HISTORIC AND DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION June 19, 2019

HDRC CASE NO: 2019-316

ADDRESS: 626 AVENUE E

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: NCB 443 BLK 5 LOT 1

ZONING: FBZ T4-2, HS

CITY COUNCIL DIST.: 1

LANDMARK: Schiebel / Richardson House #1

APPLICANT: Thomas Tamez

OWNER: Rey Feo Scholarship Foundation & LULAC Council #2

TYPE OF WORK: Front Yard Fence
APPLICATION RECEIVED: May 28, 2019
60-DAY REVIEW: July 27, 2019
CASE MANAGER: Huy Pham

REQUEST:

The applicant is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for approval to install a five-foot (5') tall wrought iron fence in the front yard.

APPLICABLE CITATIONS:

- 5. Guidelines for Site Elements
- 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.

C. PRIVACY FENCES AND WALLS

- i. *Relationship to front facade*—Set privacy fences back from the front façade of the building, rather than aligning them with the front façade of the structure to reduce their visual prominence.
- ii. Location Do not use privacy fences in front yards.

FINDINGS:

- a. The primary structure at 626 Avenue E is an individually landmarked historic structure currently zoned FBZ and Historic. This structure is commonly known as the Schiebel-Richardson House #1, was constructed circa 1825 and features a side gable roof, a full width front porch, an "Austin-chalk" façade, a standing seam metal roof, and square front porch columns. The structure is located at the corner of Avenue E and Brooklyn, with I-35/SR 281 a block from its rear. The structure also neighbors the Schiebel-Richardson House #2 historic site, which has been demolished and currently features a billboard sign oriented toward the highway.
- b. FENCE The applicant is proposing to install a 5 foot (5') tall wrought iron fence in the front yard.
- c. LOCATION Per the Guidelines for Site Elements 5.2.B.ii., front yard fences should not be introduced in a location that did not historically have them. Staff finds that front yard fences are typical to structures of this architecture style and context.

- d. HEIGHT Per the Guidelines for Site Elements 5.2.B.iii., front yard fences should be limited to a maximum of four feet (4') in height. Staff finds that the proposed height of five feet (5') is inconsistent with the Guidelines and should be reduced.
- e. DESIGN The Guidelines for Site Elements 5.2.B.i., the design of the fence should respond to the design and materials of the house or main structure. Staff finds that the proposed wrought iron fence is appropriate to the style of the structure.
- f. COMPLIANCE A signage request for 626 Avenue E was heard at the HDRC hearing on December 5, 2018, and was denied. The sign was installed prior to approval and has not been removed. Compliance should be met prior the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness for fencing.

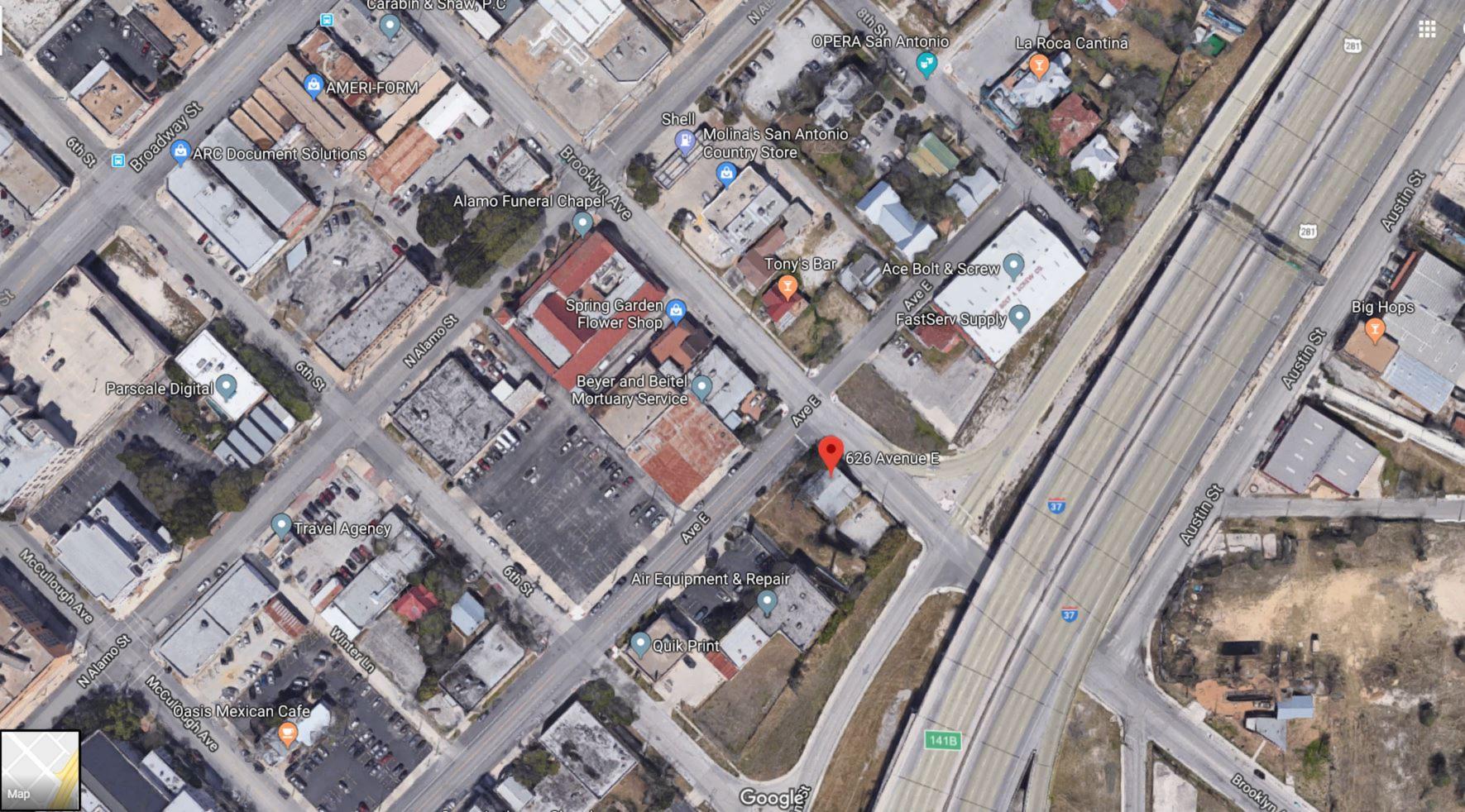
RECOMMENDATION:

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

- i. The height of the fence should be reduced to a maximum of four feet (4') in height.
- ii. Unapproved signage must be removed prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness for fencing.

626 Avenue E













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- BY THE PEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY.	VISIBLE EASEMENTS OR ENCROACHMENTS EX- CEPT AS SHOWN ABOVE.
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STREET - BROOKLYN



C 5 HIGH FENCE

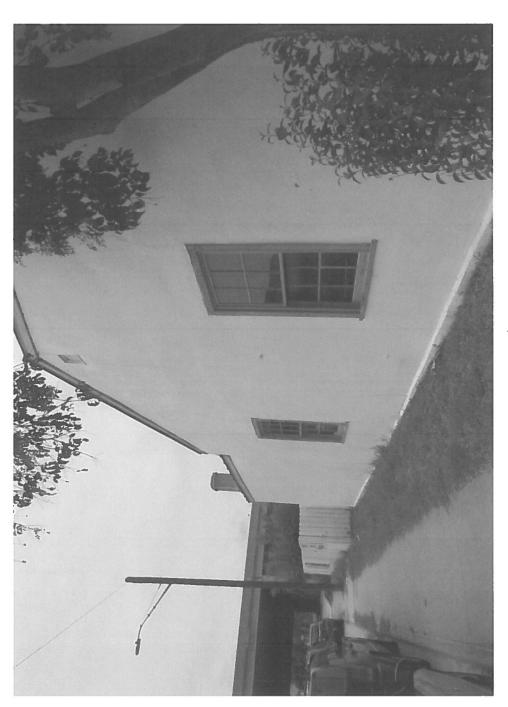


- VACANT LOT

FENCE ->



RIGHTHANDSIDE OF PROPERTY



BROOKLYN STREET SIDE