

## Fences and Walls

There are a great variety of fences within the residential areas of Holland's historic districts. While many rear and side yards (to the rear of properties) have some combination of privacy fencing, walls, or landscape screening, fencing within front yards is less frequent, less varied, and often more formal and ornamental in design.



233 W. 12<sup>th</sup> Street

An open picket fence is an appropriate style for front yards.

It is unusual to find original fencing remaining in the district, however where historic remnants or documentation exist, repair or replacement in-kind is encouraged. Fences in the Historic District shall meet the dimensional requirements according to the Unified Development Ordinance of the City of Holland. Fences and walls include any structure that is not integral to any building and is used as a barrier to define boundaries, screen off, or enclose a portion of property.

Fences and gates are an extension of the architectural character of a resource and shall be compatible with its size, scale, massing, and design. The HDC will review each fence proposal based on the project's individual merits. The existence of other historically inconsistent or incompatible fences in the area is not a basis for approval of another inconsistent or incompatible fence.

Fences, where appropriate, should define site patterns and not impede streetscapes, vistas, or panoramas. Fences placed along lot lines as opposed to arbitrary lines are consistent with practice and planning. Fences placed off lot lines can create dead spaces and false alleys detracting from the continuity of vistas and streetscapes. Historical references (photos, plot plans, etc.) consistent with the period and design of the structure that indicate placement and design of fences will assist the HDC in reviewing the CoA.

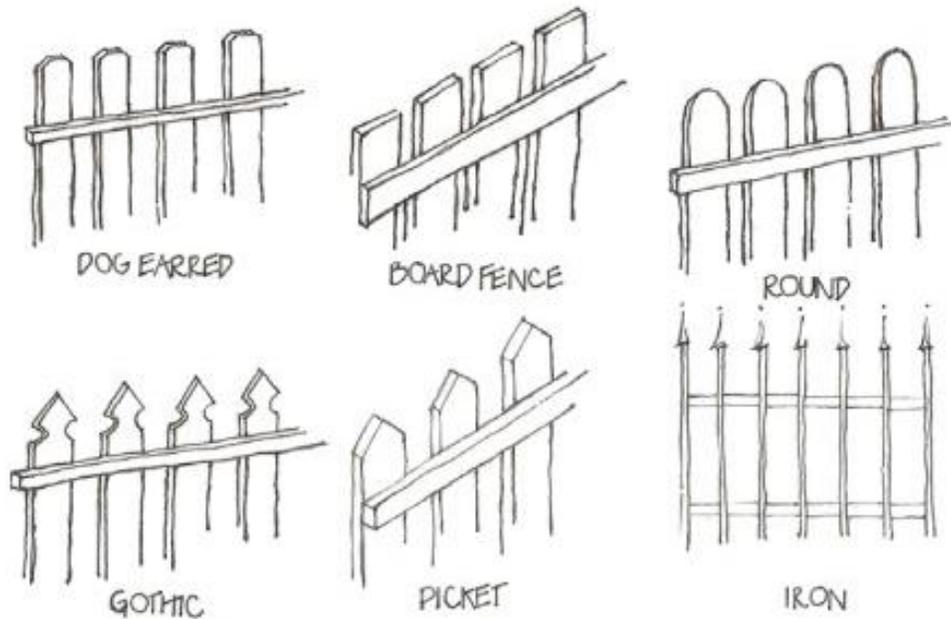
Historic fencing and walls shall be preserved and repaired where possible, utilizing standard preservation practices to retain historic materials and appearances.

### Guidelines

1. Fencing proposals shall be consistent in design, materials, and scale with historic fencing. Wood, iron, or other historic materials are appropriate. Vinyl fencing is

prohibited. The scale and level of ornateness of any new fences and walls should relate to and complement the scale and ornateness of the existing building.

2. When historic documentation is available, historic fencing shall be replicated.
3. Materials such as chain-link fencing and concrete block walls are not appropriate.
4. Consideration should also be given to alternative screening materials such as shrubbery to re-direct traffic patterns or provide security and privacy.



Representative historic fence designs in wood include dog eared, board fence, round, gothic, and picket. Iron is an appropriate metal style.