

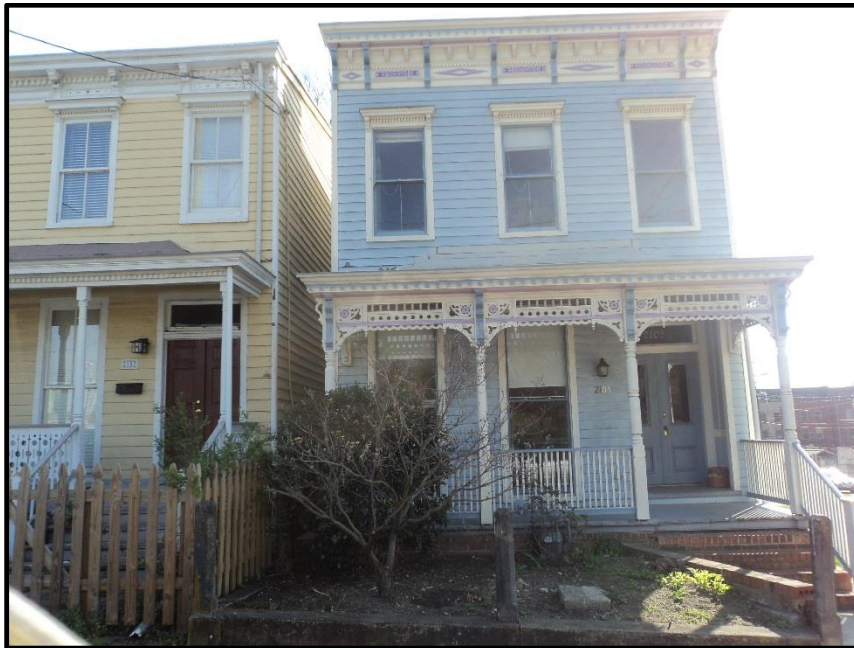
**COMMISSION OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
STAFF REPORT
April 24, 2018, Meeting**

8. **COA-033493-2018** (J. Jordan & D. Cooley) **2105 East Marshall Street
St. John's Church Old and Historic District**

Project Description: **Install a chain between existing concrete posts**

Staff Contact: **M. Pitts**

Description of Existing Structure: The existing structure is a frame Italianate structure near the intersection of East Marshall Street, Jefferson Avenue, and North 21st Street and is near the base of Jefferson Park. Currently at the front of the property, there are concrete posts.



818 North 25th Street (March 2018)

Proposal: The applicant proposes to install a black metal chain between the existing concrete posts. The chain will be draped from the tops of the posts. The gate entry will be left open

Staff recommends denial of the project. The *Richmond Old and Historic District Handbook and Design Review Guidelines* state that new street-front fences and gates should be compatible with the historic structure in design, materials, and location and should be based on physical or documentary evidence from the site (pg. 78, #3). The physical evidence indicates a metal picket fence was located between the concrete posts as metal brackets and screws remain.



Metal Brackets and Screws on Concrete Posts at 2105 E. Marshall (April 2018)

Additionally, staff has located a photograph of the property from 1977 which shows a brick wall which was likely constructed in front of concrete posts. The photograph did show a metal fence between the concrete posts on the adjacent property. Staff has not located photographic evidence to support the applicant's proposed design.

The Guidelines note that when there is no physical or documentary evidence the design of front yard fences should be consistent with the precedent of fences on the block and in the district (pg. 78, #3). Staff has been unable to locate a front yard fence which is composed of concrete posts and metal chain. The surviving concrete posts on the block contain the same physical evidence to indicate a metal picket fence had been installed between the concrete posts. At Jefferson Park, there are chains between posts, but they are limited to being between decorative metal posts. Additionally, the fences with concrete posts in the Park include metal pickets not metal chains. As there is no physical or documentary evidence or a precedent on the block or in the district for the proposed fence design, staff recommends denial of the proposed project.

It is the assessment of staff that the application is not consistent with the Standards for Site Improvements outlined in Sections 30-930.7 (e) of the City Code, as well as with the *Richmond Old and Historic Districts Handbook and Design Review Guidelines*, specifically the pages cited above, adopted by the Commission for review of Certificates of Appropriateness under the same section of the code.