

WALLS & FENCES

30-72.11 UDO Design Principle: Fences and decorative walls should be placed and scaled in a manner that does not cover, block, or damage significant building facades or elements. Fences and walls should be of a style or period that corresponds with the style or period of the building or buildings they serve. Original fences, walls, and sidewalks and those that have acquired significance by virtue of age or craftsmanship should not be removed or destroyed and should be maintained and preserved.

Walls

Stone retaining walls are an important asset of Liberty's historic residential neighborhoods. The walls require regular maintenance, as over time, water running over them can erode the mortar and force the walls to lean out towards the sidewalks. If adequate drainage is not permitted, it may be necessary to improve the drainage before making repairs to the wall. Ensure that water drains away from the walls and provide drains or scuppers to allow the water to pass through. Stone walls should not be stuccoed, plastered, or painted.

Retaining walls constructed of railroad ties, field stone veneer, and in most cases, concrete block walls are not acceptable substitutes for a deteriorated stone wall. Some concrete block walls may already exist at early twentieth century properties. These should be maintained and preserved.



Recommended

- Stone walls should be cleaned and repaired in the same manner as masonry. When replacing mortar, use a mix that matches the color and texture of the original, which is usually softer than that regularly used today. Be sure to shape the mortar joints to match the original.
- Replace damaged stones with those that match the original in color, texture and shape. It may be possible to find historic replacements “recycled” from other sites. Most stone was quarried locally, so it may be easy to find replacements. If a replacement is not available, a concrete cast that replicates the original may be permitted, with prior review by the HDRC.

WALLS & FENCES

Fences

Fences were traditionally used in residential neighborhoods to define property lines. Since the yards in Liberty's historic districts are often small, the fences were kept low and transparent so as not to detract from the house. Any historic fencing that remains should be preserved and repaired with appropriate techniques. New fences should be used to define yard edges, and should feature materials and designs that complement the style of the house and the neighborhood.

Recommended

- **Steel, aluminum, or iron:** If considering installing a new metal fence, it is best to follow historical precedent. If old photos show original iron fencing on the property, an appropriate reproduction could be chosen. If no historical precedent can be established, it is best to select a simple pattern over an ornate one.
- **Wood:** Wood is one of the most popular choices for fencing, but the most vulnerable to deterioration. New wood fencing is appropriate for many of Liberty's historic homes, especially wood frame structures built before the 1870s and after the turn of the twentieth century. Vertical picket fences were the most common style of wood fencing. The style of picket should complement the style of the residence.
- **Synthetic materials:** Some modern composite or synthetic fencing materials are difficult to distinguish from wood and may be appropriate for use in the historic districts.
- **Shrubs:** Natural hedges can provide a visual barrier and create private outdoor spaces.
- If not visible from the street, board or privacy fences may be considered for back yards when necessary to screen an objectionable view.



Fences are found in various heights and materials.



Iron fences are more transparent than wood and are available as reproductions of historic styles.

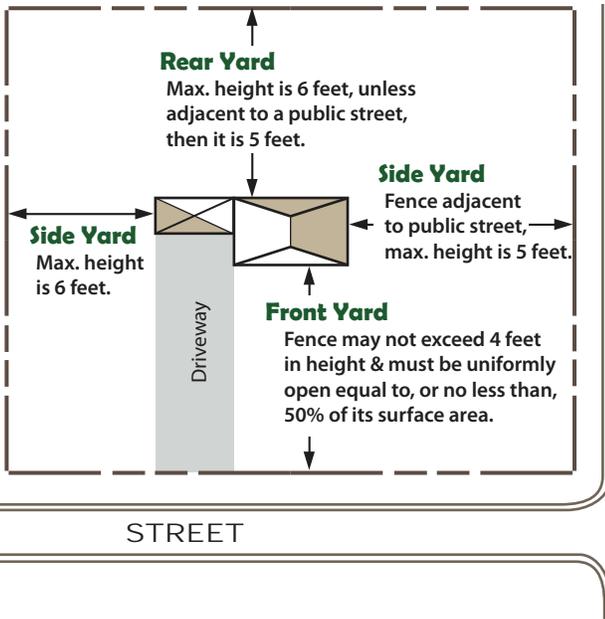


This wood picket fence complements the style of the house.

WALLS & FENCES

Not Recommended

- Horizontal boards, split rails, and solid board or privacy fences are not appropriate for the front or side yards.
- Chain link or cyclone fences are not appropriate for use in the historic districts.



UDO Sec. 30-81.1.2. Fences

Fences, provided they are constructed of wood, wrought iron, masonry, decorative wire, or composite or synthetic materials shall be appropriate to the general character of the neighborhood, in accordance with the following provisions:

1. In residential districts fences may be permitted in accordance with the following:
 - a. Front Yard: Fence may not exceed 4 feet in height and shall be uniformly open to an extent equal to but not less than 50% of its surface area. Prior to the installation of a front yard fence, the written consent of all abutting property owners, including directly across the street, is required;
 - b. Side and rear yard street side elevations: A fence adjacent to any public street shall be no greater than 5 feet in height and must also be uniformly open or perforated;
 - c. Side and rear yard: Maximum height is 6 feet; and
 - d. No fence shall impede vision of traffic on adjacent streets, alleys and drives.
2. Fences using electrified wire, barbed wire, or razor wire are not allowed for use in residential property.
3. In commercial and industrial districts, fences shall be allowed in the rear and side yard only and no fence shall be more than 6 feet in height.
4. There shall be no limitation on height for fences used for agricultural lots in the A, agricultural district.

Application Requirements:

- ▶ Signed application form with complete project description
- ▶ Site plan
- ▶ Photographs of existing conditions
- ▶ List of materials
- ▶ Scaled drawings of proposed fence

The following projects require a CoA:

- ✓ Installation of a new fence
- ✓ Replacement of an existing fence
- ✓ Construction of a retaining wall