



## 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 must be reviewed by the Board. Contact Staff at 703.746.3833 to confirm which level of review is required for your project.

### NO BAR REVIEW

Construction of fences and 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, and 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 on private property are important visual features of the historic districts that provide distinctive streetscapes while also providing a sense of privacy and enclosure for property owners. Fences are often partially transparent and, in the historic districts, are made of a number of materials including wood, metal, and masonry. Garden walls are constructed of masonry and provide a visual barrier. Many historic structures have fences that were added later which may, over time, have acquired independent historic significance.

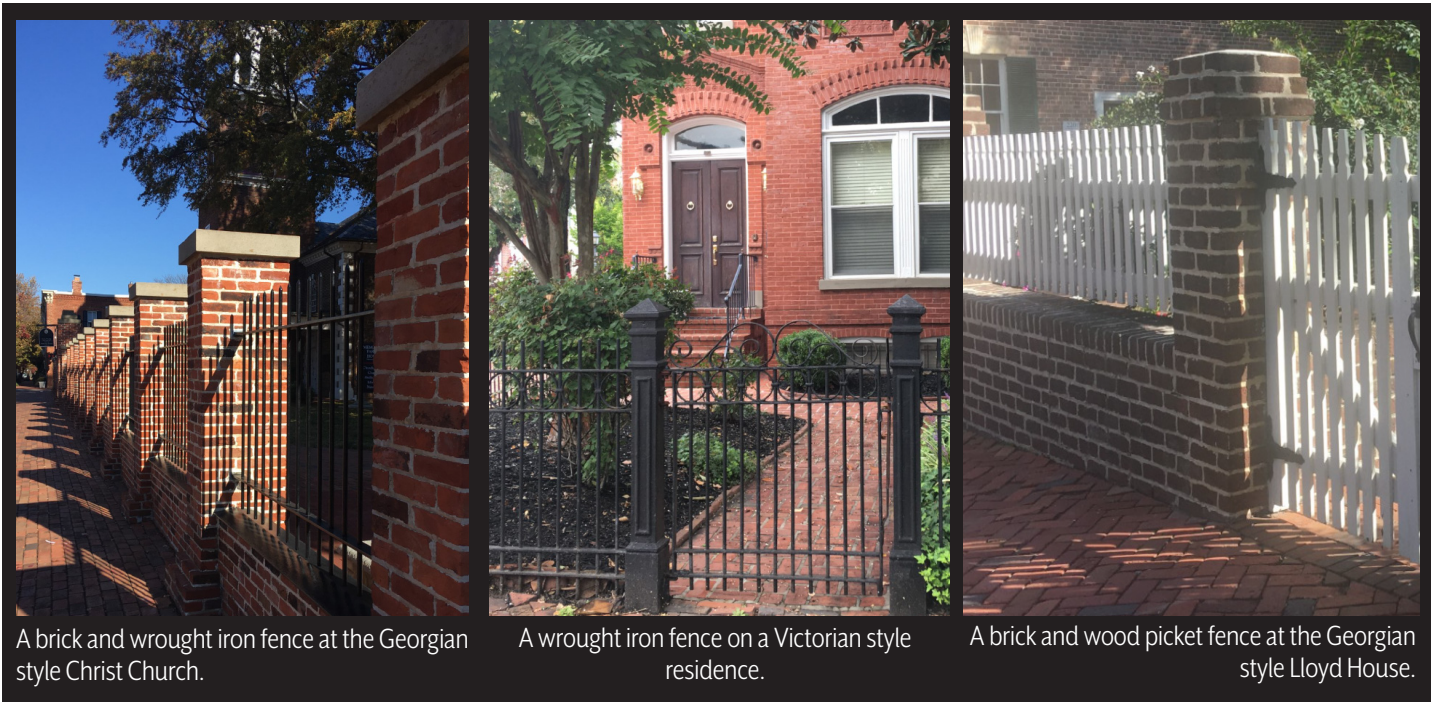
## Guidelines

- o Demolition of masonry walls greater than or equal to 25 square feet in area requires a BAR Permit to Demolish.
- 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 unit masonry. The Board discourages using synthetic materials such as fiberglass, poured-in-place concrete, or vinyl.
- o Wood fences should have vertical pickets.
- o Ornamental iron or metal fences are appropriate for late 19th and early 20th Century Victorian structures.



## 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 subject property.
- 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 district.
- o Retaining walls less than two feet in height, and fences at the height and location otherwise permitted in a front yard, may be constructed in the public right-of-way in compliance with [§ 5-2-29](#) of the City Code.



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.