HISTORIC AND DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION

January 20, 2021

HDRC CASE NO:	2020-558			
ADDRESS:	515 E COURTLAND PLACE			
LEGAL DESCRIPTION:	NCB 2998 BLK 7 LOT W 38 FT OF 4 & E 5 FT OF 3			
ZONING:	R-6, H			
CITY COUNCIL DIST.:	1			
DISTRICT:	Tobin Hill Historic District			
APPLICANT:	Lauren Woods/WOODS LAUREN MEREDITH			
OWNER:	Lauren Woods/WOODS LAUREN MEREDITH			
TYPE OF WORK:	Front yard fence			
APPLICATION RECEIVED:	December 13, 2020			
60-DAY REVIEW:	Not applicable due to City Council Emergency Orders			
CASE MANAGER:	Rachel Rettaliata			

REQUEST:

The applicant is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for approval to install a 4-foot tall wood front yard fence.

APPLICABLE CITATIONS:

Historic Design Guidelines, Chapter 5, Guidelines for Site Elements

2. Fences and Walls

A. HISTORIC FENCES AND WALLS

i. Preserve—Retain historic fences and walls.

ii. *Repair and replacement*—Replace only deteriorated sections that are beyond repair. Match replacement materials (including mortar) to the color, texture, size, profile, and finish of the original.

iii. Application of paint and cementitious coatings—Do not paint historic masonry walls or cover them with stone facing or stucco or other cementitious coatings.

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 located at 515 E Courtland is 1-story, single-family residence constructed circa 1920 with Craftsman influences. The property first appears on the Sanborn Map in 1951. The structure features a front gable standing seam metal roof, exposed brackets, double wood columns flanking a deep-set front porch, and one-over-one wood windows. The property is contributing to the Tobin Hill Historic District.
- b. FENCE DESIGN AND HEIGHT The applicant has proposed to install a 4-foot-tall wood picket fence in the front yard. The proposed fence will follow the existing front yard perimeter curbing and will turn at the driveway and terminate at the front façade wall plane. Although it is not shown in the submitted site plan, the front yard fence will also feature a pedestrian gate at the intersection of the sidewalk and the front walkway. According to the Historic Design Guidelines, new front yard fences should appear similar to those used historically within the district in terms of their scale, transparency, and character. Although recently approved fencing on this block includes wrought iron fencing, staff finds that the proposed wood picket fencing is generally appropriate for this property and the Tobin Hill Historic District.
- c. FENCE LOCATION According to the Historic Design Guidelines, new front yard fences should follow historic fence placements in the district. There is one other front yard fence on this block of E Courtland Place and a second front yard fence was recently approved by the HDRC at another property on this block. The proposed fence will follow the established fence line along E Courtland Place and is located at the location of existing historic front yard curbing. Staff finds the proposal consistent with the Guidelines.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the front yard fence installation based on findings a through c with the following stipulation:

- i. That the applicant submits an updated and accurate measured site plan showing the proposed pedestrian gate based on finding b.
- ii. That 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.

City of San Antonio One Stop



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