

CHAPTER 5

GUIDELINES FOR LANDSCAPING

17.0 FENCES AND WALLS

POLICY

The majority of fences in the historic districts consist of variations of wood picket designs for front yards and rear and side yards of fences of wood, brick, and wire.

Fence height was traditionally low along the front yard lines, usually no more than four (4) feet. Added fences, walls, or hedges should not alter the setting of the yard or its relationship to the streetscape.

Planting hedges or tightly packed trees that will grow above six feet tall along front yard boundaries, blocking historic view corridors, are not appropriate. Vinyl, chain-link, horizontal rail and stockade fences are not appropriate along front or readily visible side yards.

Design Guidelines for Fences and Walls

- 17.1 Retain and preserve historic cast iron fences and walls.** These features contribute to the overall historic appearance of the property.
- 17.2 Maintain historic cast iron fences and walls.** Keep these site features in good repair.
- 17.3 Repair historic cast iron fence and wall material following the standards for the relevant material, such as wrought iron, wood, or masonry.**
- 17.4 Replace in-kind.** Replacement materials should match the composition, size, shape, color, pattern, and texture of the original.



Only a small number of historic cast iron fences remain in the historic districts. These are significant features to the setting of the town's historic districts and should be preserved and maintained (1820 Middle Street).

- 17.5 New fences should be compatible with the associated building, site, and streetscape in height, proportion, scale, material, and design.** Wood picket or metal fence materials are appropriate in front yards and side yards in public view. Wire, chain-link, and vinyl fences are not appropriate at these locations. Brick, stone, or concrete bases are not appropriate for any fencing that is readily visible from street vantages.
- 17.6 Fences in front and side yards shall not exceed a height of four (4) feet.** Back yards and other areas not readily visible may have fences no more than five (5) feet in height. Fences at back yards should preferably begin no further forward than at half the depth of the principal structure including the porch. However, the design of the fence, landscaping and lot placement may allow for a fence to be at the same plane as the front façade. Fences should always have the structural framework on the inside of the fence and not on the outside facing the street.



The historic district's contain a wide variety of appropriate front yard wood picket fence designs. Similar wood designs are appropriate for new fences in front of dwellings (1730 Middle Street, above left, 2414 Myrtle Street, above right, 2508 I'on Avenue, below left, and 2662 Middle Street, below, right).



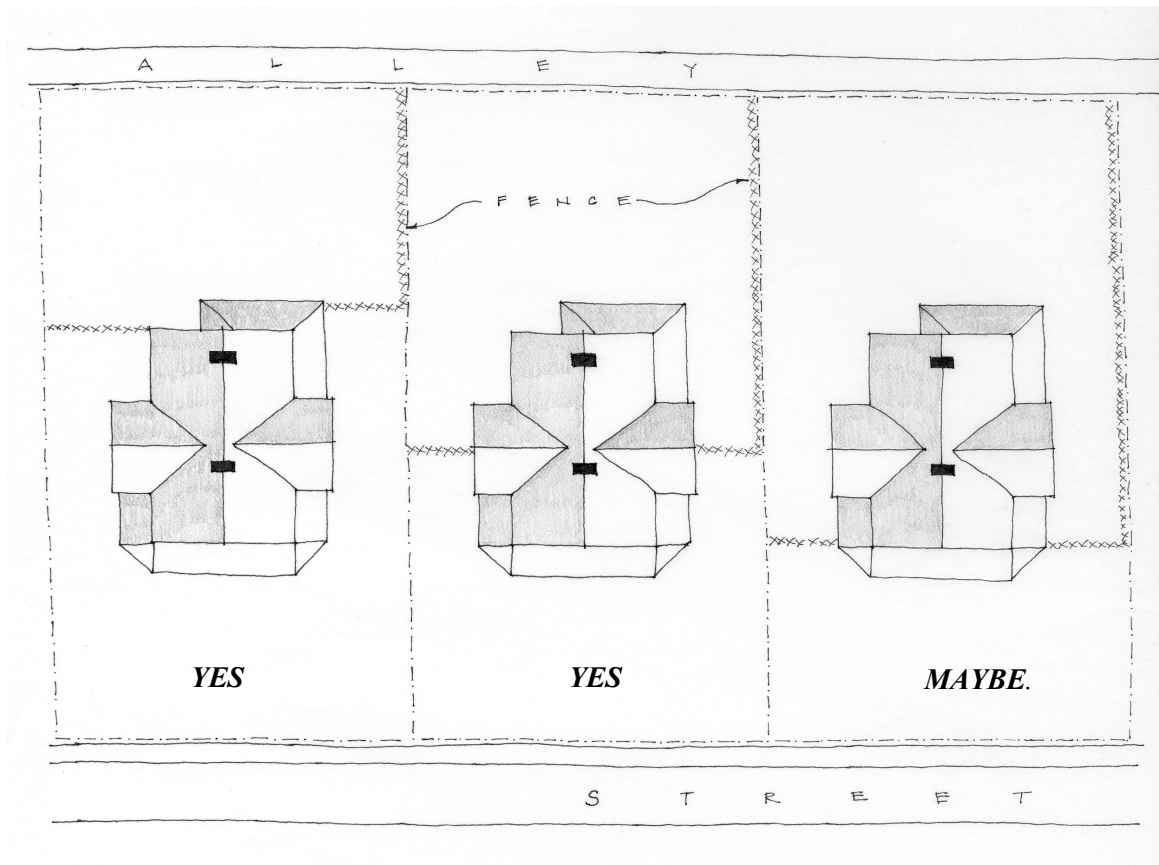
- 17.7 The addition of Victorian-era appearance cast iron fences is not appropriate for dwellings built after 1920.** The addition of Victorian-era styled cast iron fences is not appropriate for dwellings representing other periods of architecture.
- 17.8 Contemporary or utilitarian fence materials are not appropriate for fences in the public view.** Vinyl, chain-link, wire, wood plank, solid brick, or open weave brick are not appropriate materials for fences in public view but may be installed for rear yards and side yards not readily visible. Vining plants can help to screen metal fences.
- 17.9 Planting a tall living fence of evergreen trees or bushes along front yard or side yard boundaries in front of houses, disrupting the historic view corridors between front yards, is not appropriate if it is taller than what would be allowed for a wood or metal fence.**



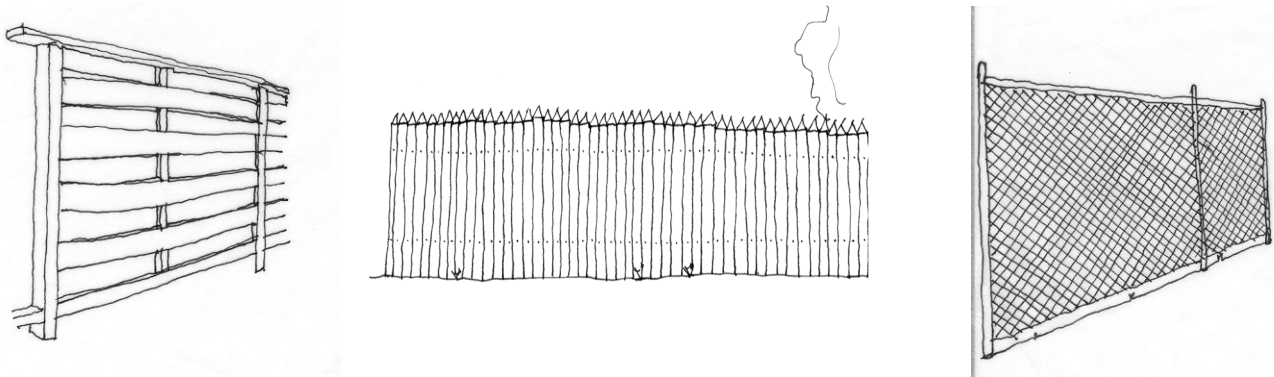
Examples of appropriate rear and side yard fences include those at 2530 Myrtle Street (left) and 1738 Central Street (right).



The use of plantings and landscaping to screen metal or wire fences is encouraged, especially for front yards, as at 1734 I'on Avenue.



Rear and side yard fences should be placed at the rear of the dwelling (left) or preferably no more than half the distance to the front of the house (middle). Usually fences should not be located along the front wall of the house unless they are not readily visible and/or screened with landscaping, (right).



Inappropriate fence designs for front yards and readily visible side yards typically include horizontal rail (left), stockade (center) and chain link (right).

Technical Information
NPS Preservation Brief #27
The Maintenance and Repair of
Architectural Cast Iron

[Preservation Brief 27: The Maintenance and Repair of Architectural Cast Iron](#)

18.0 MECHANICAL UNITS

POLICY

Mechanical equipment, both private and public, should not be obtrusive, nor obscure or damage important architectural and historical features of the building or site. Utility equipment should be located in side or rear yards and screened from public view with landscaping, lattice panels or fencing. Do not install window air-conditioning units on the street elevation of a building if possible.

Exterior mechanical equipment should be sufficiently elevated to protect from flooding.

Design Guidelines for Mechanical Units

- 18.1 Power poles, utilities, vents, meter boxes, HVAC units, generators, fuel tanks, and other utility equipment should be installed in side or rear yards with screening such as lattice, picket fencing, or landscaping.
- 18.2 Roof installations such as satellite dishes, solar panels, antennas, and ventilators, should not be readily visible.
- 18.3 If possible, avoid installing a window air-conditioning unit on the street-facing elevation of a building. Place these units on rear or side elevations.
- 18.4 Where possible, place utility lines underground to reduce the intrusion of additional overhead lines and poles.



Wood panels, lattice, and landscaping may be used to screen outside utilities on side and rear elevations, as at 1504 Middle Street, (left) and 2650 Jasper Street (right).

19.0 POOLS, FOUNTAINS, GAZEBOS AND PERGOLAS

POLICY

Modern outdoor features such as swimming pools, fountains, gazebos, pergolas, etc. should be limited to rear yards or side yards where they are set well back from the street. Swimming pools should be screened from view by fencing or landscaping.

Design Guidelines for Pools, Fountains, Gazebos and Pergolas

- 19.1 Structures such as gazebos and pergolas should be constructed of wood or brick and complement the associated primary building.**
- 19.2 Gazebo and pergola structures should not obscure views or damage historic features of the associated primary building.**
- 19.3 Locate gazebos, fountains and pergolas out of, or with limited, public view in rear or side yards.**
- 19.4 Locate swimming pools in back yards where they are not readily visible from public view.**
- 19.5 Screen swimming pools using landscaping and/or fencing.**
- 19.6 Swimming pools must be surrounded on the lot by a substantial fence at least four feet (4') in height.**



Swimming pools should be sited at rear or side yards not readily visible from the street and screened with fencing or landscaping (932 Middle Street, left) and 2820 Middle Street (right).

20.0 PARKING , DRIVEWAYS, WALKWAYS AND SIDEWALKS

POLICY

The consistency and repetition of driveway spacing, placement, dimensions, and materials are an important part of the historic district's streetscapes.

Parking areas should only be on side and rear elevations of a dwelling and not in front yards. Traditional paving materials such as gravel, sand, and aggregate concrete are encouraged over black asphalt and similar modern materials. The use of permeable paving materials for driveways and parking areas is encouraged to allow water absorption into the ground.

Design Guidelines for Parking, Driveways, Walkways and Sidewalks

- 20.1 Retain and preserve the patterns, features and materials of existing driveways and off-street parking areas that contribute to the character of the historic districts.**
- 20.2 Preserve historic driveway, walkway and sidewalk materials such as brick and aggregate concrete.**
- 20.3 Design off-street parking to be located in the rear or side yard.** Parking areas placed directly in front of a primary dwelling are not appropriate for the historic districts. On side yards the parking area should be recessed beyond the mid-point of the side of the house.
- 20.4 Minimize the width of driveways to the extent possible.** Driveway widths should be limited to a width of one car. Driveway dimensions must follow those stipulated in the Town's Zoning ordinance.
- 20.5 Original concrete sidewalks should be preserved and maintained.**

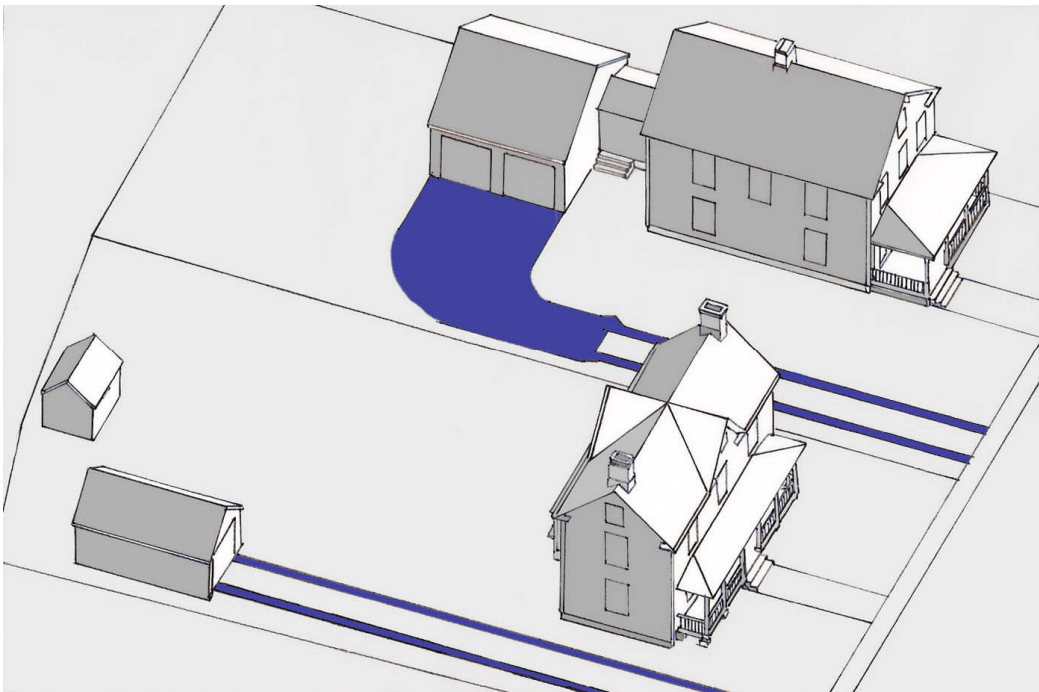


Brick walkways from the early- to -mid-20th century should be preserved and maintained as at 1722 Middle Street.



Concrete sidewalks added in the early- to -mid-20th century should be preserved and maintained as in the 1700 block of Middle Street.

- 20.6 Driveways and parking areas in side and rear yards should be of gravel (white or pea gravel), sand, brick, grass, aggregate concrete, or concrete ribbons (narrow strips).
- 20.7 Screen and minimize the visual impact of parking areas in rear or side yards with hedges, shrubs, or fences.
- 20.8 Screen and minimize the visual impact of parking areas in rear or side yards with hedges, shrubs, or fences.
In the commercial area, parking lots should be screened and defined with hedges or fencing along the sidewalks.
- 20.9 Sidewalks and driveways should be oriented **perpendicular to the street**. If historical documentation provides evidence of curvilinear designs or other shapes and designs on that site or other similar house styles, such shapes may be considered.
- 20.10 Locate new driveways and sidewalks so that the **topography of the dwelling site and significant landscape features, such as mature trees, are retained**. Protect mature trees and other significant landscape features from direct construction damage or from delayed damage such as destruction of root area or soil compaction by construction equipment.
- 20.11 New driveways and garages should not be placed adjacent to a pedestrian beach access.



YES: Driveways should connect with rear garages with a minimum of paving materials and visual impact.



Driveways should be of permeable paving materials to allow for water absorption. At left is a driveway composed largely of gravel at 2061 Pettigrew Street. At right is a driveway at 2614 Myrtle Street of interlocking concrete pavers which helps to decrease water runoff.



Permeable surfaces for parking such as gravel are recommended for properties in the historic districts (2408 Myrtle Street).



The parking lot on Middle Street shown above in the commercial district would benefit from the addition of landscaping as at the nearby parking lot shown below. The landscaping along the sidewalk helps to define the edge of the parking area and over time will assist in screening from the public view.



21.0 LANDSCAPING AND TREES

POLICY

Property owners are encouraged to maintain and preserve the tree canopies of oak and other species. Many of these trees are over one hundred years old and provide shade for dwellings and along the streetscapes.

Design Guidelines of Landscaping and Trees

- 21.1 The large shade trees in the historic districts are character-defining features and every effort should be made to keep, maintain and plant street trees and front yard trees. It is always preferable to plant a tree well within the yard to avoid damage to sidewalks. Avoidance of conflicts above and below ground utilities should be considered in any landscape planning.
- 21.2 Property owners should plant and maintain trees consistent with Sullivan's Island's climate and traditional species.
- 21.3 Landscaping should complement a building rather than overwhelm it. Buildings should not be completely hidden from view by trees or bushes.
- 21.4 Care should be taken not to plant a tree directly adjacent to a building which could cause moisture damage or infiltrate the foundation.



Extensive tree canopies exist along many streets in the historic districts and are important defining features (2500 block of I'on Avenue).

There are a number of trees in the historic districts which are of particular significance such as the oak tree at 2678 Gold Bug Street.

