



**Staff Report**  
**City of Richmond, Virginia**



**Commission of Architectural Review**

COA-094560-2021	<b>Final Review</b>	<b>Meeting Date: 7/27/2021</b>
<b>Applicant/Petitioner</b>	Matthew Maggy – Richmond Randolph Lodge #19	
<b>Project Description</b>	Construct a new retaining wall and fence on front side yard.	
<b>Project Location</b>		
<b>Address: 1807 E. Franklin St.</b>		
<b>Historic District: Mason's Hall</b>		
<b>High-Level Details:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The applicant proposes to construct a concrete retaining wall to follow the grade of the west property line running from 18" tall to 42" tall which will tie into the existing retaining wall on the front of the property.</li> <li>The applicant proposes to install a black, aluminum, two-rail square picket fence on this wall.</li> </ul>		
<b>Staff Recommendation</b>	<b>Approval</b>	
<b>Staff Contact</b>	Alex Dandridge, alex.dandridge@rva.gov , (804)-646-6569	
<b>Previous Reviews</b>	None	
<b>Conditions for Approval</b>	None	

**Staff Analysis**

Guideline Reference	Reference Text	Analysis
New Construction, Fences & Walls, #s 1-2 pg. 51	<p><i>1. Fence, wall, and gate designs should reflect the scale of the historic structures they surround, as well as the character of nearby fences, walls, and gates.</i></p> <p><i>2. Fence, wall, or gate materials should relate to building materials commonly found in the neighborhood.</i></p>	<p>The new retaining wall be concrete. The concrete retaining wall will match the existing retaining wall flanking the front of the property which is constructed of concrete.</p> <p>The applicant proposes to erect a 5'8" black, metal fence which will be a simple design and located on top of the new concrete retaining wall. Staff finds that the color, design, and material is appropriate for the district and will not detract from the historic character of the building.</p>

Standards for Site Improvements, Fences & Walls, 3 pg. 78	<p><i>3. If not original to a site, new street-front fences, walls, 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. 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.</i></p>	<p>The new concrete retaining wall and fence are compatible with the existing concrete retaining wall on site and other fence. The retaining wall and fence are simple designs and will not detract from the character of the building or district.</p>
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**Figures**



Figure 1. 1924-1925 Sanborn Map

Figure 2. Historic photo of Masonic Hall.



Figure 3. Existing conditions of West elevation of Masonic Hall.