

## Site and Setting

### 3.3 WALLS AND FENCES



Examples of decorative iron fences in the front of buildings

Fences and walls are a common site feature in the historic neighborhoods in Covington. While the front yards tend to be small, fences and walls provided a definition between the private and the public space while also providing extra decoration to the site. In the rear of the house, fences and walls were constructed for privacy as well as to contain animals and protect planted areas. These fences and walls tend to be taller while fences or walls in the front were usually 3 feet and under. Most fences in front yards were historically made of wrought or cast iron and in the rear they vary between wood and masonry. These fences and walls generally followed the property line. It is the responsibility of a property owner to make sure that the fence or wall is installed on the property line and the best way to ensure this is to get a proper survey before installation.

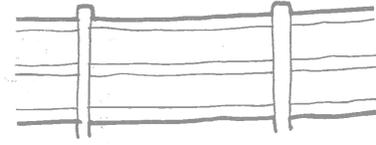
Masonry walls were not only used to define the yard, but they were also used as retaining walls. Many houses and lots in Covington sit above grade so that the lot drops from the yard to the sidewalk. Masonry, usually stone, walls provide a secure retaining wall. A fence or masonry wall is often located atop the retaining wall.

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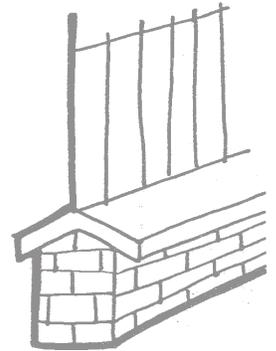
### 3.3 WALLS AND FENCES



Example of stone retaining wall with iron fence



Undesirable-boundary/open



Desirable-low masonry with metal accent



Example of brick privacy wall



Example of rear privacy fence

#### GUIDELINES:

1. Existing wrought-iron or cast-iron fences and masonry walls should be repaired and retained whenever possible.
2. When visible from a public right-of-way, fence materials shall be masonry (stone or brick), wrought iron, black powder coated metal, or wood. New fences shall be compatible with existing fences.
3. Wood plank privacy fences should be stained or painted when easily seen from the public right of way.
4. Vinyl and plastic fences are not permitted.
5. Fences in front yards should be low and transparent. In side yards, fences may reinforce the building setback.
6. Chain-link, split rail, or stockade-type fences and concrete or concrete block walls are not permitted. Incompatible walls and fences should be removed, where possible.
7. All fences must meet zoning and building codes.