

4. COA-084171-2020

PUBLIC HEARING DATE

January 26, 2021

PROPERTY ADDRESS

3310 Monument Avenue

Commission of
Architectural Review

STAFF REPORT



DISTRICT

Monument Avenue

APPLICANT

R. Law

STAFF CONTACT

C. Jeffries

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Construct a metal front yard fence with brick piers.

PROJECT DETAILS

- The applicant requests approval to construct a new front-yard fence in a side yard in the Monument Avenue City Old and Historic District. The existing home is a 2 ½ story brick Tudor Revival building built in 1936.
- The proposed fence is wrought iron with three brick piers and a gate. The fence will attach to existing brick wing walls on either side of the side yard.



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STAFF RECOMMENDATION

APPROVE WITH CONDITIONS

PREVIOUS REVIEWS

None.

STAFF RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS

- The wrought iron fence be of a simple design, and specifications be submitted to staff for administrative review and approval.
- The brick piers be compatible with but differentiated from the existing brick, and brick specifications and colors be submitted to staff for administrative approval.

STAFF ANALYSIS

Fences and Walls #3, pg. 78

If not original to a site, new street-front fences, walls, and gates should be compatible with the historic structure in

The applicant has indicated to staff that there is no evidence of a prior fence in this location. There is no physical evidence or damage on

design, materials, and location, and should be based on physical or documentary evidence from the site. In instances where physical or documentary evidence does not exist, the proposed fence, wall, or gate should be compatible in design, materials, and location, and should look to precedent on the block face or the block face opposite, or within the district, but not outside the district. By following this guidance, in some circumstances, permission for new fences, walls, or gates may be granted.

the existing brick walls.

Staff finds that the new fence design is compatible with fences found along Monument Avenue, including the subject block. In addition, the proposed fence is set back from the street and will not impact the appearance of the property at the sidewalk.

Fences and Walls #5, pg. 78

When considering the design of new fences, remember that some districts, such as Church Hill North and Union Hill, historically featured modest wooden picket fences, while some districts, such as Monument Avenue and West Grace Street, more rarely had fences, and when they did occur, were rarely wooden picket fences. In the event of a conjectural fence, the design should seek simplicity, rather than elaboration.

The design and materials proposed for the new fence appear compatible with fences found in the district. The application states that the wrought iron will be purchased from a manufacturer, but does not indicate a specific design. Staff recommends the wrought iron fence be of a simple design, and specifications be submitted to staff for administrative review.

Standards for Rehabilitation #10, pg. 59

While it is acceptable to use salvaged materials as in-kind replacement, adding features or salvaged architectural elements that suggest an inaccurate or undocumented sequence of construction should be avoided because this confuses our understanding of the evolution of Richmond's historic built environment.

The application states that bricks found on the property will be used to construct the brick piers. If the salvaged bricks match the brick of the existing home or wall, this could suggest an inaccurate sequence of construction, as the property did not historically have a fence. Staff recommends the brick piers be compatible with but differentiated from the existing brick, and brick specifications and colors be submitted to staff for administrative approval.

It is the assessment of staff that, with the conditions above, the application is consistent with the Standards for Rehabilitation and New Construction outlined in Section 30-930.7 (b) and (c) 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.

FIGURES



Figure 1. 3310 Monument Ave, view of side yard from street.

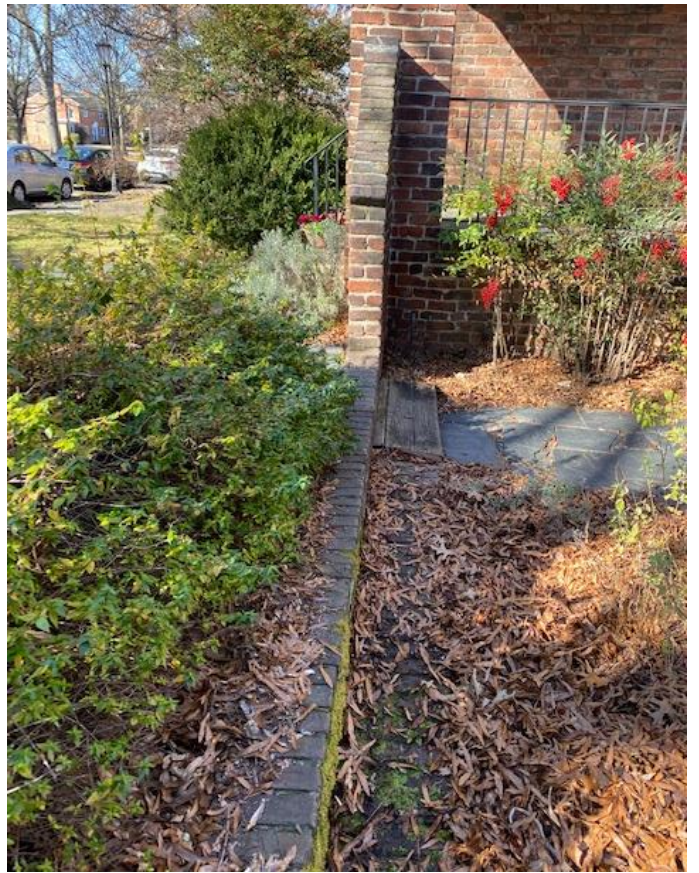


Figure 2. Photo of existing wall, submitted by applicant.