




Staff Report
City of Richmond, Virginia



Commission of Architectural Review

2.COA-160009-2025	Final Review	Meeting Date: 1/28/2025
Applicant/Petitioner	Mark Shubert	
Project Description	Relocate a segment of existing chain-link fence.	
Project Location		
Address: 1809 West Grace Street		
Historic District: West Grace Street		
High-Level Details:		
<p>The applicant requests approval to relocate a segment of existing chain link fencing. The fencing was installed many years ago and encroaches onto the neighbor's property.</p> <p>The applicant would like to relocate the fence so that it is completely within his property boundaries.</p>		
Staff Recommendation	Approval, with Conditions	
Staff Contact	Alex Dandridge, alex.dandridge@rva.gov, (804) 646-6569	
Previous Reviews	None.	
Staff Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No new chain-link fencing be installed on the property.	

Staff Analysis

Guideline Reference	Reference Text	Analysis
Commission of Architectural Review Guidelines for Administrative Approval of Walls, Fences, and Gates.	<i>B. Items not delegated for Commission Review The following items shall under no circumstances be approved administratively and will require a certificate of appropriateness from the Commission of Architectural Review. It will be necessary for the Commission to determine if they are in compliance with the Guidelines.</i>	<p>The existing chain link fence is located in the rear yard of 2220 East Mashall Street. The applicant requests to relocate the northern-most, 32-foot segment approximately 6 inches south. This segment currently encroaches onto the neighboring property, and this relocation would place the segment of fence on the applicant's property.</p> <p>There is a five-foot segment that extends onto the neighboring property. The application states that this portion of the fence doesn't serve a purpose and will be removed completely.</p>

		The Commission's Administrative Approval Guidelines state that Staff doesn't have the authority to approve the modification or relocation of existing chain-link fences, and that the Commission is to determine if the work is in-keeping with <i>Guidelines</i> .
Standards for Site Improvements, Fences & Walls, pg. 78	<i>8. Chain-link fences, split-rail fences and concrete block walls are not appropriate in any City Old and Historic District. There may be isolated cases where these materials would be allowed for use in rear yards, but Commission approval would be the exception and not the rule.</i>	While Chain-Link fences are generally not appropriate within City Old and Historic Districts, the fence in question was likely installed in the 1970s and has been existing on this site for some time. In addition, the application is not proposing to install a new fence or replace the existing fence, but rather just adjust its perimeters. <u>Staff recommends approval of the relocation of the fence with the condition that no new chain-link fencing be installed on the property.</u>

It is the assessment of staff that, with the conditions above, the application is not 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. Chain-Link Fence seen from 23rd Street (2019)



Figure 2. Chain-Link Fence seen from 23rd Street, rear (2019)

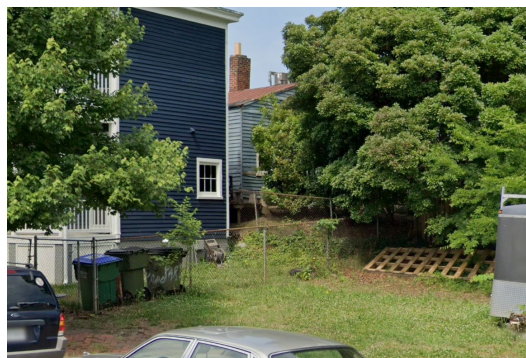


Figure 3. New construction at rear of 2220 E. Marshall Street (2025)

