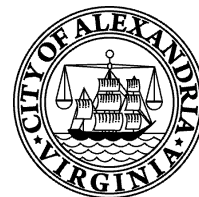


FENCES, GATES + WALLS

OLD AND HISTORIC DISTRICT CITY OF ALEXANDRIA



Docket Item #17

BAR Review Levels

These levels of review are applicable in most cases. Please note that during the administrative review process, Staff may determine that a project requires Board review. Contact Staff at 703.746.3833 to confirm which level of review is required for your project. Also, contact Code Administration at 703.746.4200 to confirm building permit requirements.

NO BAR REVIEW

Construction of fences or freestanding planter/retaining walls less than 2 feet in height

Demolition of masonry walls less than 25 square feet in area

ADMINISTRATIVE (STAFF) REVIEW

Construction or modification of fences, gates, garden walls, or retaining walls

BOARD REVIEW

Demolition of masonry walls greater than or equal to 25 square feet in area

Introduction

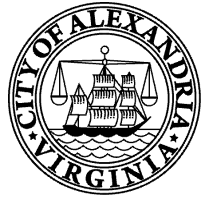
Fences, gates, garden walls, and retaining walls are important visual features of the historic districts. They contribute to distinctive streetscapes while also providing a sense of privacy and enclosure for property owners. Fences are often partially open and, in the historic districts, are made of various materials, including wood, metal, and masonry. Garden walls, typically constructed of masonry, serve as visual barriers. Many historic structures have fences that were added later and may, over time, have acquired independent historic significance.

Guidelines

- o The design of fences, gates, garden walls, and retaining walls should be architecturally appropriate to the architectural style of the structure they surround.
- o Fences and walls should be made of wood, metal, and/or masonry. The Board discourages using poured-in-place concrete or synthetic materials such as fiberglass, or vinyl.
- o Ornamental iron or metal fences are appropriate for late 19th- and early 20th-century Victorian structures.
- o Wood fences should have vertical pickets.

FENCES, GATES + WALLS

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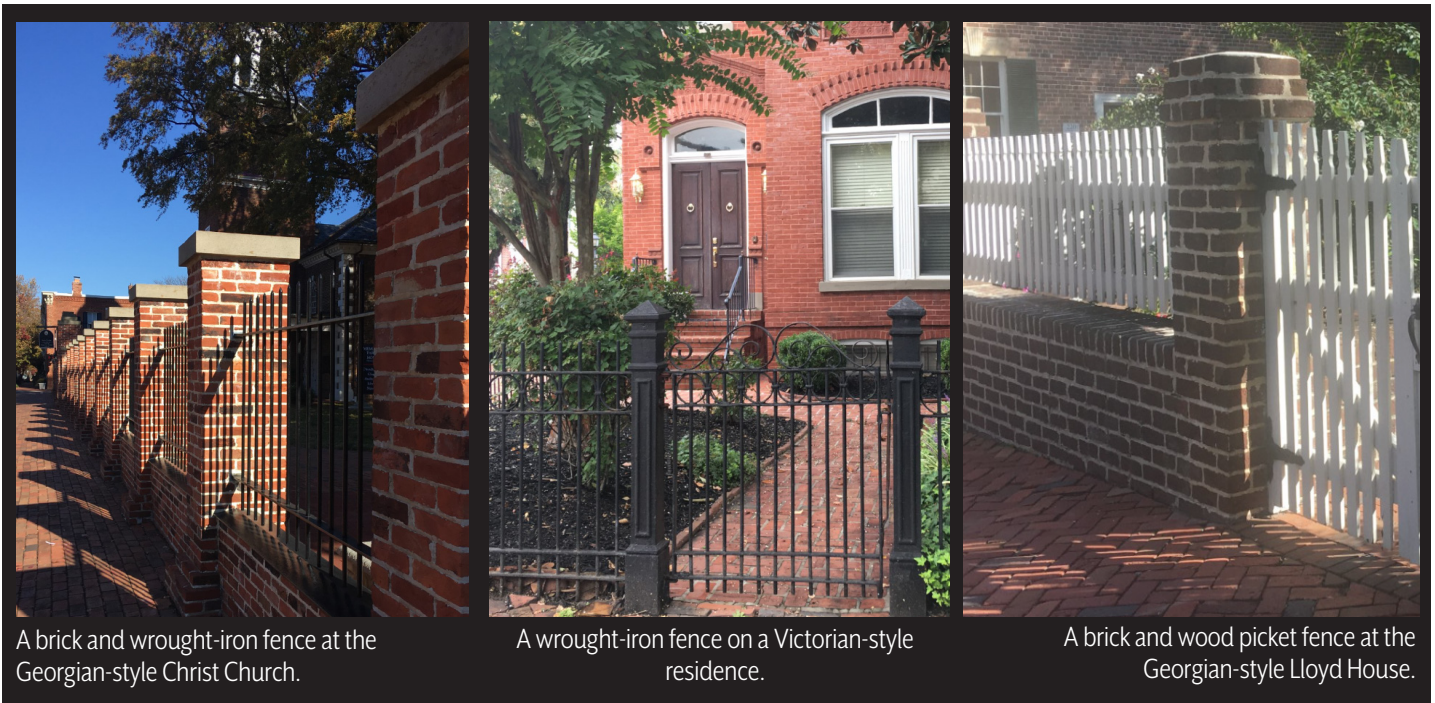


Additional Information

- o For guidelines on planter walls, refer to chapter on planters.
- o A survey plat may be required to ensure the fence or wall is located on the property.

Zoning Regulations

- o Fences located in front yards must be 50 percent open and cannot exceed 4 feet in height. Fences located in rear and side yards may be open or closed and cannot exceed 6 feet in height. Refer to [§ 7-202](#) of the Zoning Ordinance.
- o Fences cannot be located in a vision clearance area. Refer to [§ 7-800](#) of the Zoning Ordinance.
- o The Board may waive height, opacity, and vision clearance requirements specified in the Zoning Ordinance when the proposed fence is architecturally appropriate and consistent with the character of the districts.



A brick and wrought-iron fence at the Georgian-style Christ Church.

A wrought-iron fence on a Victorian-style residence.

A brick and wood picket fence at the Georgian-style Lloyd House.