### HISTORIC AND DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION

November 07, 2018

**HDRC CASE NO:** 2018-551

**ADDRESS:** 429 MADISON ST **LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** NCB 746 BLK 5 LOT 7

**ZONING:** RM-4, HS

CITY COUNCIL DIST.: 1

**DISTRICT:** King William Historic District

**LANDMARK:** Wells, W L - House

**APPLICANT:** Jay Monday

**OWNER:** Thomas & Jane Patterson

**TYPE OF WORK:** Install wrought iron fence with front yard gate

**APPLICATION RECEIVED:** October 19, 2018 **60-DAY REVIEW:** December 18, 2018

**REQUEST:** 

The applicant is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for approval to install a wrought iron fence in the front yard to feature four feet in height and a driveway gate.

## **APPLICABLE CITATIONS:**

- 2. Fences and Walls
- B. NEW FENCES AND WALLS
- i. *Design*—New fences and walls should appear similar to those used historically within the district in terms of their scale, transparency, and character. Design of fence should respond to the design and materials of the house or main structure. ii. *Location*—Avoid installing a fence or wall in a location where one did not historically exist, particularly within the front yard. The appropriateness of a front yard fence or wall is dependent on conditions within a specific historic district. New front yard fences or wall should not be introduced within historic districts that have not historically had them. iii. *Height*—Limit the height of new fences and walls within the front yard to a maximum of four feet. The appropriateness of a front yard fence is dependent on conditions within a specific historic district. New front yard fences should not be introduced within historic districts that have not historically had them. If a taller fence or wall existed historically, additional height may be considered. The height of a new retaining wall should not exceed the height of the slope it retains.
- iv. *Prohibited materials*—Do not use exposed concrete masonry units (CMU), Keystone or similar interlocking retaining wall systems, concrete block, vinyl fencing, or chain link *fencing*.
- v. Appropriate materials—Construct new fences or walls of materials similar to fence materials historically used in the district. Select materials that are similar in scale, texture, color, and form as those historically used in the district, and that are compatible with the main structure. Screening incompatible uses—Review alternative fence heights and materials for appropriateness where residential properties are adjacent to commercial or other potentially incompatible uses.

#### **FINDINGS:**

- a. The historic structure at 429 Madison was constructed circa 1920 in the Folk Victorian Style. The structure has been modified from its original form to include an enclosed porch and a stucco façade and is individually designated at the Wells House historic site. The single-family, two-story structure is flanked by driveway on the northern elevation and neighboring fences that meet at the front corners of the front yard.
- a. FENCE LOCATION The applicant has proposed to install a fence to span the width of the property, including a gate spanning across the driveway. According to the Guidelines for Site Elements 2.B.ii, new front yard fences should not be introduced within historic districts that did not historically have them. Staff finds that fences are found on Madison and within the King William Historic District. According to the Guidelines for Site Elements 2.C.i., privacy fences should be set back from the front façade to reduce their visual prominence. Staff finds that the fence should turn at the driveway to meet the corner of the structure, rather than spanning across the driveway as proposed. Staff finds that the driveway gate, if included, should be set back behind the front façade plane of the structure.
- b. IMMEDIATE CONTEXT The 400 block of Madison features five (5) historic structures, three of which feature a driveway (429, 427, and 403). The neighboring property at 427 Madison features a non-conforming motorized

- front gate installed prior to 2007. The property at 403 Madison features a non-conforming front yard gate that leads to the rear carriage house, is substantially distanced from the primary historic structure, and was installed prior to 2007. Staff finds that the two examples of front yard gates feature a site condition distinctly different from 429 Madison.
- c. FENCE DESIGN The applicant has proposed the new fence to feature a wrought iron design and four feet in height. According to the Guidelines for Site Elements 2.B.i., the design of the fence should respond to the design and materials of the primary historic structure or structures of a similar style in the neighborhood in relation to scale, transparency, and character. Staff finds that the proposed fence is appropriate and consistent with the Guidelines.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval based on finding b through d with the following stipulations:

- i. The fence should turn at the driveway to meet at the corner of the structure, as opposed to spanning across the driveway in the front.
- ii. The driveway gate should be located behind the front façade plane of the structure or removed from the design.
- iii. That no portion of the fence exceed four feet in height.

## **CASE COMMENT:**

The final construction height of an approved fence may not exceed the maximum height as approved by the HDRC at any portion of the fence. Additionally, all fences must be permitted and meet the development standards outlined in UDC Section 35-514.

### **CASE MANAGER:**

Huy Pham





# 429 Madison

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