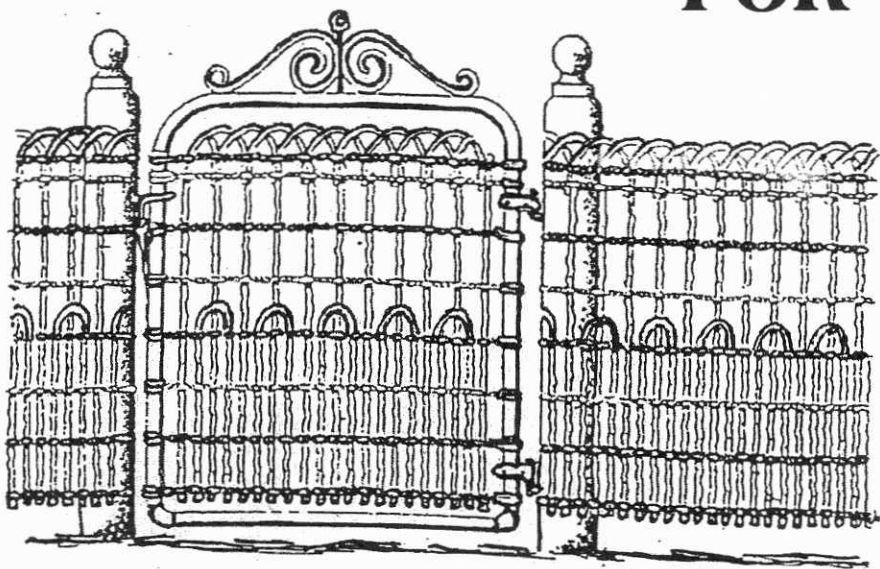


**THE JACKSONVILLE HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

**FENCING  
GUIDELINES  
FOR**



SOURCE: THE S.B. HIBBARD CO.

**LOCALLY DESIGNATED  
HISTORIC DISTRICTS**

# GUIDELINES ON FENCES

## MATERIALS, DESIGN, HEIGHT AND PLACEMENT OF FENCES

### IN LOCALLY DESIGNATED HISTORIC DISTRICTS

Guidelines on fencing adopted by the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission on February 26, 2003

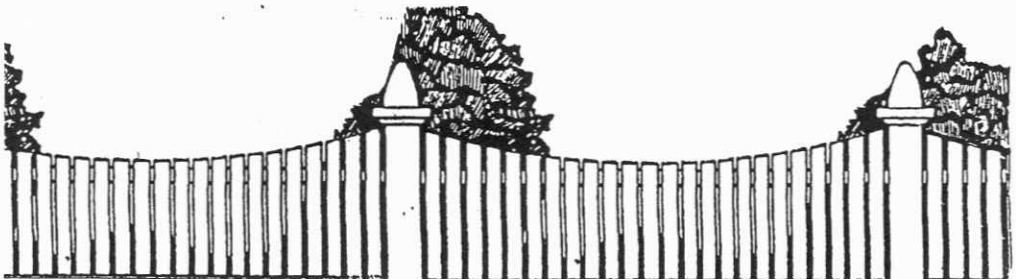
Pursuant to 307.107(a), Jacksonville Ordinance Code, the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission adopted the following guidelines for fences in locally designated historic districts. Applications for fences that comply with these guidelines may be approved by the Planning and Development Department. These guidelines are advisory in nature. Deviations from these guidelines will be determined by the Commission on a case-by-case basis. Any other fencing request that is not specifically addressed in the following outline would be forwarded to the Commission for a final determination.

This outline divides fencing appropriateness into four areas: Fencing Materials; Fencing Design; Fencing Height; and Fencing Placement

## GUIDELINES

### FENCING MATERIALS

- Wood, wrought-iron and wrought-iron looking (aluminum, steel, etc) and masonry columns between wrought iron style fencing are appropriate materials for the historic districts.
- Fence colors should complement the façade of the house or the surrounding neighborhood. Natural or white is an appropriate color for wood material; black is an appropriate color for a wrought-iron style fence.
- Inappropriate fencing materials such as vinyl or chain link can be installed on the backyard of an interior lot if it will not be visible from the right-of-way. These fencing materials should extend off the back corner of the house. If the fence extends out into the side yard from the back corner of the house and is visible from the right-of-way, this portion of the fence should be disguised with an appropriate style fence so the inappropriate materials will not be visible from the right-of-way. See sketch on the next page.



## **FENCING HEIGHT**

Fencing height in the historic districts should adhere to the zoning code when pertaining to street elevations.

### **Front yard**

- Fences should be no higher than four (4) feet with the support posts or columns of a picket style fence reaching no higher than five (5) feet.

### **Back yard**

- Fences should be no higher than six (6) feet.

## **FENCING PLACEMENT**

Fencing enclosing the back yard should be placed behind the front wall massing of the structure. The fence should begin behind the front porch and any significant features of the structure visible from the street. (i.e. wrap around porches, bay windows, etc.)

### **Interior lots - back and side yards**

- If the proposed fence is higher than four (4) feet, it must meet the Zoning Code requirements on placement. In order for a fence to be taller than four (4) feet along the side yard of a property, the fence must be set back at least twenty (20) feet from the right-of-way of the primary front yard. Twenty (20) feet is the required front yard setback for fencing over four feet high.

### **Corner lots**

The back yard and side elevations of a corner lot are more visible from the right-of-way than an interior lot. A fence on a corner lot could negatively affect neighboring property or streetscapes. The Guidelines recommend a fence up to four (4) feet in height for street elevations and a fence up to six (6) feet in height for side and rear elevations.

A corner lot includes two street elevations - one along the front elevation of the structure on the property and one along the side elevation. The area on the front elevation is considered the primary front yard while the area on the side elevation facing the street is considered the secondary front yard.

- A four (4) foot fence is appropriate for both street elevations of a corner lot.

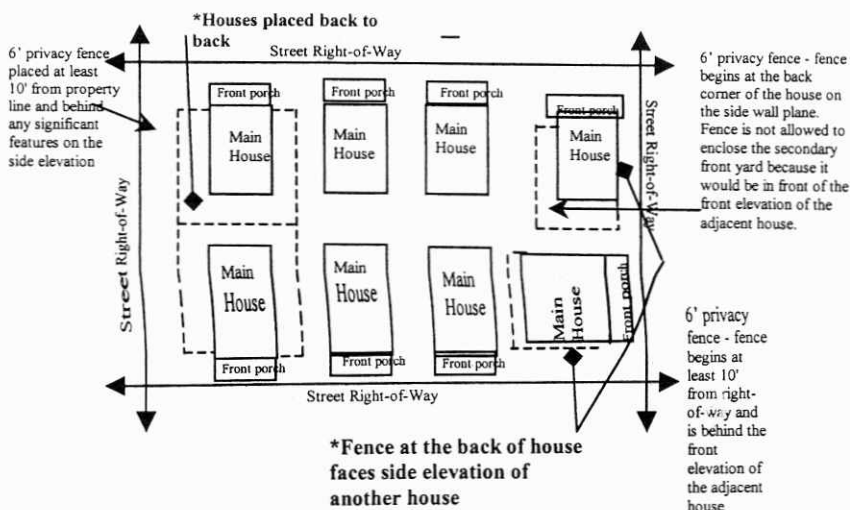
### Secondary front yard

- Fences greater than four (4) feet in height must meet the following conditions:
  - A. The fence should be placed at least ten (10) feet back from the right-of-way line; or
  - B. The fence should be aligned with the wall plane of the subject structure.

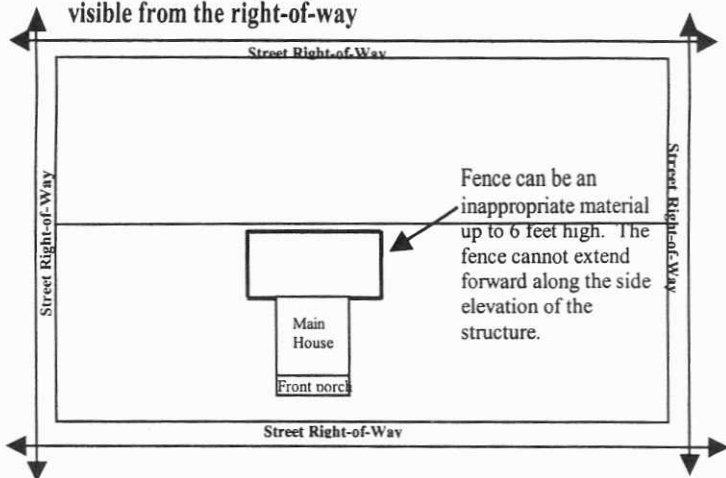
\*If the front wall plane of the adjacent house is farther from the right-of-way line than either conditions A or B above, then the fence shall be located no closer to the right-of-way line than the front wall plane of the adjacent structure or the side wall plane of the subject structure, whichever distance is less.

- Fence designs appropriate for a front yard (see Front yard subtitle under the Fencing Design section) should be used when installing a four (4) foot fence within ten (10) feet from the right-of-way.
- Fence designs appropriate for a secondary front yard (see Secondary front yard subtitle under the Fencing Design section) are allowable when the previously stated conditions for placement of a fence over four (4) feet in height are met.

See sketch below



Sketch: Interior lot, back yard fencing – inappropriate materials not visible from the right-of-way



## FENCING DESIGN

Vertical orientated fencing is most appropriate for the historic districts.

### **Front yard**

(the yard from the front wall plane of the primary structure's main building mass to the right-of-way)

- Picket style with points is most appropriate for both wood and wrought iron style.
- Pickets should include spacing. The fence should be at least 30% non-opaque.
- Free-standing masonry columns between wrought-iron style fencing is appropriate when the columns are consistent with the Guidelines. (See Fencing Height)
- Scallop design picket fencing with spacing between pickets is appropriate. The support posts of the fence should be no more than one (1) foot higher than the lowest point of the scallop.



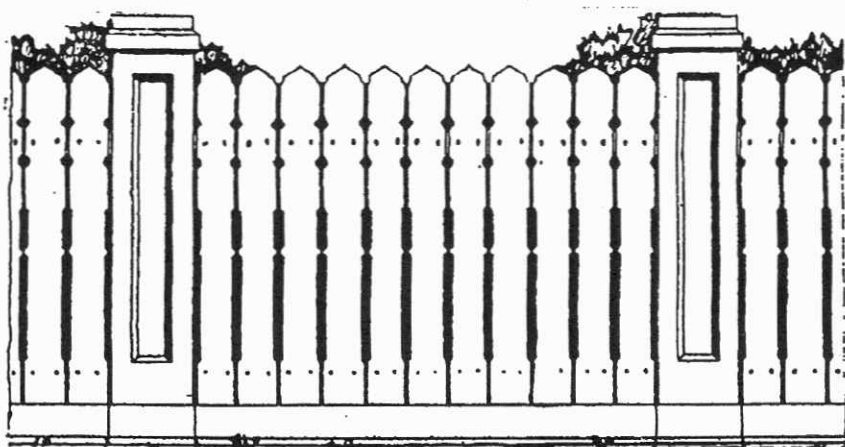
### Back yard

- Designs appropriate for the front yard are also appropriate for the back yard.
- Stockade, shadow-box, and board on board style of fencing is appropriate.
- Any fence design that is not visible from the right-of-way is allowable.
- If an inappropriate fence design extends out into the side yard from the back corner of the house and is visible from the right-of-way, this portion of the fence should be appropriately screened with a suitable style fence so the inappropriate design will not be visible from the right-of-way. **See previous sketch**

### Secondary front yard

(the yard that includes the side elevation of the structure which faces the street on a corner lot)

- Picket, wrought-iron style, stockade, shadowbox, and board on board design fencing is appropriate.
- See Height and Placement section on following page in order to determine which design and at what height is appropriate at different locations on a secondary front yard.



**Style No. 127 Ornamental Slab Wood Fence**

*Source: Classic Houses of the Twenties, 1992*

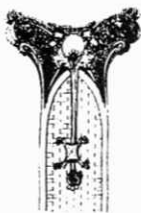
## **SPRINGFIELD**

Six (6) foot wrought-iron style fences in Springfield have been approved for front yards. This style of fencing does not block the visual appearance of the historic structures. Lots in Springfield tend to have been developed in a more regular pattern than the lots found in Riverside/Avondale. The use of this style and height of fencing in the front yard has received neighborhood support and does not negatively affect the historic structures or the surrounding district. However, the installation of a six-foot fence in a front yard is in conflict with the Zoning Code. An Administrative Deviation must be sought to allow the fence under the Zoning Code before a COA is granted for Historic Preservation approval.

## **FENCING REQUIRING THE COMMISSION'S REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

- Masonry Walls visible from the right-of-way
- Fences over six (6) feet high
- Requests not considered in these recommendations

For additional information or questions on any of the information contained in this brochure, please contact:



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