

1533 Nicholasville Road
Seven Parks Historic District

Southside Church of Christ, Owner
Bobby Morris, Applicant

Scope of Work

Construct metal fence and gate.

Background

The applicant is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness to construct a four-foot high white metal fence along Dantzler Drive. This fence will fill in the lawn area between the church structure, parking lot, and the sidewalk along the Dantzler Drive sidewalk. Prior to the demolition of an addition and the construction of the replacement addition, there was a similar fence that enclosed a playground.

Guidelines

III. Guidelines for site and setting

In addition to buildings, elements of the surrounding site and setting contribute to the character of historic properties. These elements include both natural and manmade features such as trees, fields, gardens, fences, driveways, retaining walls and boundary definers. Historic site elements help to define a property’s historic character and appearance. Historic site and setting features should be preserved and maintained.

I. FENCES

DESIGN PRINCIPLE: Fences were typically constructed of wood, cast or wrought iron, brick, stone or woven wire. Lexington has a number of historic metal fences. Historic fences should be preserved and maintained. The construction of new fences based upon historic designs and materials is also appropriate. Cast iron or woven wire is preferable for 19th and early 20th century buildings. Wood fences are also allowed; however, it is important to keep the fence as transparent as possible so as not to obscure the view of the historic building.

Fences:

- (III.1.) A. of cast iron, stone, metal, wire, or brick that are original to the property should be preserved and maintained or if missing, may be reconstructed based on physical or pictorial evidence.
- B. of cast iron may be added to properties with buildings constructed to the early 20th century. Cast iron fences are not appropriate for buildings built after 1920.
- C. of wood pickets are appropriate for front yards. Wood fences in front yards should be no taller than four feet, have pickets no wider than four inches and set no farther apart than three inches. Woven wire fences in front yards should also not be more than three feet tall.

Guidelines (cont'd).

- D. of wood boards for privacy should be located in rear yards and generally be no taller than six feet (most pre-fabricated wood fence sections are 8' wide by 6' high). Privacy fences of this height should be at least half-way back from the front of the building to the back walls on the side of the house. Privacy fences of flat boards in a single row are more historically correct than shadowbox (alternating boards) designs but both designs are acceptable. Fences with flat tops, "dog ear" or Gothic (pointed tops) designs are all acceptable. "Stockade" designs are discouraged. Fences of PVC, vinyl or synthetic material are not permitted.

Findings

The Staff finds that the proposed metal fence follows the "Guidelines." There was a fence of this design located on the property prior to the demolition of an addition and the construction of a new addition circa 2016. Guideline III.1.B. of cast iron ...“(metal in this case) may be added to properties with buildings constructed to the early 20th century. Cast iron fences are not appropriate for buildings built after 1920.” A four-foot-high metal fence would be appropriate for this property and the Seven Parks Historic District.

Recommendations

Staff recommends the approval of the Certificate of Appropriateness to construct the metal fence/gate with the following conditions:

1. If any changes are made that alter the information submitted, resubmit the changes to staff for review and approval prior to the start of the affected work.
2. Once reviewed by other LFUCG Divisions, resubmit changes to staff or Board for review and approval prior to the start of work.

Deadline for Board Action

May 4, 2024