



S A V A N N A H H I S T O R I C D I S T R I C T
B O A R D O F R E V I E W

REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

Petitioner: Superior Fence & Rail, Catherine Simmons

MPC File No.: 26-003497-COA

Address: 446 Price Street

PIN: 20033 03010C

Zoning: D-R

Staff Reviewer: Jodie Brown, AICP

Date: September 9, 2026

NATURE OF REQUEST:

The applicant is requesting approval to replace a rear yard fence with a 6' high wood fence.

CONTEXT/SURROUNDING AREA:

Located on the northeast corner of Gordon Lane and Price Street in the Davis Ward, the house was designed in the Italianate style as a town home and constructed in 1890. The subject house is two-stories with wood lap siding. The house features a low sloped roof with a parapet. The front façade has a deep eave with decorative brackets. A small front porch supported by simple square wood columns and balustrade which is only over the front door and the neighboring window. Fenestration is symmetrical on front façade with 6/1 double hung windows and a solid, paneled door with a two-light transom. Windows are flanked by shutters

The subject building is listed as a contributing resource within the National Historic Landmark District and the local Savannah Downtown Historic District.

FINDINGS:

The following standards from §7.8 - Savannah Downtown Historic District Ordinance apply:

***Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitation.** Material changes to contributing resources and resources that are eligible for listing as contributing shall be evaluated by use of the current edition of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitation as published by the U.S. Department of the Interior. In considering proposals for alterations to contributing resources, the documented original design of the resource may be considered.*

***Secretary of the Interior's Standards 2– Historic Character.** The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided.*

The proposed fence is located at the rear of the building and will have not impact on the historic character of the building. The proposed work is consistent with Standard 2.

Secretary of the Interior's Standards 9– New Additions to not Damage. *New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.*

As noted, the fence will be located at the rear of the house. The fence will be 6' tall and wood. There will be limited impact to the rear corners of the historic house. It appears that the fence will be supported by its own posts and minimally attached to the corners of the house. The addition will not cause any damage to the historic portion of the house. The proposed work is consistent with Standard 9.

Secretary of the Interior's Standards 10– New Additions Reversible. *New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.*

The proposed work is reversible and would not have any impact on the historic building if removed. The work is consistent with Standard 10.

Visual Compatibility Criteria. *To maintain the special character of the Savannah Downtown Historic District as identified in the architectural survey and visual analysis, new construction and any material change in appearance shall be consistent with the standards, criteria and guidelines developed for the district. The applicable criteria below shall be used to assess new construction and material changes. These criteria shall not be the basis for appeal to any board, commission or administrator described in this Ordinance, or to the Mayor and Aldermen.*

Relationship of materials, texture and color. *The relationship of materials, texture and color of the facade of a building or structure shall be visually compatible with the predominate materials, textures, and colors used on contributing buildings and structures to which the structure is visually related.*

The proposed dog-eared 6' wood fence is consistent with the previous fence that is being replaced as well as surrounding fences. The proposed work is consistent with this criterion.

Savannah Downtown Historic District Design Standards. *The intent of these standards is to ensure appropriate new construction, additions, and alterations within the Savannah Downtown Historic District. They are not intended to promote copies of the architectural designs of the past, but to encourage contemporary designs that protect and complement existing contributing resources. They are further intended to protect the historic integrity of the contributing resources.*

The following design standards shall apply to new construction, additions, alterations to contributing and non-contributing buildings and structures, unless otherwise specified. Though certain building materials are prescribed herein, the Board may approve alternative materials that are not listed as prohibited upon a showing by the applicant that the material or product is visually compatible with historic building materials and has performed satisfactorily in the local climate.

For the purposes of evaluating the visual compatibility and design standards of exterior fenestration, where voids (windows, doors, and storefronts) in the exterior façade are substantially blocked by interior walls or built-in furniture, these may be considered part of the exterior wall if they are built within three feet of the exterior wall. For example, if an interior wall is built abutting the storefront, that interior wall is impacting the exterior design of the fenestration and may be subject to review by the Historic Board of Review.

Fences, Trellises and Walls. *Fences and walls shall comply with Sec. 9.6, Fences and Walls except as provided below:*

Fences, Trellises and Walls, Configuration.

Fences, trellises or walls shall not exceed 11 feet in height; however, where adjoining walls exceed 11 feet, any new wall may be constructed to the height of the existing wall. Rooftop trellises may exceed 11 feet in height, provided they are visually compatible.

The fence is limited to 6'. The work is consistent with this historic district design standard.

Fences, trellises and walls shall not extend beyond the facade of a building except in the following cases:

A building set back on a trust lot with a front garden;

A building set back on an east-west street with a front garden.

The fence will not extend past the façade of the building. The work is consistent with this historic district design standard.

A minimum of five (5) feet must be provided between a fence and a building where they are parallel.

The fence will be located in the rear yard. The work is consistent with this historic district design standard.

Fences, Trellises and Walls, Materials.

Fences and walls facing a public street shall be constructed of the material and color of the primary building; provided however, iron or extruded aluminum fencing may be used with a masonry structure.

The subject property is an interior townhome lot. It does not front a public street. The work is consistent with this historic district design standard.

Wood fences shall be painted or stained.

The proposed fence will be sealed.

Prohibited: Chain-link, vinyl, PVC, corrugated metal, barbed wire, razor wire.

The project will not be using any prohibited material. The work is consistent with this historic district design standard.

Staff Report - Certificate of Appropriateness
MPC File No. 26-003497-COA
446 Price Street
August 12, 2026

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE the request to replace the rear yard fence with a 6' wood fence at 446 Price Street, AS SUBMITTED because the work is visually compatible and meets the Standards.

MW: CC: JB

Note: This recommendation could change subject to new information provided at the Historic District Board of Review meetings. Final decisions will be made by the Historic District Board of Review at the public hearing based on information provided at the meeting, as well as information submitted for the staff recommendation.