldest remnant of this wall. The cheek wall next to the step (bottom of view) is newer and a separate stage of construction. This could be a model for a new wall per Boundary Option A. March 2024.

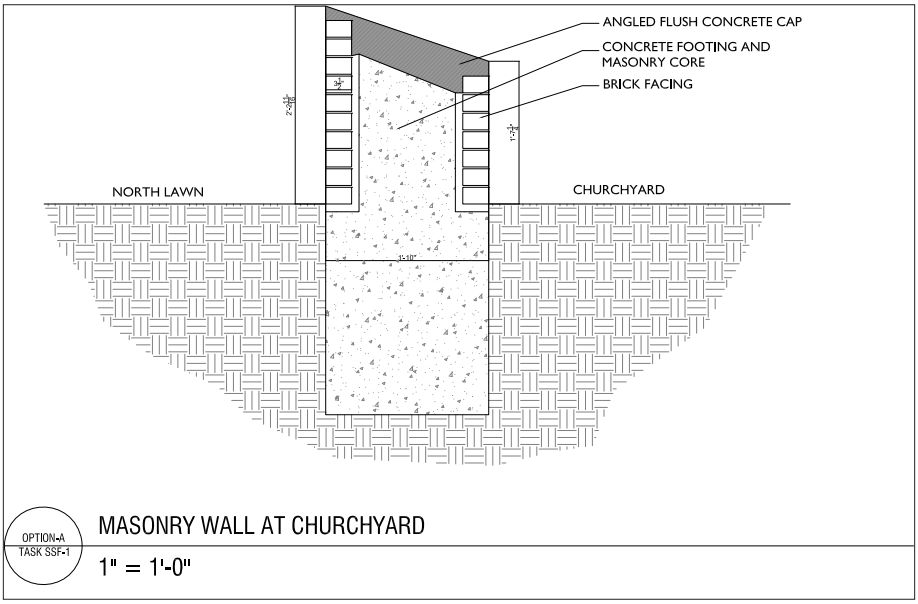


Figure 2.10. Option A for a low brick and concrete boundary wall between the Churchyard and South Lawn based on historical remnant in the present-day Churchyard.

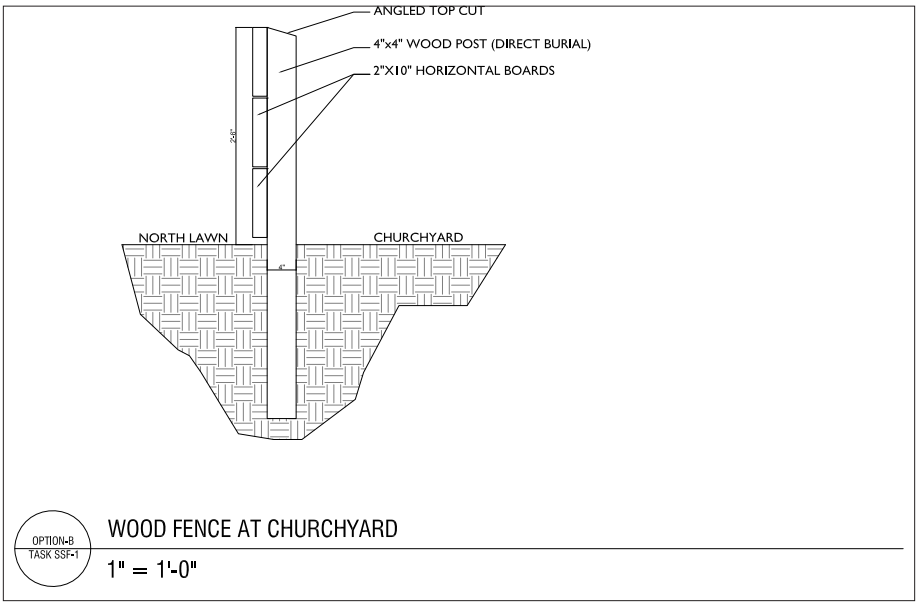


Figure 2.11. Option B for a wood fence boundary between the Churchyard and South Lawn (Task SSF-1), similar to those fences seen in historic photographs and drawings from prior to 1898.

creates an unnecessary maintenance burden requiring regular pruning and clean-up. It also blocks one of the key historic views of Gloria Dei Church from the south looking across the burial ground to the church's south porch (Figures 0.3 and 2.6). It creates a secluded space in the northeast corner of the South Lawn and promotes the creation of dirt paths along desire lines between the bushes. It is best to cut vegetation to ground level than carefully dig up roots to minimize archeological impacts.

SWANSON STREET FORECOURT TREATMENT TASKS

RATIONALE

The Swanson Street Forecourt corresponds to a triangle of land outside of the perimeter barrier to the northeast of the Churchyard and North Lawn. It is bound to the east by Columbus Boulevard and to the north by Christian Street, measuring approximately 540-feet long on the Columbus Boulevard frontage and 150-feet long on the Christian Street frontage. This land was formerly owned by the Pennsylvania Railroad for at-grade railroad spurs and occupied by South Swanson Street prior to the street being vacated in the mid-1980s (Figure 2.12). This area was developed and landscaped after 1985 as a park-like forecourt outside the gated front steps to the Gloria Dei Church and Rectory (Figure 2.13). The triangle includes former street right-of-way owned by the City of Philadelphia, as well as a parcel historically owned by the U.S. Coast Guard (the U.S. Coast Guard station is on the waterfront across Columbus Boulevard from Gloria Dei). NPS has managed and maintained the Swanson Street Forecourt as part of Gloria Dei since the early 1990s.



Figure 2.12. View looking west from South Delaware Avenue. 1917. Swanson Street lies beyond the railroad tracks in the foreground between the church and the tracks.



Figure 2.13. Swanson Street Forecourt, view looking north from Columbus Boulevard. This landscape character area is currently divorced from the site by the physical separation of the perimeter barrier. Only a short section of the wall to the east of the church and burial ground dates to 1898. That historic wall is shown here center of view and turning the southeast corner of the burial ground. The angled buttress wall (left of view) was added in the late 1970s. The remainder of the wall (beyond left of view) was installed in the late 1970s and this forecourt created in the late 1980s when Swanson Street was vacated. It has become a problematic area due to its lack of integration and visitation. March 2024.

As presently landscaped, the Swanson Street Forecourt is an isolated space with a late 1970s to late 1980s design of walls, grass mounds and plantings that are intended to promote privacy and screen the church property from Columbus Boulevard. This design is now causing problems with visitor safety and comfort due to a feeling of abandonment. From a cultural landscape perspective, the Swanson Street Forecourt has lost its historic spatial relationship to Gloria Dei in that it once served as the church's primary entrance. The entire forecourt needs a complete redesign to better integrate it with the site.

The overall rehabilitation treatment objective for the Swanson Street Forecourt is to reestablish the historic views of the Church as shown in drawings and historic photographs and to reactivate now-dormant historic circulation patterns and spatial relationships at the Churchyard's front entrance gates (Figure 2.6). Planning and management considerations include the desire for visitors and passersby to easily identify Gloria Dei from Columbus Boulevard, an arterial riverfront road along which the majority of visitors traveling by car first approach the site. The boulevard is also the spine of the Delaware River Trail.

The Swanson Street Forecourt is currently "divorced" from the rest of the Gloria Dei site due to the location of the non-historic sections of the perimeter barrier to the north and south of the Churchyard. With no passage between the forecourt and the North and South Lawns, the forecourt is not used for Gloria Dei programming and almost never accessed by visitors. Gloria Dei community members and recreational users from the neighborhood report an uneasiness about the forecourt area because of its isolation and screening from the neighboring streets. It has a history of attracting unwanted activities and offers a location in which vagrancy has at times taken hold.

NPS removed invasive plants or overgrown shrubs and pruned select ornamental tree plantings within the Swanson Street Forecourt in the winter of 2023-24.



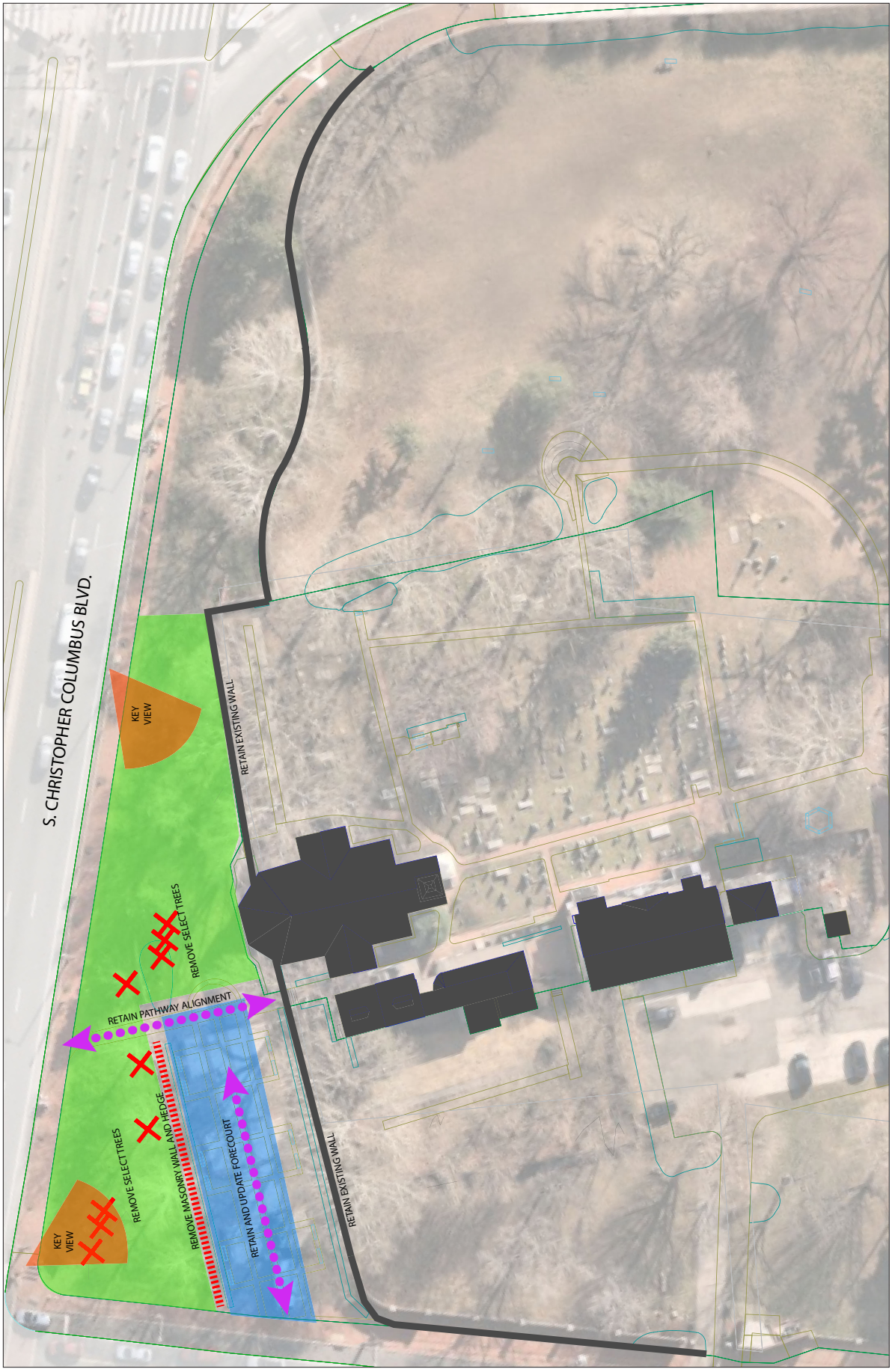
Figure 2.14. New NPS entry sign at the southwest corner of Christian Street and Columbus Boulevard within the Swanson Street Forecourt. A grove of ailing Austrian Pine (*Pinus nigra*) directly beyond the sign has been removed improving the appearance and opening the view . March 2024.

Additionally, ailing Austrian Pine (*Pinus nigra*) trees were removed and an aged wooden NPS sign was replaced (Figure 2.14). The positive impact of this thinning out of the vegetation and signage upgrade is immediately apparent.

In reimagining the Swanson Street Forecourt area, the project team developed three options (Figures 2.15 to 2.17).

Swanson Street Forecourt Option A offers a limited treatment by opening up key views of Gloria Dei Church through selective removal of vegetation and the outermost low brick wall. Mature trees, like the row of London Plane trees (*Platanus x acerifoia*) and healthy star magnolia trees (*Magnolia stellata*), are maintained to create a pleasant canopy and shade but shorter trees and shrubbery are removed for open views of the church from below the canopy. This option does not address accessibility or removal of barriers currently preventing pedestrian circulation between the Swanson Street Forecourt and the North and South Lawns.

Swanson Street Forecourt Option B creates a pedestrian connection between the North Lawn and the Swanson Street Forecourt by piercing the non-historic barriers that currently separate the two areas. A pedestrian ramp allows circulation between the North Lawn and the north end of the Swanson Street Forecourt. A new perimeter barrier is pushed out to the Columbus Boulevard and Christian Street sidewalks, better drawing the forecourt into Gloria Dei site. The recommended new perimeter barrier is a low brick wall capped by a tall open-picket iron fence, similar to the one that currently is located on Christian Street (Figure 2.18). This low brick wall and open fence maintains views from the street and its lower brick section cuts down on street noise, mitigating proposed changes to the existing walls, berms and plantings to open views and restore the Swanson Street ground plane. Swanson Street Forecourt Option B extends the current footprint of Swanson Street southeastward to Columbus Boulevard and forms



Figures 2.15. Swanson Street Forecourt Treatment Option A. Limited treatment that focuses on opening historic viewsheds through selective removal of tree and shrub plantings. Multiple layers of tree plantings and barriers between the Church and adjacent roadway inhibit views and support vagrancy. This treatment aims to clear obstructions and refresh the Church frontage as a more welcoming and visible space.

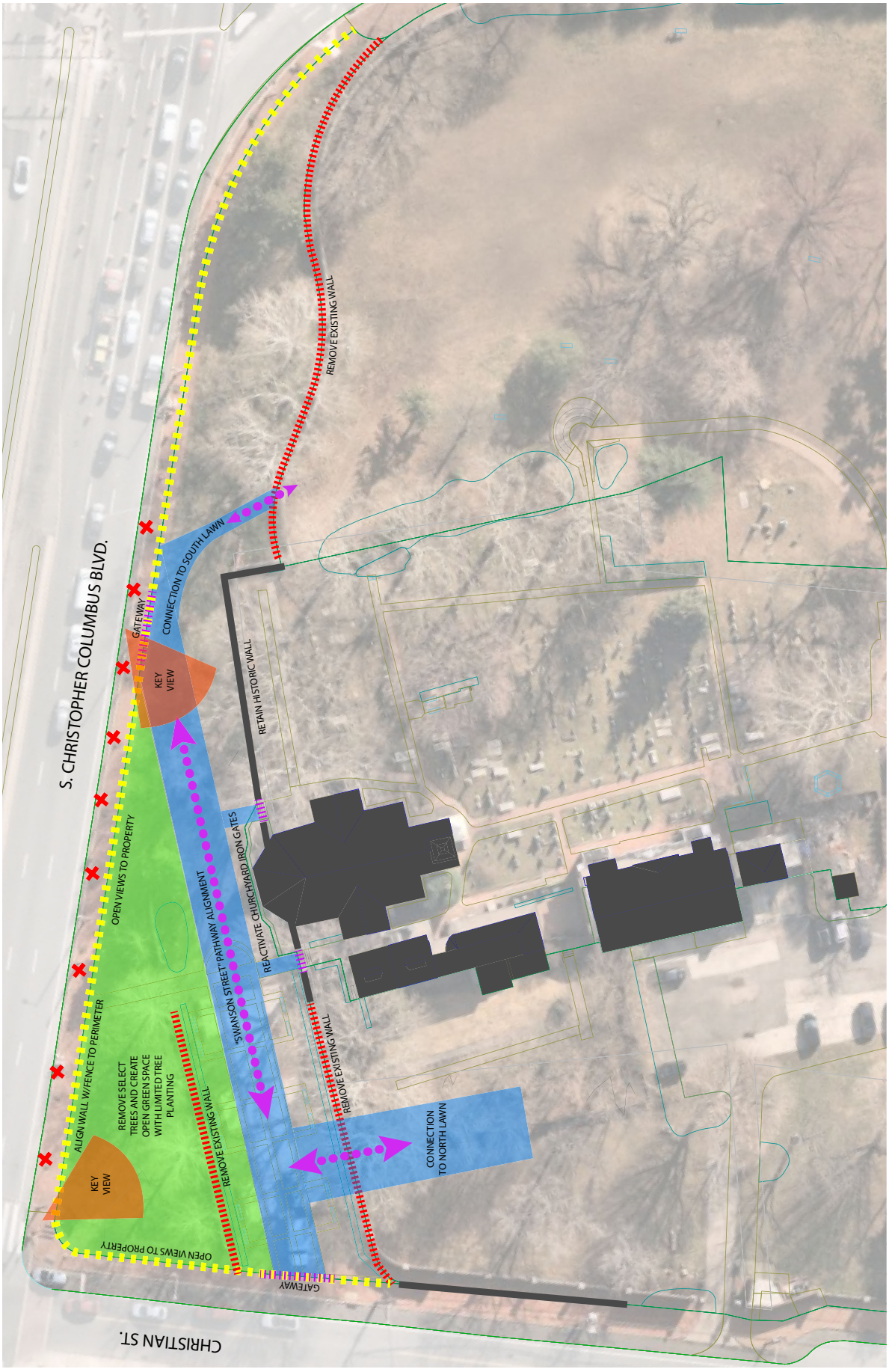


Figure 2.16. Swanson Street Forecourt Treatment Option B. This option focuses on developing pedestrian connections with the rest of the site with direct links to the North and South lawns through perimeter wall re-alignments and new circulation patterns. This design will also focus on selective vegetation removals and viewshed improvements. Site security will also be improved by enclosing the space within the larger perimeter barrier.

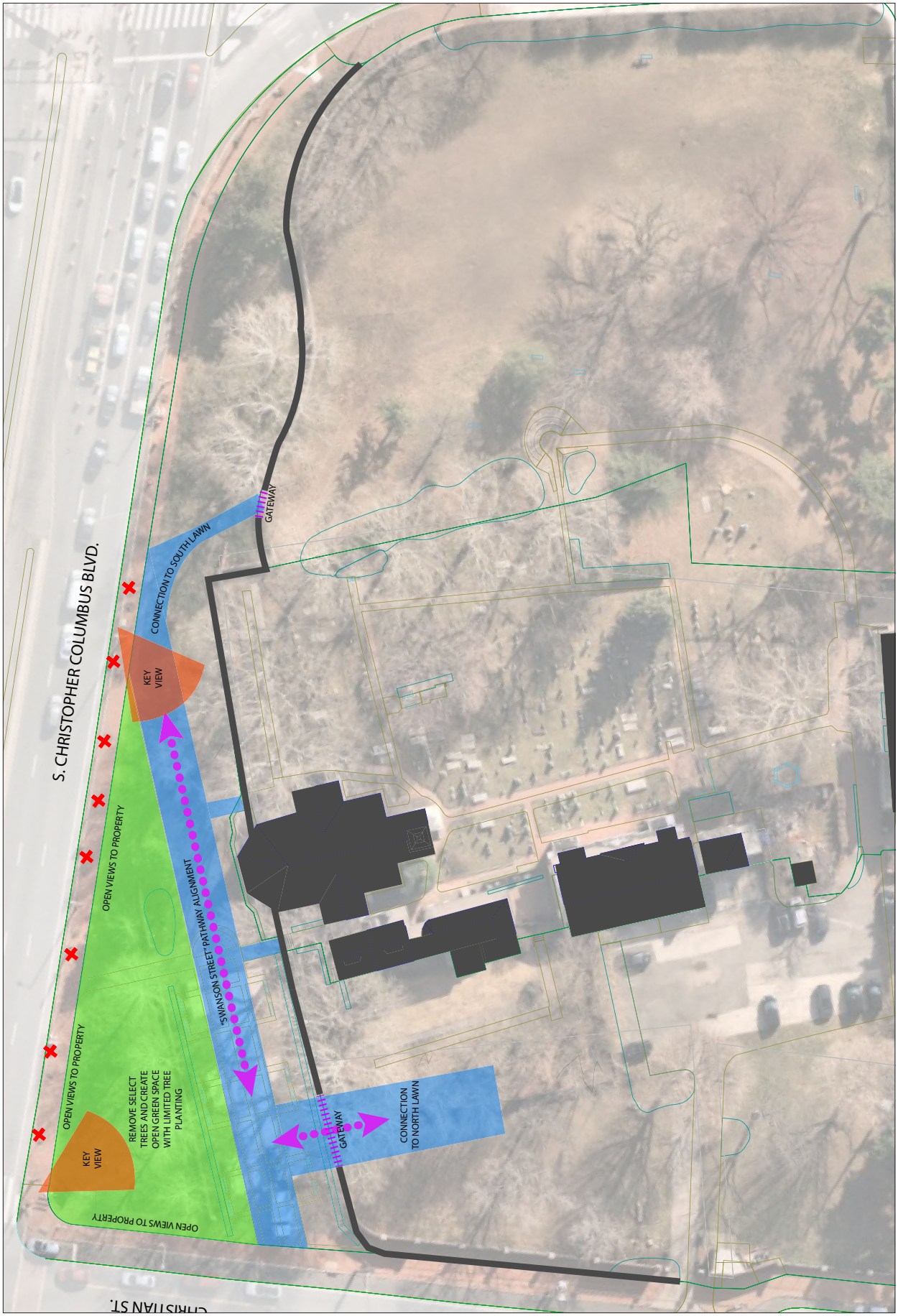


Figure 2.17. Swanson Street Forecourt Treatment Option C. Option C utilizes the same design as Option B, yet retains the existing perimeter barrier alignment, similar to Option A.



Figure 2.18. Low brick wall capped by wrought-iron picket fence, looking southeast from Christian Street. This style of non-historic barrier from the late 1970s, which exists along the Christian Street frontage and along the northern portion of the South Water Street frontage, is recommended for extending the perimeter wall around the Swanson Street Forecourt under Option B. The visually permeable design is preferable to the solid brick walls currently used on the Washington Street and southern portion of the South Water Street frontage. March 2024.

a connection with the South Lawn. A new entry gate at Columbus Boulevard provides a future connection to riverfront improvements being contemplated by the City of Philadelphia and the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation.

Swanson Street Forecourt Option C is similar to Option B; however, it retains the existing perimeter wall and fences from the 1970s and adds gates where the new North and South Lawn pathway connections are made. This opens the forecourt to more interactions with the other landscape character areas and creates more ways to enter the site that could be controlled by closing the gates.

The project team recommends Swanson Street Forecourt Option B as the preferred treatment option. Option B meets the goal of improving site safety and security through selective editing and removal of existing vegetation and perimeter barrier re-alignment while retaining all portions of the brick wall that date to the period of significance of 1677 to 1958. The usage of the property as a whole is optimized by creating strong pedestrian circulation and movement through the Swanson Street Forecourt to both the South and North Lawn areas, effectively unifying the spaces, and activating areas of the property that feature key views and vistas (Figure 2.6). Bringing the entirety of the forecourt within a new perimeter fence allows for reactivation of the Gloria Dei Church's now-locked, historic Swanson Street iron gates, meaning visitors can once again experience the Churchyard through its original front entrances since the gates no longer need to be locked for security. Swanson Street Forecourt Option B draws visitors toward the historic views of the church and burial ground on the slightly elevated ground west of the former Swanson Street. Opportunities are created for interpretive wayside signage along the circulatory route through the grounds. These recommendations paired with a measured ground plane interpretation of the bygone Swanson Street roadway alignment effectively transform the forecourt from an underused liability back to its historic role as a gateway into the

Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church National Historic Site. Figure 2.19 presents an overview of the proposed concept under Swanson Street Forecourt Option B for the reworking of the site's perimeter barriers.

TREATMENT TASKS

Task BS-1 – Removal of non-historic brick masonry walls at select locations (Swanson Street Forecourt Option B)

Removal of the non-historic late 1970s brick perimeter walls and fencing that separate the Swanson Street Forecourt from the North Lawn and the South Lawn restores historic views, promotes better pedestrian flow throughout the entire site and creates opportunities to better highlight Gloria Dei's significant resources within an open dignified setting (Figures 2.20 and 2.21). A secondary non-historic low brick wall, which was installed in the late 1980s to enclose the east side of the forecourt's brick and stone-paved plaza, becomes superfluous and can be removed (Figure 2.22). These wall removals only make sense in combination with the "pushing out" of a new perimeter barrier to the sidewalks along Columbus Boulevard and the east end of Christian Street (Task BS-2) and the development of pedestrian circulation between the Swanson Street Forecourt and the North and South Lawns (Task CR-1) (Figure 2.19).

Task BS-2 - Install new perimeter barrier of low brick masonry wall capped by iron picket fence along Christopher Columbus Boulevard and east end of Christian Street (Swanson Street Forecourt Option B only)

Adjusting the current perimeter barrier under Swanson Street Forecourt Option B to enclose the Swanson Street Forecourt and better integrate it into the park has multiple beneficial impacts. It creates opportunities to reactivate the historic front pedestrian entrance gates to the church, improve the visibility of the historic buildings and their architecture, and encourage visitor use of a currently unwelcoming space. It is recommended that the new perimeter barrier – for visual consistency and visual permeability – be made compatible with the low brick wall, brick pier and picket fence design currently used along Gloria Dei's Christian Street frontage (Figure 2.18). This new perimeter barrier is located on the street frontages adjacent to the existing brick sidewalks (Figure 2.23).

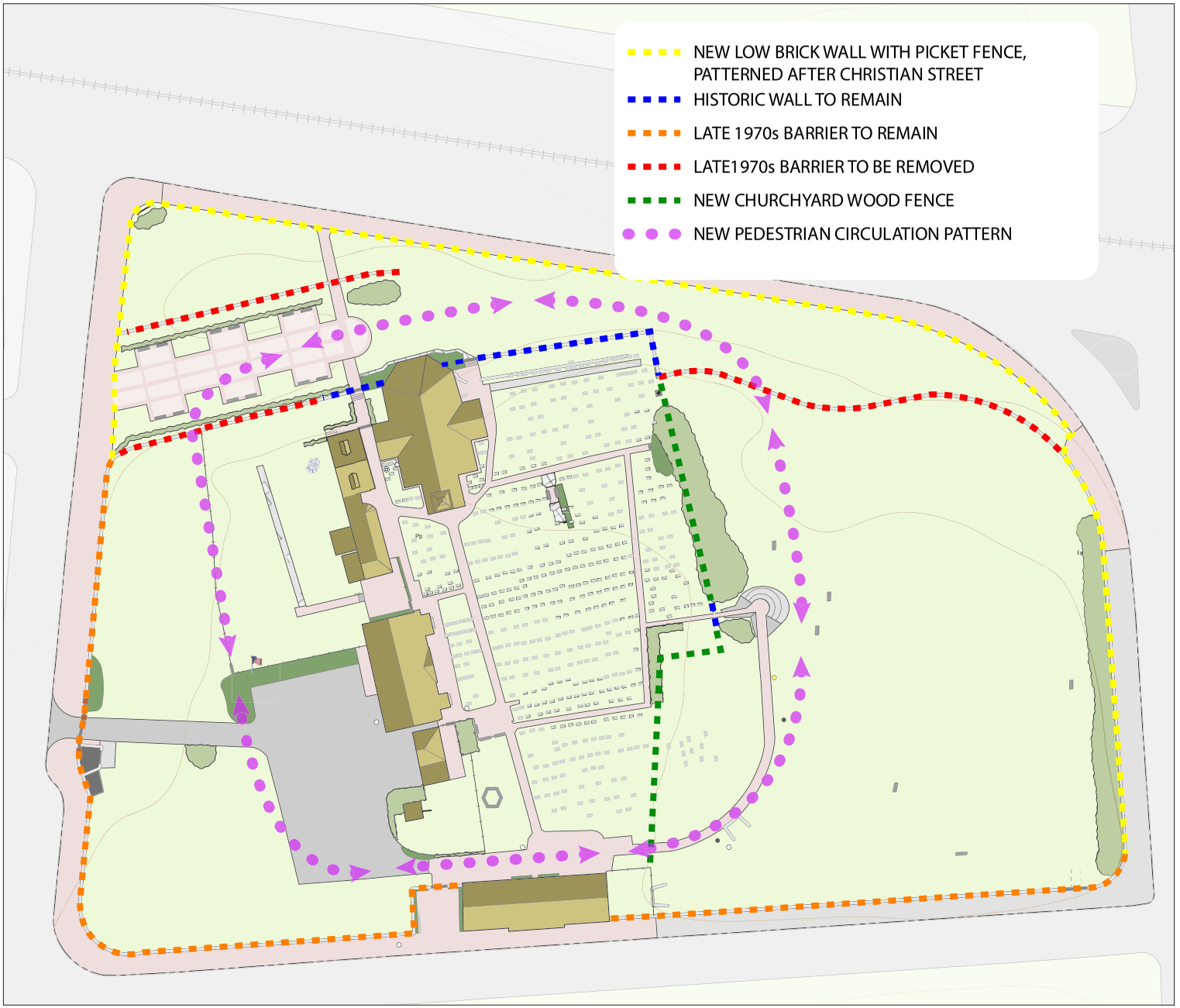


Figure 2.19. Proposed Concept for Updated Walls and Fences. This concept incorporates Swanson Street Forecourt Option B and South Lawn Option A , pushing the perimeter barrier out to Columbus Boulevard to enclose the forecourt (Tasks BS-1 to BS-3). The arrows illustrate the new circulation patterns made possible by this option (Tasks CR-1 to CR-6). Also shown on this figure are the wood fence for the Churchyard and South Lawn boundary (Task SSF-1, Option B) and replacing the Washington Street high brick wall with a fence on a low brick wall to open the views (Task BS-4), similar to the current conditions on Christian Street.



Figure 2.20. The high brick wall to the right of this view separates the Swanson Street Forecourt (in foreground) from the North Lawn, which is located behind the wall at a slightly higher elevation. Removal of the righthand, solid portion of this non-historic wall facilitates a connection to the North Lawn and serves to reactivate the forecourt and full circulation throughout the site (Tasks BS-1, CR-1 and CR-5). Only the low wall with fence and gate immediately in front of the Rectory (far left of view) is historic. March 2024.



Figure 2.21. The high brick perimeter wall in this view separates the South Lawn from the south end of the Swanson Street Forecourt area. Removal of this non-historic wall from the late 1970s opens up the circulation patterns and better integrates the site (Swanson Street Forecourt Option B, South Lawn Option A, Tasks BS-1, CR-3 and CR-6). It also draws visitors into the forecourt for key views of the church. March 2024.



Figure 2.22. This secondary brick wall currently divides the Swanson Street Forecourt and creates an additional and unnecessary visual barrier and screened space. It is recommended for removal (Task BS-1). March 2024.



Figure 2.23. Swanson Street Forecourt area, view looking north with Columbus Boulevard to right of view. Under the recommended treatment, the perimeter fence is pushed out to the edge of the property, meeting the existing brick sidewalk (Task BS-2). A proposed gate is located at approximately the location from which this view is taken (Task BS-3). March 2024.

Task BS-3 - Install new perimeter gates at Columbus Boulevard and east end of Christian Street at historic intersection with Swanson Street (Swanson Street Forecourt Option B only)

Entrance gates on the Christian Street and Columbus Boulevard frontages are included within the adjusted perimeter barrier (Task BS-2) to offer visitor and maintenance access to the Swanson Street Forecourt. These gates may be patterned after existing gates such as the one at the site's Christian Street entrance lane (Figure 1.5). These proposed gates align with the historic footprint of South Swanson Street in order to strengthen interpretation and appreciation of the street as the historic front approach to the church. These gates facilitate a connection to Columbus Boulevard, where there is currently no connection, and the Delaware River Trail. The gates have future visitation in mind in anticipation of the City of Philadelphia and Delaware River Waterfront Corporation's initiative to redevelop the piers to the east of the boulevard.[1] The waterfront initiative is likely to attract increased pedestrian and bicycle usage of Gloria Dei's open space, particularly along routes that facilitate passage between the residential neighborhoods west of Gloria Dei and the waterfront. The redesigned forecourt could be one of those routes.

Task CR-1 – Develop a new pedestrian connection between the Swanson Street Forecourt and the North Lawn (Swanson Street Forecourt Options B or C)

The non-historic retaining wall at the northwest corner of the Swanson Street Forecourt currently addresses a grade change on the property between the forecourt and the North Lawn (Figure 2.20). Once the wall is removed to improve circulation and visibility of historic resources (Task BS-1), a new pathway with a ramp provides circulation between the Swanson Street Forecourt and the North Lawn.

Task CR-2 – Redesign South Swanson Street Forecourt paving and ground plane (all options)

Presently, the portion of the original northwestern end of the South Swanson Street footprint is acknowledged in the landscape by a checkerboard pattern forecourt using granite pavers and bricks (Figures 0.21 and 2.20). The design, which originated as a Pennsylvania Department of Transportation project in 1985 to mitigate improvements to the Columbus Boulevard and its Washington Avenue and Christian Street intersections, has not worked as planned. It neither draws visitors to Gloria Dei nor is it frequented by visitors and neighbors as a place to relax outdoors. The intentional screening of the church has turned out to be more negative than positive in its results. As an interpretive device, the existing checkerboard paving does not reflect its past use as a street. It also does not continue south to Christopher Columbus Boulevard, instead terminating at a large concrete planter (Figure 0.21) and a low mounded area planted with trees and shrubs (Figure 2.24). It is not any single landscape feature that limits an understanding of the street's historic footprint but a combination of features including a low non-historic wall to the east of the forecourt pavers (Figure 2.22). This checkerboard paved area feels more like a plaza than a former street.

A redesign of the pedestrian circulation and paving in the historic footprint of South Swanson Street assists with reactivating this space and restoring circulation patterns and spatial associations in combination with the adjustments to the perimeter barriers described above in Tasks BS-1 and BS-2. The treatment task includes moderate regrading of the ground plane to remove the low mounds in the former South Swanson Street footprint and restore the pre-1985 street grade. This allows for extending the existing paved area all of the way from Christian Street to Columbus Boulevard and aligning with the gates discussed in above Task BS-3. Granite pavers or concrete instead of brick are preferred options



Figure 2.24. Swanson Street Forecourt, view looking northwest along the original alignment of Swanson Street. The preferred treatment recommendation removes this mound and its plantings to restore the ground plane to near the original street level for an interpretation of the street, connecting to Columbus Boulevard and opening historic views of the church (Task CR-2). March 2024.

for walking surface materials since they best convey a street-like quality. Granite pavers existed in South Swanson Street per late 19th and early 20th century photographs. That said, one cost-saving alternative could be retention of the existing checkboard stone and brick paver pattern, which is in relatively good condition, and extending it southeastward to Columbus Boulevard.

Task CR-3 Develop a new pedestrian connection between the Swanson Street Forecourt and the South Lawn (Swanson Street Forecourt Options B or C)

The non-historic high brick wall at the northwest corner of the Swanson Street Forecourt currently stands at grade between the Swanson Street Forecourt and the South Lawn (Figure 2.21). Once the wall is removed to improve circulation and visibility of historic resources, a new pathway with a ramp provides circulation between the forecourt and the South Lawn. It is proposed that this ramp follow the grade of the current slope to a connection with the Swanson Street footprint alignment (Task CR-2).

Task VG-2 Removal of selected trees and shrubs in the forecourt turf lawn area (all options)

Removal of selected trees and shrubs within the existing turf lawn area is needed to open up key historic views and increase safety. As mentioned previously, NPS has already undertaken some of these removals in winter 2023-24. Restoration of the ground plane within the Swanson Street footprint to its pre-1985 elevations complements these tree and shrub removals (Task CR-2). Priority should be given to preservation of a handful of healthy London planetrees (*Platanus acerifolia*) and star magnolia trees (*Magnolia stellata*) that currently exist within the forecourt area.

Task SSF-2 New interpretive wayside signs in forecourt area (all options)

There is currently no interpretive signage in the Swanson Street Forecourt area. Signs are recommended to be located at the north and south ends of the Swanson Street footprint path (Task CR-2), near where it intersects with the ramps to the North and South Lawns (Tasks CR-1 and CR-3). These interpretive waysides can inform visitors about the Gloria Dei Church history and the changing waterfront landscape it inhabits.

Task SSF-3 New pathway lighting in forecourt area (all options)

A simple bollard-type low-level pathway lighting is recommended for the safety and accessibility of the redesigned forecourt area along the alignment of the Swanson Street footprint (Task CR-2). Proposed lighting should not be pole-mounted or high-level as that detracts from views of the historic church.

Consideration could be given to up-lighting of the church or the church steeple in cooperation with Gloria Dei Church. Lighting the buildings is not included in these treatment tasks since it involves church-owned property.

NORTH LAWN TREATMENT TASKS

RATIONALE

The North Lawn corresponds to land within the site perimeter barrier to the north of the Churchyard, and is an area formerly occupied by row houses and industries facing Christian Street, South Water Street (former Otsego Street) and South Swanson Street (Figure 2.25). The North Lawn is a roughly rectangular shaped area roughly measuring 270 feet east-to-west and 120 feet north-to-south. The southern section of the North Lawn, including most of the parking lot and a portion of the Rectory side yard, are on private church property, while the northern section from the parking lot to Christian Street is property of the federal government (Drawing 1). Treatment objectives for the North Lawn focus on improving pedestrian and vehicular circulation, unifying disjointed green space and creating program opportunities.

The two-way vehicular access along the narrow drive from Christian Street to the Gloria Dei parking lot is an access and safety issue, as is evidenced by a garbage truck that knocked down a gate post in 2020. During the project workshop, stakeholders discussed the potential for opening a new access from the parking lot to South Water Street, possibly configuring it as a one-way exit, allowing the current narrow drive to function as a one-way entrance from Christian Street. Other alternatives included reversing the flow with traffic entering from South



Figure 2.25. North Lawn, view looking west with I-95 elevated expressway in the background. March 2024.

Water Street and exiting onto Christian Street, as well as possibly closing off the Christian Street lane to vehicles (while retaining the lane for pedestrians) and making South Water Street a two-way vehicular entrance and exit. Accompanying all of these options were ideas for reconfiguring the parking lot for more efficient use of the parking spaces. Also discussed was pulling the parking lot northward to provide more of a buffer between it and the Sexton's House and Riverside Hall. This buffer could be used for plantings and providing better transitions from the parking lot to the pathways entering the Churchyard. While many of these ideas have merit, the fell outside the scope of the CLR Part 2 since they are all located on church-owned property.

This report provides four options (Vehicular Drive Circulation Options A to D) for improving the Christian Street drive and gate for two-way traffic and pedestrian safety (Figures 2.26 to 2.29). The options all make use of the current drive alignment and avoid changes to the church-owned parking lot, leaving open the option for future discussions with Gloria Dei regarding the design of the parking lot.

Vehicular Drive Circulation Option A creates a two-lane "boulevard" by retaining the existing one-lane-wide drive, acknowledging that it approximates the footprint of a lane that has existed here since the 18th century, while adding another one-lane-wide drive for exiting traffic. The two lanes are separated by a grass strip, creating a boulevard effect.

Vehicular Drive Circulation Option B widens the existing drive and gate for two-way traffic.

Vehicular Drive Circulation Option C is the two-lane Option B drive with the addition of a sidewalk to the east of the lane for pedestrians. The entry gate is currently configured with locked, inactive, pedestrian entry gates flanking the center vehicular gate, the eastern of which could be reactivated and connect to a new sidewalk (Figure 2.3). A variation in Vehicular Drive Circulation Option B could be not widening the lane, retaining its current one-lane width, but adding the sidewalk

Vehicular Drive Circulation Option D retains the existing one-lane drive and two-way traffic pattern with no changes.

The project team recommends Vehicular Drive Circulation Option C as the preferred treatment. This provides the best balance of safety and retention of a lane in the location of a historic lane from the colonial period, retaining historic spatial relationships. It provides for the addition of a sidewalk, which promotes pedestrian safety and separates walkers from traffic entering and exiting through a gate with blind spots.

The degraded wood fence and volunteer tree growth that defines the Rectory's

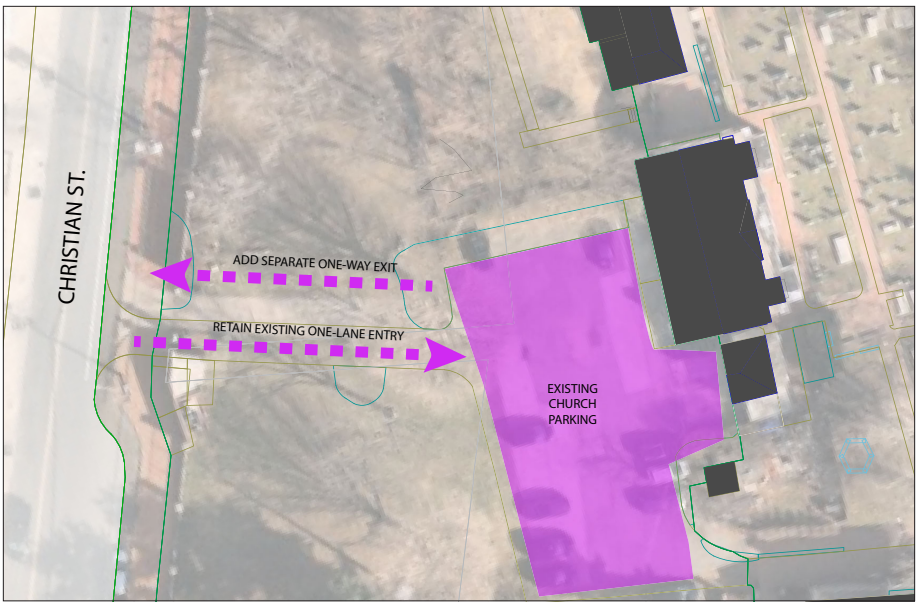


Figure 2.26. Vehicular Drive Circulation Option A: Retain the existing one-lane drive for vehicular entry only and install an additional one-lane drive for vehicular exit. The additional lane would require a separate gate or expansion of the existing gate along Christian Street.



Figure 2.27. Vehicular Drive Circulation Option B: Widen the existing one-lane drive to accommodate two-way vehicular traffic. The widened lane would require an expansion of the existing gate along Christian Street.

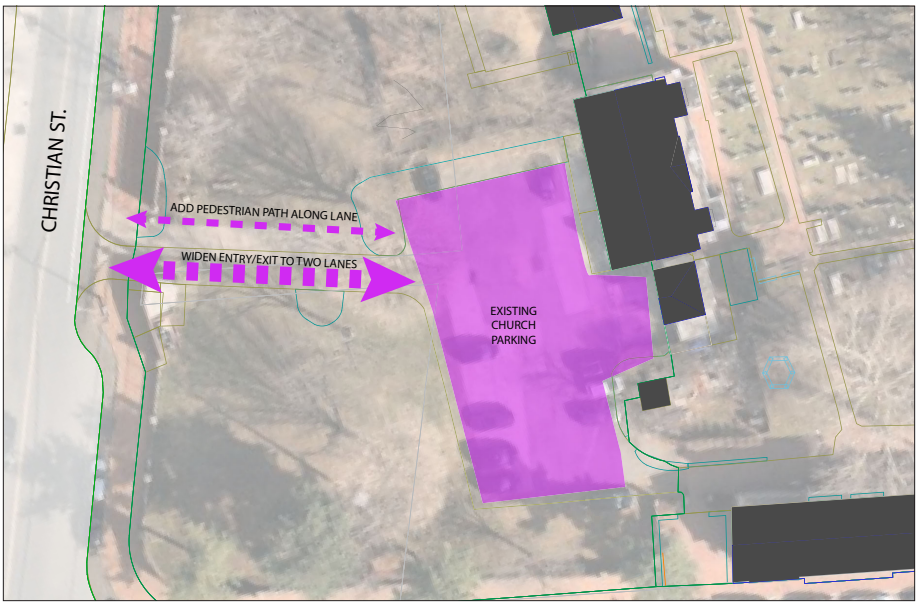


Figure 2.28. Vehicular Drive Circulation Option C. Widen the existing one-lane drive to accomodate two-way traffic lane and a separate pedestrian path adjacent to the vehicular lane.

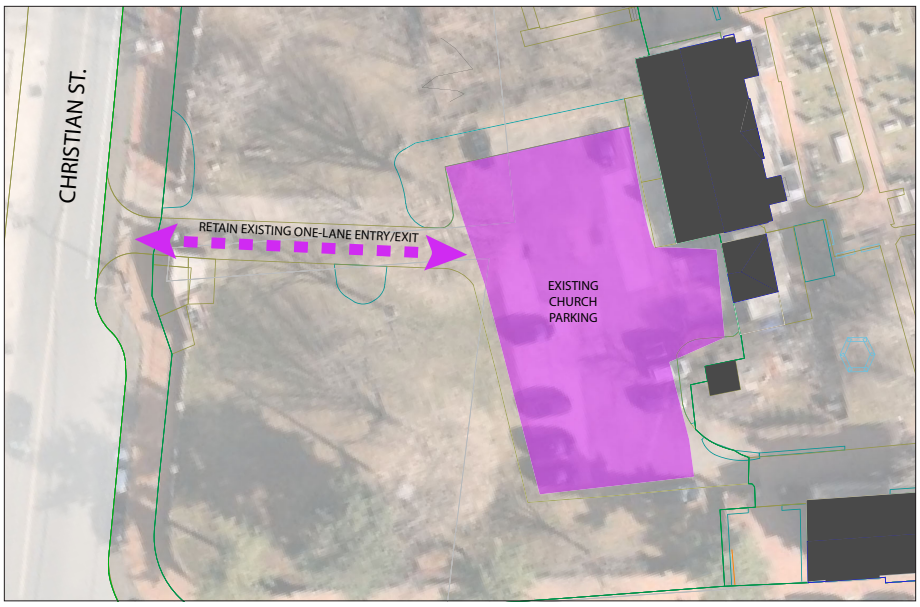


Figure 2.29. Vehicular Drive Circulation Option D: Retain the existing one-lane drive as is. No revisions to existing layout.



Figure 2.30. Degraded privacy fence in the North Lawn, looking southwest with Riverside Hall in the left background. This deteriorated fence is recommended for removal (Task SSF-4). March 2024.



Figure 2.31. Volunteer tree growth in the North Lawn, looking northeast with housing on Christian Street in the background. Privacy fence and volunteer trees recommended for removal (Tasks SSF-4 and VG-3). March 2024.

seldom-used side yard divides the eastern end of the North Lawn (Figures 2.30 and 2.31). A general clearing of the wood fencing and volunteer growth is proposed to allow for a new pathway connecting the North Lawn and the Swanson Street Forecourt and enlarge the lawn area for flexible activities, including NPS-permitted church events.

TREATMENT TASKS

Task CR-4 Update Vehicular Drive Circulation Pattern to Parking Area (Vehicular Circulation Option C)

The existing, narrow two-way entry drive in the North Lawn is along the alignment of a lane that has existed since the early part of the 18th century (Figure 2.32). It originally passed to the rear of the parsonage where records indicate the church had built a stable and pasture for the parson's use. This drive has continued to offer "rear" access to the site down to the present day and appears on most of the historic maps. This drive represents a historic circulation pattern and spatial associations that should be respected and retained.

The principal concern with the lane is that it is shared with pedestrians, narrow and one-way, which creates some awkward traffic movements and a potentially unsafe condition. Most drivers and pedestrians who regularly visit Gloria Dei have learned to anticipate these situations and there is no history of significant accidents causing bodily harm; however, larger vehicles, such as garbage and delivery trucks, face difficulties as experienced in 2020 when a garbage truck knocked over a brick gatepost at the Christian Street entrance.

The recommended treatment to address the currently sub-standard vehicular circulation pattern is to widen the drive and gate to two lanes and/or add a



Figure 2.32. Entry drive looking south with Riverside Hall and Sexton's House in the background beyond the parking lot. The recommended treatment is to widen to two lanes and/or add a sidewalk to the east side (left of view) per Vehicular Drive Circulation Option C (Task CR-4). March 2024.

sidewalk (Vehicular Drive Circulation Option C). This allows traffic entering and exiting the site to circulate and avoid head-on conflicts and improve the turning sight lines at the entrance. The eastern of the pedestrian entry gates, which is currently kept locked, is reactivated and a sidewalk constructed parallel to the drive. The new sidewalk meets up with a new pedestrian path from the North Lawn to the Swanson Street Forecourt (Task CR-5). The sidewalk encourages pedestrians to refrain from walking in the drive.

Task CR-5 – Develop a new pedestrian connection between the North Lawn and the Swanson Street Forecourt (Swanson Street Forecourt Options B or C)

Along with the proposal to develop a new path between the North Lawn and the Swanson Street Forecourt at the east end of the North Lawn (Task CR-1), a pedestrian pathway is desirable across the North Lawn between the northeast corner of the parking lot and the northeast corner of the North Lawn (Figure 2.33). New pathways are shown as being paved with concrete and curvilinear to differentiate them from the historic rectilinear brick pathways in the Churchyard.

Task SSF-4 Remove degraded wood privacy fencing that currently divides the east end of the North Lawn

The wood privacy fence that currently defines the Rectory's side yard has no historic precedent and was only added to the site in the past 25 years. The fence is at the end of its life, increasingly unsafe and is recommended for removal (Figures 2.30 and 2.31). The principal reason for erecting the fence was to create a private yard for the occupants of the Rectory. In August 2023, Gloria Dei converted the Rectory into office space and no longer uses it as a residence. Removal of the fence is recommended to open up the views and create an alternative public circulation between the North Lawn and the Churchyard. Current low native plantings along



Figure 2.33. North Lawn, east end where it terminates in a wall adjacent to the Swanson Street Forecourt (beyond brick wall). With the brick wall removed, a new pathway at this location connects the North Lawn and the Swanson Street Forecourt, completing a circuit of the site (Task CR-5). The privacy fence, right of view, is proposed for removal to open up the lawn (Task SSF-4). March 2024.

the south side of the fence against the parking lot can be maintained in raised beds.

Task VG-3 Remove volunteer tree growth near degraded wood fence and replace with native trees

An increasingly dense and unwanted volunteer tree growth is located in the North Lawn area to the south of a degraded wood privacy fence that currently defines the Rectory side yard (Figure 2.31). These trees, largely consisting of mulberry and weeping cherry, have no historic precedent and currently present an unattractive and unneeded barrier. Removal of the vegetation may provide new programming opportunities in the lawn. Since the north elevation of the Rectory is a blind wall that was not intended to be seen, a small grove of screening of native trees is recommended and will provide spatial definition between the new North Lawn to Swanson Street Forecourt path (Task CR-5) and the Rectory. Over time, this will create a canopy but not be as intrusive or unmanageable as the current volunteer growth.

Task SSF-2 New interpretive wayside sign in North Lawn

The interpretive sign located to the rear of Riverside Hall is in a less than optimal location and is worn out (Figure 2.4). This plan recommends removal of the old sign and replacing it with an updated one that is located at the beginning of the new pathway from the parking lot to the Swanson Street Forecourt. This orients visitors who arrive by car and encourages them to use the new circulatory pathways to experience the site.

Task SSF-3 New pathway lighting in North Lawn

A simple bollard-type low-level pathway lighting is recommended for the safety and accessibility of the North Lawn area. This lighting can be located along the new walkway (Task CR-5).

SOUTH LAWN TREATMENT TASKS

RATIONALE

The South Lawn corresponds to land within the perimeter barrier to the south of the Churchyard, including land formerly occupied by factories and row houses facing Washington Avenue, South Water Street and South Swanson Street. The lawn is a roughly rectangular space measuring 270 feet east-to-west and 240 feet north-to-south. This character area is entirely the property of the federal

government and includes in its northwest corner the Revolutionary War and Scottish Thistle Society monuments that were moved to Gloria Dei in 1950 (Figure 0.12). There are no burials associated with these monuments. Several site features are present within the South Lawn including a degraded, circular, concrete amphitheater and a curving path from the Roak Building to the amphitheater along which is the site's only internal outdoor light pole.

During the interviews and project workshop, participants expressed a variety of differing opinions and objectives for the South Lawn, with no strong emerging consensus. Some workshop participants noted an appreciation of the present lawn space as a flexible area for the use of local residents. Dog walking is the area's primary use today, which has the benefits of frequent activity, and downside of degradation of the lawn and unleashed pets. Still other participants have expressed interest in converting the South Lawn to a native woodland, sometimes combining that desire with the potential of the woods to buffer visual and auditory distractions that come from the surrounding urban environment, particularly the elevated I-95 expressway to the west. The Community Design Collaborative, working in partnership with the Historic Gloria Dei Preservation Corporation, offered a concept to replace the South Lawn with a densely planted native woodland in 2017, dubbing it "Sven's Woods." Some Gloria Dei members comments that they believe a woodland is in line with the City of Philadelphia's drive for more trees and that the City or granting organizations might be able to support a tree planting initiative. NPS representatives noted their concern that keeping up with basic maintenance in the South Lawn, which includes basic mowing, trash pick-up and minimal tree and shrubbery pruning, is already a difficult task that would become even more difficult with transition to higher maintenance woodland horticulture. The workshop was in general agreement that security in the South Lawn area is currently non-optimal due to a lack of adequate lighting and secluded spots behind plantings around the edges of the lawn. Another observation from the workshop was that the South Lawn lacks a pedestrian circulatory pattern, which also contributes to it mostly being used by dog walkers. Some NPS and church stakeholders felt that the lack of a pedestrian connection between the South Lawn and Washington Avenue contributed to the South Lawn's feeling of isolation and also limited ability to take advantage of the pedestrian and bicycle accessibility improvements being planned for Washington Avenue by the City of Philadelphia. Participants also mentioned that views northward from the South Lawn toward the Churchyard, and particularly toward the focal point of the church steeple, are underappreciated due to the currently existing vegetative screen at the Churchyard and South Lawn boundary (Task VG-1)(Figure 2.34).

The project team developed three options (South Lawn Options A to C) based on feedback from project participants (Figures 2.35 to 2.37). All three options envision a new walking loop of the South Lawn.



Figure 2.34. South Lawn, view looking northeast toward the Gloria Dei Church. Treatment recommendations recommend improving the view by removal of the understory and some judicious tree pruning (Task VG-1). March 2024.

South Lawn Treatment Option A creates two tree groves against the eastern and western edges of the lawn to frame the view of the Churchyard looking northeast. This option replaces the existing deteriorated amphitheater with a new slightly larger and lower profile amphitheater that better fits within the topography of the existing site. The perimeter barrier is pushed eastward to Columbus Boulevard facilitating a new pathway connection to the Swanson Street Forecourt (Task CR-3), completing the circuit of the site. A new pedestrian gate is located on the Washington Avenue frontage, connecting the site to this thoroughfare and facilitating compatibility with the City of Philadelphia and Delaware River Waterfront Corporation's proposed Washington Avenue Connector initiative. This initiative includes a greening of the street and multi-modal vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The focus of the Washington Avenue Connector initiative in the block that contains Gloria Dei is on the opposite south side of Washington Avenue, which will have a planted park-like space described in the initiative master plan as the East Plaza.[2]

South Lawn Option B is a variation in Option A with the primary difference being retention of the existing perimeter barrier in its current location and configuration. This eliminates the circulatory connection to the Swanson Street Forecourt and the gate to Washington Avenue. The amphitheater remains as is, being slated for maintenance to restore its drainage system and replacement of the lost wood-slat seating. South Lawn Option B is offered as a lower cost or interim alternative to pushing out the barrier to enclose the Swanson Street Forecourt as shown in South Lawn Option A.

South Lawn Option C reimagines the South Lawn as a successional woodland with a pedestrian pathway meandering through the woodland. It does not have a gate at Washington Avenue to help prevent the woods from attracting nuisance activities. This option responds to some of Gloria Dei stakeholders' comments



Figure 2.35. South Lawn Landscape Treatment Option A: Tree groves to frame views from South Lawn to the Church and burial ground. Perimeter along Washington Avenue to remain unplanted and high perimeter to be revised with fence on a low brick wall to open views into the property. South Water Street perimeter wall to remain unchanged.

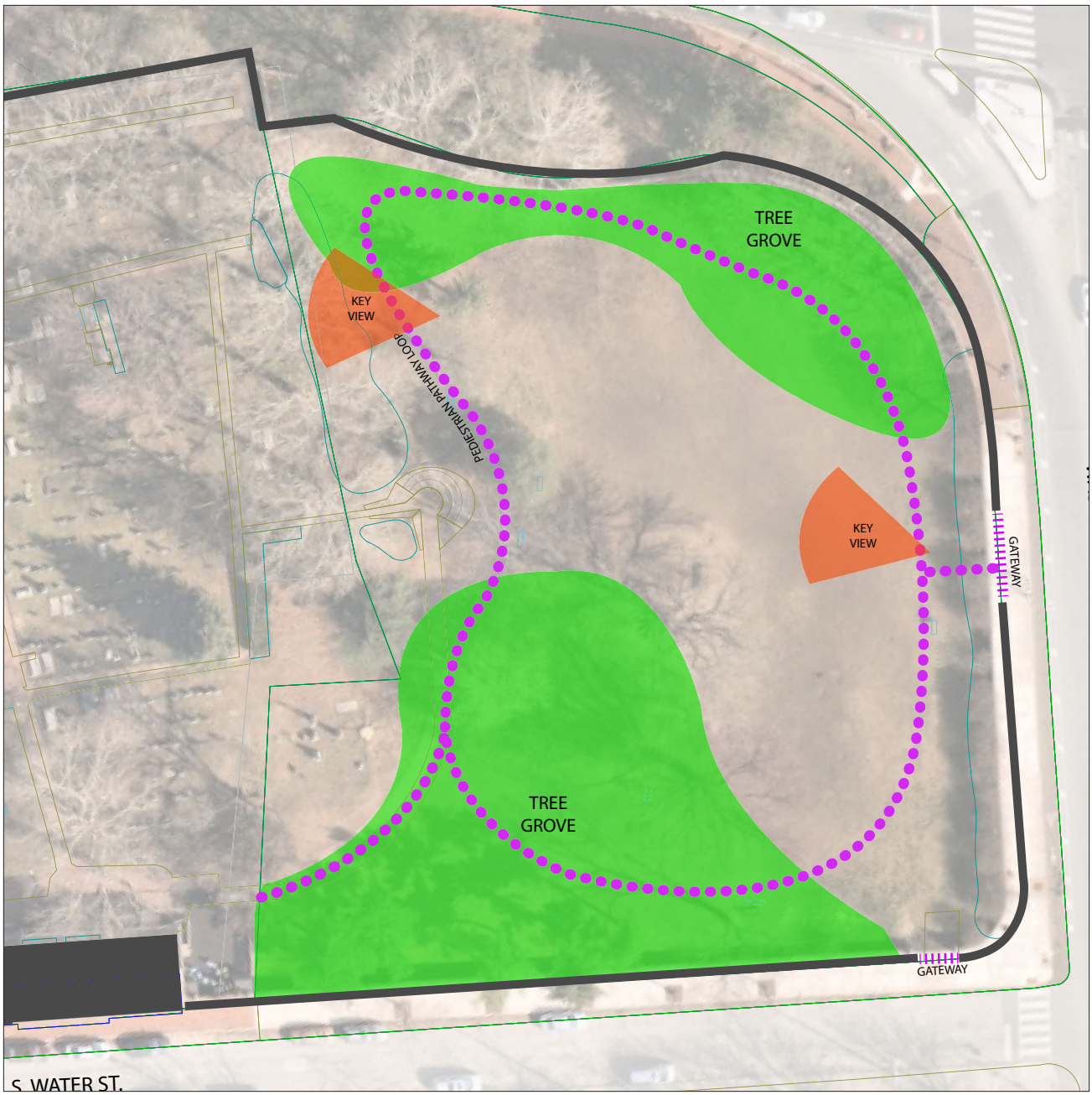


Figure 2.36. South Lawn Landscape Treatment Option B: Same approach as Option A without moving the perimeter barrier along Christopher Columbus Avenue and without pedestrian access links to the Forecourt area.



Figure 2.37. South Lawn Landscape Treatment Option C: Plant new tree and understory plantings throughout South Lawn area to create a successional woodland. Pedestrian pathway to meander through woodland. Perimeter walls on Washington Avenue and South Water Street to receive same wall treatment as Option A.

and the "Sven's Woods" idea presented in the Community Design Collaborative planning report of 2017. Concerns with South Lawn Option C include the creation of a large, low-visibility space, which may increase rather than decrease security concerns. The woodlands concept will require maintenance beyond that currently required to keep up with limb and tree falls, leaves and removal of invasive species and unwanted vegetative undergrowth. Establishing the native woodlands also carries a higher upfront cost relative to more open planting schemes, and requires horticultural expertise, monitoring and labor to care for plantings that NPS is not currently in a position to provide, nor likely to be in a position for the foreseeable future. South Lawn Option C does not respond to current local community uses of the lawn for daily recreational purposes such as dog walking and may push those uses to other less desirable locations.

Finally, and perhaps most critically, South Lawn Option C does not fit with NPS's congressional mandate to maintain an open setting for Gloria Dei. A native woodlands does not meet a standard definition of "open" because it creates a visual barrier and screening of the church. It closes off rather than opens views of the Churchyard. Option C is viable only if a legislative amendment authorizing a treatment other than an "open" space is authorized.

The overall treatment objective recommended by the CLR Part 2 for the South Lawn is in keeping with the NPS mandate to maintain an open dignified setting. The project team recommends South Lawn Option A, an open view of the Churchyard framed by two native tree groves, as the most comprehensive and responsive of the options, as well as the Gloria Dei community's desire for more native plantings.

TREATMENT TASKS

Task CR-6 Extend/enhance the pathway network with a new walking loop and connections to Washington Avenue and the Swanson Street Forecourt (Option A)

Extending the existing pathway network, which at present consists of only one defined path between the amphitheater and Roak Building, encourages exploration of the entire site and directs visitors toward locations where the Churchyard can be more easily seen once vegetation is addressed to reopen these views (Task VG-4). It is suggested that new pathways be concrete and curvilinear to differentiate them from the historic rectilinear brick pathways in the Churchyard.

The preferred treatment option is for a circular path that loops the South Lawn drawing visitors to the views looking northward toward the Churchyard. The path passes to the west and south of the Revolutionary War Monuments, next to which can be placed an interpretive wayside sign (Task SSF-2). The amphitheater also

remains a destination along the path. At the northeast corner of the South Lawn, the circulatory system includes a path and ramp connecting northeastward to the Swanson Street Forecourt (Task CR-3). A spur at the southwestern end of the circle provides access to a new pedestrian gate on Washington Avenue. The lawn enclosed by the circular path remains an open space suitable for dog walking and recreational activities but the loop path and its connections encourage more use by walkers, joggers, etc. Benches placed on the path provide comfortable resting places and views.

Task BS-4 - Install new low brick masonry wall with iron picket fence perimeter and gate along Washington Avenue frontage (South Lawn Options A or C)

This new barrier replaces the existing impermeable solid brick wall, which remains serviceable until this recommendation can be implemented. To enhance visibility, it is recommended that the Washington Avenue perimeter barrier – for visual consistency and visual permeability – be made compatible with the low brick wall, brick pier and picket fence design currently used along Gloria Dei's Christian Street frontage (Figure 2.18) and recommended for use in enclosing the Swanson Street Forecourt (Task BS-2). This low wall with fence's recommended location is between Washington Avenue and Columbus Boulevard where it transitions to the new barrier along the boulevard (Figure 2.38).

Task VG-4 Remove or thin selected shrubs along north and south perimeter of the South Lawn (all options)

Removal of selected shrubs along the north and south perimeter of the South Lawn (also see Task VG-1) enhances appreciation of the Churchyard burial ground through northward-looking views, reduce maintenance needs and help to counteract windblown debris and leaf piles. The main targets of this effort are the forsythia and burning bushes at the north perimeter (Figure 2.7) and the viburnum at the south perimeter (Figure 2.39). In early 2024, NPS was beginning the process of thinning the viburnum eliminating a visually screened area that had been attracting nuisance activities.

Task VG-5 Develop two groves of native tree plantings (South Lawn Options A or B)

Native tree plantings are desirable from a maintenance and longevity perspective since they have a better chance of survival, need less care and save water. Groves are recommended at the east and west perimeters of the South Lawn, framing and enhancing the view looking northeast toward Gloria Dei Church. The western grove can serve as a strategic visual screen against the I-95 expressway viaduct (Figure 2.40), while the eastern grove fills out the lawn's southeast corner and buffer against the traffic activity on Columbus Boulevard (Figure 2.41). Both



Figure 2.38. Washington Avenue frontage, view looking northwest from Columbus Boulevard. Under the preferred treatment, this wall is replaced by a more open low brick wall capped by a wrought-iron fence, similar to the perimeter barrier on Christian Street. This provides a more visually appealing and open appearance than the current long blank wall. Under South Lawn Option A (Task BS-4), a proposed gate near the west end of the wall encourages pedestrian access from a redesigned Washington Avenue per City of Philadelphia plans. This would also be an ideal location for a site entry sign (Task SSF-8). March 2024.



Figure 2.39. South Lawn, viburnum hedge in the process of being pruned and thinned (Task VG-4). March 2024.



Figure 2.40. South Lawn, view looking west. This area along the western perimeter of the lawn can be filled out with a native tree grove while maintaining the existing mature specimen trees (South Lawn Options A or B, Task VG-5). March 2024.

groves can incorporate some of the mature trees that currently exist and focus on native regional species such as chestnut oak (*Quercus montana*), shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*), tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipfera*) and sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*). Creating a vegetative understory is not recommended for reasons of maintenance and security.

Task SSF-5 Updating the outdoor amphitheater (all options)

At present, the amphitheater requires repair and maintenance, which includes returning existing center drain to proper function (Figure 2.42). Also missing are the original wood slat seats and a bronze plaque from a pedestal, while the integrated lighting system is broken and non-functioning. The amphitheater is well-located to serve as an outdoor gathering space, as well as a vantage point from which to view the Churchyard. It was intended when installed in the late 1970s that it would be used during guided tours, which are no longer given; it now hosts outdoor church-sponsored programs and meditations. A detailed investigation of the amphitheater's structural condition is recommended. While repairing the existing amphitheater is an option, the preferred treatment at this time is to replace the amphitheater. The amphitheater is the only feature on the site that feels Modernist in its architecture, an impression driven by its geometric concrete lines and massing; it has an out-of-place character. The recommended amphitheater treatment is slightly larger and instead of three seating levels have only two, thus bringing it closer to the ground plane and making it less obtrusive.

Task SSF-2 Interpretive wayside signage (all options)

Interpretive wayside signage is recommended along the new pathway at the Revolutionary War Memorials and near the proposed Washington Avenue gate. An interpretive sign is sorely needed at the Revolutionary War Memorials. Gloria Dei moved this grouping of stone markers to the site in 1950 (Figure 2.43). There is an intent behind the current placement of the markers, as they are grouped and set apart from the burial ground, just outside the Churchyard, and the inscriptions face north, not east/west, in contrast to all other markers in the burial ground. The subtlety of the placement is lost on most visitors, so there is misinterpretation, including believing that the memorial mark actual graves. Moving the markers within the historic bounds of the burial ground likely only further confuses the issue and is not recommended.

Since the markers are relocated objects, their current location is not considered individually character-defining, except in the sense that they have been at this location for nearly 75 years and are therefore within Gloria Dei's period of significance of 1677 to 1958 as defined in the CLR Part 1. They are associated with a commemorative movement led by the Reverend Roak that was some years ahead of the NPS acquiring the park property in 1958. A practical solution to the current



Figure 2.41. South Lawn, view looking southeast toward Columbus Boulevard. This area can be filled out with a native tree grove. Consideration may be given to retaining this cluster of non-native Chinese rubber trees (Eucommia ulmoides) and replacing with native species when they age out (South Lawn Options A or B, Task VG-5). March 2024.



Figure 2.42. Amphitheater, South Lawn, view looking south. The proposed treatment is to replace this structure with a slightly large structure with one less row of seating to prevent it extending above the ground plane (Task SSF-5). Current concerns such as drainage and the non-original stone-stabilized slope walls could be addressed. March 2024.

conditions is to better interpret the markers through installation of a wayside sign that places them in a proper context. That context becomes more apparent with the addition of a burial ground southern perimeter fence (Task SSF-1) because this grouping stands outside of the fence line on the edge of the South Lawn.

Just inside the proposed Washington Avenue pedestrian entrance where it meets the path circling the South Lawn is another location for an interpretive wayside sign. This sign can place the Gloria Dei site in historical context explaining its evolution and creation of a park to hold the church in dignified open setting The sign is ideally placed to admire the grouping of buildings and burial ground visible in the distance once the understory is cleared (Task VG-1).



Figure 2.43. South Lawn, Revolutionary War Memorial stone grouping, view looking north from the existing path. An interpretive wayside sign is needed to explain the grouping and differentiate it from the actual burial ground (Task SSF-2). March 2024.



Figure 2.44. South Lawn, existing light pole, view looking southwest. This outdated pole is recommended for replacement and new bollards erected to provide a safer evening and nighttime environment (Task SSF-6). March 2024.



Figure 2.45. South Lawn, brick tree planting bed, looking northwest. This brick feature no longer serves a function and should be removed (Task SSF-7). March 2024.

Task SSF-6 New Lighting and Removal of Outdated Lighting Pole (all options)

The outdated single monopole lighting in the South Lawn should be removed and replaced with two new lighting poles strategically placed to light the lawn and groves while not impinging on historic views of the Churchyard (Figure 2.44).

Task SSF-7 Removal of Raised Planting Bed (all options)

The unsightly low brick wall creating a raised planting bed for a dead and removed tree should be eliminated and the ground regraded (Figure 2.45).

PERIMETER TREATMENT TASKS

RATIONALE

The Perimeter consists of the perimeter barrier on the north, west and south sides of the park, gates in the barrier, and sidewalks on all four street frontages. The perimeter impacts site access in that pedestrians may approach the site along surface street sidewalks from any direction. Vehicular access is somewhat more restricted; South Water Street is a one-way to the south street, which makes it a quieter street that also affords on-street parking. The other three perimeter streets – Christian Street, Columbus Boulevard and Washington Avenue – are two-way streets that carry high volumes of traffic. Traffic flow is controlled by stoplights at the Columbus Boulevard intersections, which results in standing traffic next to Gloria Dei while waiting for light changes. These three streets also have no on-street parking. The traffic characteristics make perimeter barriers necessary to cut down on visual distractions and noise.

Treatment objectives for the Perimeter are driven by the preferred options related to the Swanson Street Forecourt (Option B) and the South Lawn (Option A). These options push out the current perimeter barrier eastward to Columbus Boulevard to encompass the Swanson Street Forecourt (Task BS-2). New gates in the wall at Columbus Boulevard and Christian Street on the old alignment of Swanson Street may require installation of curb cuts for maintenance and public safety only.

TREATMENT TASKS

Task CR-7. Install curb cut and driveway entry at Perimeter (Swanson Street Forecourt Option B)

To implement the improved circulation patterns at Swanson Street Forecourt (Task CR-2), a curb cut and driveway entry are proposed at the new Christian Street and Columbus Boulevard gates in the realigned perimeter barrier. The curb cut should be designed to be compatible with the existing paving materials at this location.

Task VG-6 Remove selected Zelkova trees along Columbus Boulevard (Swanson Street Forecourt Preferred Option B)

Adjustments to the perimeter wall gates described in Task CR-7 under the preferred Swanson Street Forecourt Option B benefits from removal of selected street trees and planters to provide access (Figure 2.23).

Task SSF-8 NPS Entry Sign at New Washington Street Entry (South Lawn Option A)

A new NPS-style entry sign is recommended for the Washington Street perimeter frontage to complement and identify a new gate at Washington Avenue (Task BS-4, preferred South Lawn Option A) and mark the entry point to the proposed pedestrian circulation loop in the South Lawn (Task CR-6).

ENDNOTES, TREATMENT TASKS

1 Delaware River Waterfront Corporation (DRWC), *Master Plan for the Central Delaware* (October 2011); DRWC, Delaware River Trail, electronic document https://www.delawareriverwaterfront.com/places/delaware-river-trail1 [accessed March 2024];

2 DRWC, Washington Avenue Connector, electronic document, https://www.delawareriverwaterfront.com/planning/projects3/connector-streets/washington-avenue-connector [accessed March 2024].

South Christopher Columbus Boulevard

- Integrate Forecourt into park circulation
- Open key historic views looking toward church
- Minimize screened/secluded areas
- Add interpretive signs

- Reactivate historic iron gates

- Create pedestrian walking loop of GLDE
- Promote greater accessibility
- Expand usable/secure space with perimeter improvements

- Create pedestrian connection at North Lawn/Forecourt
- Improve lighting for security

- Reestablish historic wall/fence along burial ground boundary

- Open up views northeast toward church
- Add interpretive signs

- Remove unwanted volunteer trees
- Remove wood privacy fence

Church to:
- Reset uneven brick paths
- Improve accessibility to buildings
- Replace aging site furnishings
- Update ailing groundcover

- Address condition of amphitheater

- Create pedestrian link between GLDE and Washington Ave./Waterfront

- Improve safety of one-lane vehicular/pedestrian entrance
- Replace old interpretive sign

- Improve lighting for security

- Interpret Revolutionary War monuments

- Minimize screening along perimeter

- Screen views of elevated highway

South Water Street

Cultural Landscape Report

Independence National Historical Park

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Gloria Dei Church National Historic Site

HUNTER RESEARCH
Historical Resource Consultants

National Park Service

Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation

www.nps.gov/oclp

SOURCES

1. City of Philadelphia Orthoimagery, 2020
2. USGS Digital Elevation Model, 2017
3. Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, 2020
4. NPS Landsnet Boundaries and Tracts
5. Field Review, January 2022

DRAWN BY

Kelsey Little, Olmsted Center, ArcGIS Pro 2.6, 2021

UPDATED/REVISED BY

Evan Mydlowski, Hunter Research, Inc., ArcGIS Pro 3.2.2, 2024

LEGEND

- CLI Boundary
- Property Owned by Swedes Corporation Rector Church Wardens
- Lawn
- Road
- Brick Walkway
- Concrete Walkway
- Building
- Fence
- Wall
- Deciduous Tree
- Evergreen Tree
- Gravestone
- Sign
- Trash Can
- Lamp Post
- Manhole
- Drain Drop Inlet
- Basement Vent
- Basement Entry
- Bench
- Gate

NOTES

1. Projection: NAD 1983 State Plane Pennsylvania South
2. Contour Interval = 1'
3. All features shown in approximate scale and location

0 20 40 80 Feet

DRAWING #7. RECOMMENDED TREATMENT GOALS AND CONCEPTS

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Cultural Landscape Report

Independence National Historical Park

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Gloria Dei Church National Historic Site

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5. Field Review, January 2022

DRAWN BY

Dave Sitler, ETM Associates

UPDATED/REVISED BY

Evan Mydlowski, Hunter Research, Inc., ArcGIS Pro 3.2.2, 2024

LEGEND

- CLI Boundary
- Property Owned by Swedes Corporation Rector Church Wardens
- Lawn
- Road
- Brick Walkway
- Concrete Walkway
- Building
- Existing Wood Fencing
- New Low Wall w/Fence
- Deciduous Tree
- Evergreen Tree
- Interpretive Sign
- New Lighting Element
- New Wood Fence at Churchyard
- Existing Solid Brick Wall
- Historic Brick Wall
- Existing Low Wall w/Fence

NOTES
1. Projection: NAD 1983 State Plane Pennsylvania South
2. All features shown in approximate scale adn location

0 15 30 60 Feet

DRAWING #8 - RECOMMENDED TREATMENT TASKS:

1. Swanson Street Forecourt Option B
2. Vehicular Drive Circulation Option C
3. South Lawn Option A

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CONCLUSION

The treatment philosophy defined in this report is based on an assessment of the missions of the NPS and Gloria Dei Church, working in partnership to preserve the Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') National Historic Site. The overarching philosophy for the NPS-owned or managed urban parkland surrounding the historic Churchyard is Rehabilitation with an emphasis on creating an appropriate setting for protecting and appreciating the historic buildings and burial ground at the site's core. An emphasis is placed on maintaining historic spatial relationships, improving circulation patterns and interpretive opportunities, and acknowledging key views and vistas to and from the Churchyard within NPS's legislative mandate to maintain Gloria Dei in a "dignified open setting." Treatments have been recommended that address public accessibility, security and safety, as well as the capacity to maintain, monitor and care for the site's landscape.

PRIORITIES AND IMPLEMENTATION SEQUENCE

Treatment tasks presented and recommended as preferred options in the preceding chapter and in Drawing 8 are summarized in the following Table 3.1.

The tasks have been grouped into two categories. Category 1 tasks are those that can be implemented without undertaking adjustments to Gloria Dei Historic Site's existing perimeter barriers. Category 2 tasks are those that require selective demolition of the existing perimeter barriers and a pushing out of a low brick wall with picket fence to incorporate the Swanson Street Forecourt. Category 2 tasks, while considered highly desirable for site security, safety, circulation and interpretation, are acknowledged as being a long-term goal that requires more detailed discussion, planning, cost/benefit analysis and engaging with other stakeholders in the forecourt including the City of Philadelphia and the U.S. Coast Guard.

Category 1 tasks tend to be those tasks that can be taken on individually or in small bundles as opportunities and resources permit. Category 2 tasks tend to be those that are so interrelated due to the need to remove or add walls, fences or gates, and to create new circulation patterns, that they will necessarily need to advance together. They also tend to carry higher planning and construction costs.

Within each of the two categories, the tasks are further identified as high, medium, and low priorities based on several factors:

- High are those tasks that enhance character-defining features or overall

historic character of the landscape, have significant interpretive potential, and/or address universal safety and accessibility issues.

- Low are those tasks that address features that, while contributing to the historic character of the landscape, are not character-defining and/or pose little interpretive potential.
- Medium are those tasks that fall in between.

Within each treatment area subheading, tasks have also been ordered in a suggested implementation sequence. This prioritization and sequencing recognize that opportunities for collaboration, availability of grants and other funding, interpretive and programmatic goals, project review and compliance, options discussed in this report and other factors may have significant impacts on the actual implementation sequence.

Table 3.1. Landscape Treatment Tasks Summary

Task ID	Task	Goals of Treatment/Comment	Priority
Category 1: Treatment Tasks Independent of Demolition or Construction of New Perimeter Barriers and Gates			
Churchyard/South Lawn Boundary			
VG-1	Remove shrubbery along Churchyard/South Lawn boundary	Open up and enhance historic view of Churchyard from the south; remove maintenance issue	High
SSF-1	Install barrier to south side of burial ground to reestablish historic boundary. Two options presented for a low masonry wall or a low wood fence. Preferred option is the fence (Figures 2.10 and 2.11).	Better protect historic resources in the burial ground by defining historic spatial relationships and park activity areas; fence design based on historic precedents; archeological survey in advance is required, which may inform design of fence and placement	High
Swanson Street Forecourt			
VG-2	Removal of selected trees and shrubs in the forecourt turf lawn area	Open up historic views, improve safety, remove diseased trees. NPS was undertaking some of this work in early 2024	High
SSF-2	New interpretive signs in forecourt area	Improving site interpretation and visitor appreciation	Medium
SSF-3	New lighting in forecourt area	Improving site safety and accessibility	Medium
North Lawn			
SSF-4	Remove degraded wood privacy fencing that currently divides the east end of the North Lawn	This privacy fence is no longer needed, is a safety hazard and unsightly. There is no historic precedent for a barrier at this location	High
VG-3	Remove volunteer tree growth near degraded wood privacy fence and plant new trees	Removal of this dense and unwanted tree growth improves sight appearance. A handful of new specimen trees can create a small grove and provide a partial screen of the Rectory's blind north wall	High
SSF-2	New interpretive wayside sign in North Lawn	Improving site interpretation and visitor appreciation	Medium
SSF-3	New pathway lighting in the North Lawn area	Improving site safety and accessibility	Medium

Table 3.1. Landscape Treatment Tasks Summary

Task ID	Task	Goals of Treatment/Comment	Priority
North Lawn (Continued)			
CR-4	Update vehicular drive and pedestrian circulation pattern to parking area per Vehicular Circulation Options (Figures 2.26 to 2.29)	Improving site safety and accessibility. Requires modifications to existing gate at Christian Street.	Medium
South Lawn			
VG-4	Remove or thin selected shrubs along north and south perimeter of the South Lawn	Improves safety and reduces maintenance. NPS has already begun implementing this recommendation	High
SSF-6	New lighting poles and removal of outdated lighting pole in the South Lawn	Improving site safety and accessibility	High
VG-5	Develop two groves of native tree plantings per South Lawn Options A or B (Figures 2.35 and 2.36)	Strategic planting of tree groves to the east and west of the South Lawn frames views of the church architecture, reduce visual and auditory distractions from traffic and neighboring development, and promote healthy vegetative environment as plantings from the 1970s age out	Medium
SSF-2	Interpretive wayside signage in the South Lawn	Improving site interpretation and visitor appreciation	Medium
SSF-5	Updating outdoor amphitheater	The degraded amphitheater from the 1970s has occasional use for church events but has ceased to be used for historic interpretation. Updating the amphitheater to better fit its setting and current uses is recommended	Medium
SSF-7	Removal of raised planting bed	This low brick wall that created a tree planting bed is no longer needed	Low

Table 3.1. Landscape Treatment Tasks Summary

Task ID	Task	Goals of Treatment/Comment	Priority
Category 2: Treatment Tasks Dependent on Demolition or Construction of New Perimeter Walls, Fences And Gates			
Swanson Street Forecourt			
NB – Recommended treatments for the Swanson Street Forecourt, mostly falling under Options B or C, entail a wholesale reworking of the circulation patterns, perimeter barriers and pedestrian access points to reintegrate and reactivate this space. This is the most problematic of the landscape character areas and most of these treatment tasks best advance in unison. The redesign of the forecourt is considered a high priority; however, it is acknowledged that this is the most complex of the plan's recommendations that is likely to be a long-term goal.			
BS-2	Install new perimeter barrier of low brick masonry wall with iron picket fence and gates along Columbus Boulevard and east end of Christian Street per Swanson Street Forecourt Option B (Figure 2.16)	Integrates Swanson Street Forecourt into the parkland, enhances safety and security of site, in conjunction with new circulatory paths reactivates historic front entrance of church, creates interpretive opportunities	High
BS-3	Install new perimeter gates at Columbus Boulevard and east end of Christian Street at historic intersection with Swanson Street per Swanson Street Forecourt Option B (Figure 2.16)	Offers visitor and maintenance access to reactivated forecourt, connects site to desire lines for pedestrian/bike traffic to the Delaware River Trail/Waterfront	High
BS-1	Removal of non-historic brick masonry walls per Swanson Street Forecourt Options B or C (Figures 2.16 and 2.17)	Allows for integration of the forecourt with the circulatory loop to the North and South Lawns, opens up historic views	High
CR-1	Develop new pedestrian connection between the Swanson Street Forecourt and the North Lawn per Swanson Street Forecourt Options B or C (Figures 2.16 and 2.17)	Creates new circulatory loop improving safety and accessibility of entire site, opens new opportunities for interpreting site history and architecture by reactivating the front entrance	High
CR-2	Redesign South Swanson Street Forecourt paving and ground plane per Swanson Street Forecourt Options B or C (Figures 2.16 and 2.17)	Integrating the historic footprint of Swanson Street into the proposed walkway loop to the North and South Lawns opens an opportunity to redesign the paving system and vertical elevations to better represent the historic conditions	High

Table 3.1. Landscape Treatment Tasks Summary

Task ID	Task	Goals of Treatment/Comment	Priority
Swanson Street Forecourt (Continued)			
CR-3	Develop a new pedestrian connection between the Swanson Street Forecourt and the South Lawn per Swanson Street Forecourt Options B or C (Figures 2.16 and 2.17)	Creates new circulatory loop improving safety and accessibility of entire site, opens new opportunities for interpreting site history and architecture by reactivating the front entrance	High
North Lawn			
CR-5	Develop new pedestrian connection between the North Lawn and the Swanson Street Forecourt per Swanson Street Forecourt Options B or C (Figures 2.16 and 2.17)	Creates new circulatory loop improving safety and accessibility of entire site, opens new opportunities for interpreting site history and architecture by activating the east end of the North Lawn and Swanson Street Forecourt	High
South Lawn			
CR-6	Extend/enhance the pathway network with a new walking loop and connections to Washington Avenue and the Swanson Street Forecourt per Swanson Street Forecourt Options B or C and the South Lawn Option A (Figures 2.16, 2.17 and 2.35)	Creates new circulatory loop improving safety and accessibility of entire site, draws visitors to key views of the Churchyard, opens new opportunities for interpreting site history and architecture, makes site more attractive to recreational walkers. Walking loop could be created just in South Lawn without adjusting perimeter barriers per South Lawn Option B.	High
BS-4	Install new low brick masonry wall with iron picket fence and gate on Washington Avenue frontage per South Lawn Options A or B (Figures 2.36 and 2.37)	Integrates park with proposed Washington Avenue improvements, creates more open view of the park improving site safety and circulation patterns. This low wall with fence replaces existing, imposing and impermeable solid high brick wall, which remains serviceable until this recommendation can be implemented	Medium

Table 3.1. Landscape Treatment Tasks Summary

Task ID	Task	Goals of Treatment/Comment	Priority
Perimeter			
CR-7	Install curb cut and driveway entry at Perimeter at the new Swanson Street Forecourt gates per Swanson Street Forecourt Options B or C (Figures 2.16 and 2.17)	Necessary for site maintenance and safety access in conjunction with Swanson Street Forecourt redesign	Medium
VG-6	Remove selected Zelkova trees along Columbus Boulevard per Swanson Street Forecourt Options B or C (Figures 2.16 and 2.17)	Adjustment of the street tree plantings is necessary to implement CR-7	Medium
SSF-8	Add new park entry sign at new Washington Avenue gate per South Lawn Options A or B (Figures 2.36 and 2.37)	Site wayfinding and identification for pedestrians and bicyclists using the enhanced Washington Avenue frontage per City of Philadelphia's plans	Medium

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