



Agenda Item #1

Certified Record 2025-27-CA

DETAILS

Location:

458 Charles Street

Summary of Request:

Install 8' aluminum fencing along rear property line.
Install a 4' aluminum feet to enclose front yard.

Applicant (as applicable):

Lee Wilson on behalf of David Sweet

Property Owner:

David Sweet

Historic District:

Oakleigh Garden

Classification:

Non-contributing

Summary of Analysis:

- The height of the proposed fencing along the rear (west) property line falls outside of the approved range that the Guidelines allow between single-family residential properties.
- The Guidelines allow front-yard fences up to 4' in height on a case-by-case basis.
- The portions of fence around the rear yard that are 6' in height are within the Guidelines' allowable range and are approvable at the staff level.

Report Contents:

Property and Application History	2
Scope of Work	2
Applicable Standards	2
Staff Analysis	3
Attachments.....	5

PROPERTY AND APPLICATION HISTORY

Oakleigh Garden Historic District was initially listed in the National Register in 1972 under Criteria A (historic significance) and C (architectural significance) for its local significance in the areas of architecture, landscape architecture, and planning and development. The district is significant for its high concentration of 19th- and 20th-century architectural types and styles and significant in the area of landscape architecture for its canopies of live oaks planted from 1850 to 1910. The district is significant in the area of planning and development as the location of Washington Square, one of only two antebellum public parks remaining in Mobile. The district was expanded in 1984, and an updated nomination was approved in 2016.

The one-story frame cottage with Victorian detailing located at 458 Charles Street previously resided at 1101 S. Broad Street in the Oakdale National Register Historic District. It was moved in 2023 to 458 Charles Street and rehabilitated. The house is not present on the 1904 Sanborn Map but appears on the 1924 overlay at what was then 1101 S. Washington Avenue. Therefore, the house was constructed sometime between 1904 and 1924. Given the form and style of the building, the construction date is most likely closer to 1904. There is also the possibility that the house did not originate at 1101 S. Broad but was built earlier and moved to the S. Broad lot. At the time of the 2023 relocation, there were markings that the house had undergone previous alterations/additions. On the projecting gable end of the rear elevation, there was evidence of two different openings which suggested perhaps multiple additions/alterations. The 1924 Sanborn map shows a rear porch attached to the hipped roof bay of the house. The porch was no longer extant prior to the 2023 relocation, however a door opening on the rear elevation suggested access to a porch.

Prior to the relocation from 1101 S. Broad Street, the lot at 458 Charles Street sat vacant for many years. A structure is represented on the 1878 Hopkins ward map, when the lot was designated as 8 Charles Street. The lot is renumbered 360 Charles on the 1904 Sanborn map, which shows a one-story frame house with a square footprint, a full-width front porch, and a small dog-leg projection off the rear. The same house appears on the 1925 Sanborn map, with the rear projection having been filled in and extended. A small accessory structure was also present on the rear of the lot at this time. This structure appears in aerial photographs through 1985. The building is not extant in the next available aerial photograph, taken in 1997. Therefore, the building was removed between 1985 and 1997.

The property at 458 Charles Street appeared once before the Architectural Review Board (ARB), when in 2023 the application to relocate the structure at 1101 S. Broad to the subject lot was approved.

SCOPE OF WORK

1. Install 50'-0" feet of new aluminum fence that is 8'-0" high.
 - a. The proposed new fence would run along the rear (west) property line.
2. Install 107'-0" feet of new aluminum fence that is 4'-0" high.
 - a. 81'-0" of the proposed new fence would enclose the front yard space between the existing paved driveway and the neighboring property to the north. This would include 20'-0" of fence along the north property line in front of the front building plane.
 - b. 26'-0" of the proposed new fence would run along the south property line and abut a 6'-0" high fence that will cross the existing driveway.
3. Install one (1) 6'-0" wide arched double gate.
 - a. A pedestrian gate would be installed in the section of 4'-0" high fence along the east (street-facing) property line.

APPLICABLE STANDARDS (*Design Review Guidelines for Mobile's Historic Districts*)

1. **10.2** Design a fence to be compatible with the architectural style of the house and existing fences in the neighborhood.
 - Install a painted wood picket fence.
 - Install a simple wood or wire fence. Heights of wooden picket fences are ordinarily restricted to 36". Consideration for up to 48," depending on the location of the fence, shall be given. A variance might be required. Staff can advise and assist applicants with regard to a variance. If combined with a wall, the total vertical dimension of the wall and fence collectively should not exceed 36," or in some cases 48".
 - For surface parking areas associated with commercial uses, size a perimeter parking area fence to not exceed 48" in height.
 - Install a cast-iron or other metal fence not exceeding 48" in height if located in the front yard.
 - Install a fence that uses alternative materials that have a very similar look and feel to wood, proven durability, matte finish and an accurate scale and proportion of components.
 - Face the finished side of a fence toward the public right-of-way.
 - Based on the chosen fence material, use proportions, heights, elements and levels of opacity similar to those of similar material and style seen in the historic district.
- REAR AND NON-CORNER SIDE FENCES (LOCATED BEHIND THE FRONT BUILDING PLANE)
- Design a fence located behind the front building plane to not exceed 72" in height. If the subject property abuts a multi-family residential or commercial property, a fence up to 96" will be considered.
 - An alternative fence material with proven durability, matte finish and an accurate scale and proportion of components is acceptable. A simple wood-and-wire fence is acceptable provided it is appropriate to the style of the house.

ACCEPTABLE FENCE MATERIALS

Materials that have a similar character, durability and finish to those of fences of historic properties in the district are acceptable.

These often include:

- » Wood picket
- » Wood slat
- » Wood lattice
- » Iron or steel
- » Historically appropriate wire fences
- » Aluminum that appears similar to iron

UNACCEPTABLE FENCE MATERIALS Materials that do not have a similar character, durability and finish to those of fences of historic properties in the district are unacceptable.

These often include:

- » Chain link
- » Stockade
- » Post and rail
- » Masonite
- » PVC
- » Plywood or asbestos paneling
- » Razor wire
- » Barbed wire

STAFF ANALYSIS

The property under review is a one-story frame cottage with Victorian details that was moved into the Oakleigh Garden Historic District in 2023. The application seeks approval to install length 50'-0" length of 8'-0" aluminum fencing along the rear property line and a total of length of 107'-0" of 4'-0" aluminum fencing in front of the front building plane.

The *Guidelines* state that heights of front yard fences (forward of the building's front plane) should range from 36" to a maximum of 48". The proposed front yard fence is within this range. The location of the property on a mid-block means that the higher fence height would not impact visibility around a street corner. The use of open aluminum fencing would mitigate the visual impact of the higher fence height.

The Guidelines state that fences located behind the front building plane are not to exceed 72". An exception is made for single-family residences that share a property line with a commercial, institutional, or multi-family residential property. A fence height of up to 96" is permitted along the shared property line. All properties that neighbor 458 Charles Street are single-family residences, so this particular allowance does not apply in this case.

SITE LOCATION – 458 CHARLES STREET



SITE PHOTOS – 458 CHARLES STREET



1. East (primary) façade, looking northwest



2. North side yard and neighboring driveway, looking west



3. Driveway and south side yard, looking west



4. Driveway and south side yard, looking west



5. Rear yard and existing fence on neighboring property, looking north



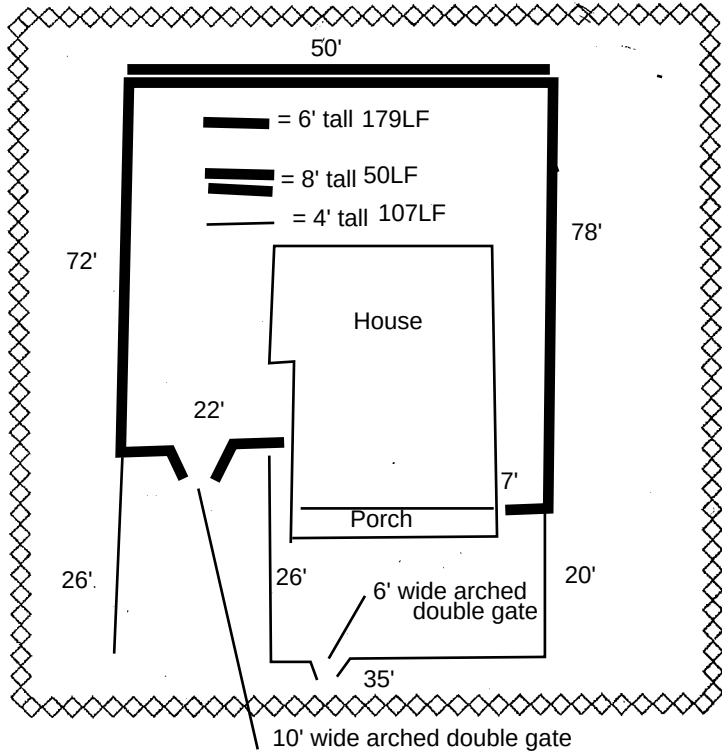
6. Rear yard and existing fence on neighboring property, looking south



Turner-Wilson FENCE COMPANY, LLC

7900 Foxfire Dr · Mobile, AL 36608 · Phone: 251-635-1500

PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO David Sweet		PHONE	DATE 4/15/25
STREET		JOB NAME	
CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE		JOB LOCATION 458 Charles Street	JOB PHONE
CONTACT	DATE OF PLANS		



Residential	Tubing	Sch. 20	Sch. 40
Commercial	SPECIFICATIONS: ALL posts set in concrete.		
Total Height	4' 5' 6' 8'	Top Rail	1" 1.25" 1.37" 1.62" O.D.
Post Spaced	6' 8' 10'	Line Post	1.62" 2" 2.5" O.D.
Style Fence	Aluminum Chain Link	End Post	2" 2.5" 3" 4" O.D.
Gauge	☐ 9 ☐ 11 1/2	Corner Post	2" 2.5" 3" 4" O.D.
Knuckled	☐	Walk Gate Post	2" 2.5" 3" 4" O.D.
Safeguard	☐	Drive Gates Posts	2.5" 3" 4" O.D.
With Barbwire on Top	Yes No	Gate Frames	1.37" 1.62" 2" O.D.

WOOD FENCE			
Wood	4'	6'	8'
Finish	2	3	4
Stained	Unstained		
Lines	4x4	6x6	6x6
Posts	4x4	6x6	6x6
Gate Posts	4x4	6x6	6x6
Drive Gate	4x4	6x6	6x6

Gates: Single Qty Double Qty

Customer Request Set Date

Is Fence Line Clear? Yes ☐ No ☐ Remove

Are there visible stakes on this Job?

If no, does customer have plot plan?

Did you stake all questionable locations for fence and gates?

Are there any obstructions on job site to be moved?

If yes explain

Are we to haul off the old fence?

Are there any holes to go through concrete?

If yes, how many?

Does the customer have a clear understanding as to how the fence would be constructed compared to the grade of the yard?

If yes, explain:

Top Rail of Fence to Follow Ground

Be level With lowest Grade

Be level With Highest Grade

Does customer want fence set on property line?

If no, explain on diagram

check CONTRACT CONDITIONS

TERMS: Cash Upon Completion ☐ Other Credit Card Payment Fee 3.5% ☐

In case payment is not made as specified in (Terms of Payment) Turner-Wilson Fence reserves the right to repossess all material used on the job without recourse. PROPERTY OWNER is solely responsible for locating, staking and clearing fence lines. Purchaser also agrees that Turner-Wilson Fence will not be held responsible or liable for any damage of any natural to underground, or out of ground obstructions.

NOTICE: If contract is changed after the erection crew delivers the material, there will be a \$20.00 per hour charge for time lost.

If contract is cancelled a 25% charge of the total contract price will be charged.

ACCEPTED

QUANTITY

Install 50' of 8' tall aluminum fence.

Install 179' of 6' tall aluminum fence w/ 1 - 10' arched double gate.

Install 107' of 4' tall aluminum fence w/ 1 - 6' arched double gate.

TOTAL \$16,425.00

Notes Sub-Total

Tax

Down

Salesman Lee Wilson Total