

15 Audubon Place



Historic Preservation Commission

Staff Report

Meeting Date: August 13, 2025

Case #: HPC-42-25

Site Address:	15 Audubon Place
Parcel ID:	31-06-23-2-015-015.000
Applicant:	James McCool
Owner:	Matthew and Nika McCool

Proposed Work:	Petition for a Certificate of Appropriateness for the construction of a fence in the rear yard located at 15 Audubon Place in the Audubon Place Historic District.
Current Zoning:	SFR-3H

Historic District:	Audubon Place
Architectural Style:	English Cottage
Year Built:	1932
Contributing:	Yes
Historic Survey:	Audubon Place Historic Survey

13. #15 Audubon Place. 1932; 2-story painted brick English Cottage with a shed dormer and cross gable shingle roof which slightly flares to complete arched side entrance. The front is pierced by a chimney with a corbeled cap and the arched porch entrance features hood molds and one small decorative iron balconette above.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT:

The petitioner is proposing to construct a new eight (8) foot tall wooden shadowbox fence in the year yard. The proposed material is pressure treated pine. The existing chain link fence will be removed prior to the installation of the new fence.

STAFF ANALYSIS:

The proposed fence is located in the rear yard. Wood is an appropriate fence material in the Design Guidelines.

APPLICABLE DESIGN GUIDELINES:

Fences and Walls

- Design fences and walls to maintain the overall continuity of the district as viewed from public rights-of way.
- Complement the buildings and do not detract from their character and relation to their neighbors with the design, scale, placement, and materials of fences, walls, and gates.
- Locate fences and walls no closer to the street than the side yard setback of any structure adjacent to a side street.
- Do not exceed the average height of fences and walls of comparable type and location found on adjacent properties, generally not to exceed six (6) feet.
- Present the finished side of all fences to the exterior of the property being fenced.
- Relate scale, height, materials and level of ornateness of the design of new fences and walls to that of the existing structure and/or its neighbors

Examples of Appropriate Fence Materials:

- Wood picket
- Wood slat
- Wood lattice
- Iron
- Brick
- Stone
- Stucco over masonry
- Historically appropriate wire
- Powder-coated aluminum mimicking cast/wrought iron

Examples of Inappropriate Fence Materials:

- Chain link
- Stockade
- Post and rail
- Unstuccoed concrete block
- Masonite
- Plastic
- Plywood or asbestos panels
- Vinyl

PETITIONER APPLICATION & SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Certificate of Appropriateness Application

Property Information:

Site Address:

15 Audubon Pl, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401

Historic District:

Audubon Place

Estimated Cost of Construction:

5000

Detailed Description of the Proposed Work:**Overview:**

This project involves the complete removal of the existing chain link fence and the installation of a new wooden shadowbox privacy fence. The new fence will enhance the property's aesthetic appeal, increase privacy, and provide a more durable and attractive boundary solution.

Scope of Work:**1. Demolition and Removal**

Carefully dismantle and remove the existing chain link fence, including all posts, mesh, gates, and hardware.

Extract all fence posts, including any set in concrete.

Dispose of all debris and materials in accordance with local waste management regulations.

2. Site Preparation

Clear and level the fence line area, removing any obstructions, vegetation, or debris.

Perform a utility line locate to ensure safe digging.

Mark fence line boundaries based on property survey or client specifications.

3. Fence Design and Materials

Install a 8-foot high wooden shadowbox fence

Shadowbox style consists of alternating pickets on each side of the rail for semi-privacy (allows airflow while maintaining coverage).

Fence materials:

Pressure-treated pine

4x4 pressure-treated wood posts set 8 feet apart.

2x4 horizontal rails (top, middle, and bottom).

Coated screws for durability.

4. Installation

Dig post holes to a minimum depth of 24–36 inches

Set posts in concrete and allow proper curing time for stability.

Attach rails and pickets according to shadowbox design with alternating placement on either side of the rails.

Ensure all posts and panels are level, plumb, and aligned for a professional finish.

Install one gate with secure latches and hinges.

5. Finishing

Clean the work area and remove all construction debris.

Final inspection of fence alignment, gate operation, and structural integrity.

Detailed Description of the Proposed Materials:

Materials for Wooden Shadowbox Fence

1. Fence Posts

Material: Pressure-Treated Southern Yellow Pine

Dimensions: 4" x 4" x 8'

Treatment: Ground-contact rated for rot and insect resistance

Installation: Set in concrete footings, minimum 24–36 inches deep depending on frost line and soil condition

2. Horizontal Rails

Material: Pressure-Treated Pine

Dimensions: 2" x 4" x 8'

Configuration: Three-rail system (top, middle, bottom) for structural integrity

Fastening: Attached to posts with galvanized exterior-grade screws

3. Pickets (Fence Boards)

Material Options:

Pressure-Treated Pine

Dimensions: 1" x 6" x 6'

Installation: Alternating pickets on each side of the rails, spaced 2–3 inches apart for semi-private

shadowbox style

4. Fasteners

Type: Exterior-grade, galvanized screws

5. Concrete

Type: Ready-mix quick-set concrete (e.g., Quikrete Fast-Setting Concrete Mix)

Quantity: Approximately 1.5 to 2 bags (50–60 lbs each) per post hole depending on depth and diameter

6. Gate Hardware

Hinges: Heavy-duty, weather-resistant steel or zinc-coated

Latch: Lockable latch system with optional self-closing hinge mechanism

Handle: Galvanized

Gate Frame: Reinforced wooden frame with cross braces for stability

7. Miscellaneous Supplies

Landscape fabric or gravel for bottom of post holes

Mason's line, stakes, and marking paint for layout and alignment

Safety gear: gloves, goggles, dust masks

Applicant Information:

Applicant Name:

James McCool

Applicant Address:

15 Audubon PL, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401

Applicant Phone Number:

Applicant Email Address:

Property Owner Information:

Property Owner Name:

Property Owner Address:

Property Owner Phone Number:

Property Owner Email Address:

Supporting Documents:

Site Plan:

Site_Plan_Combined.pdf

Elevation Drawings:

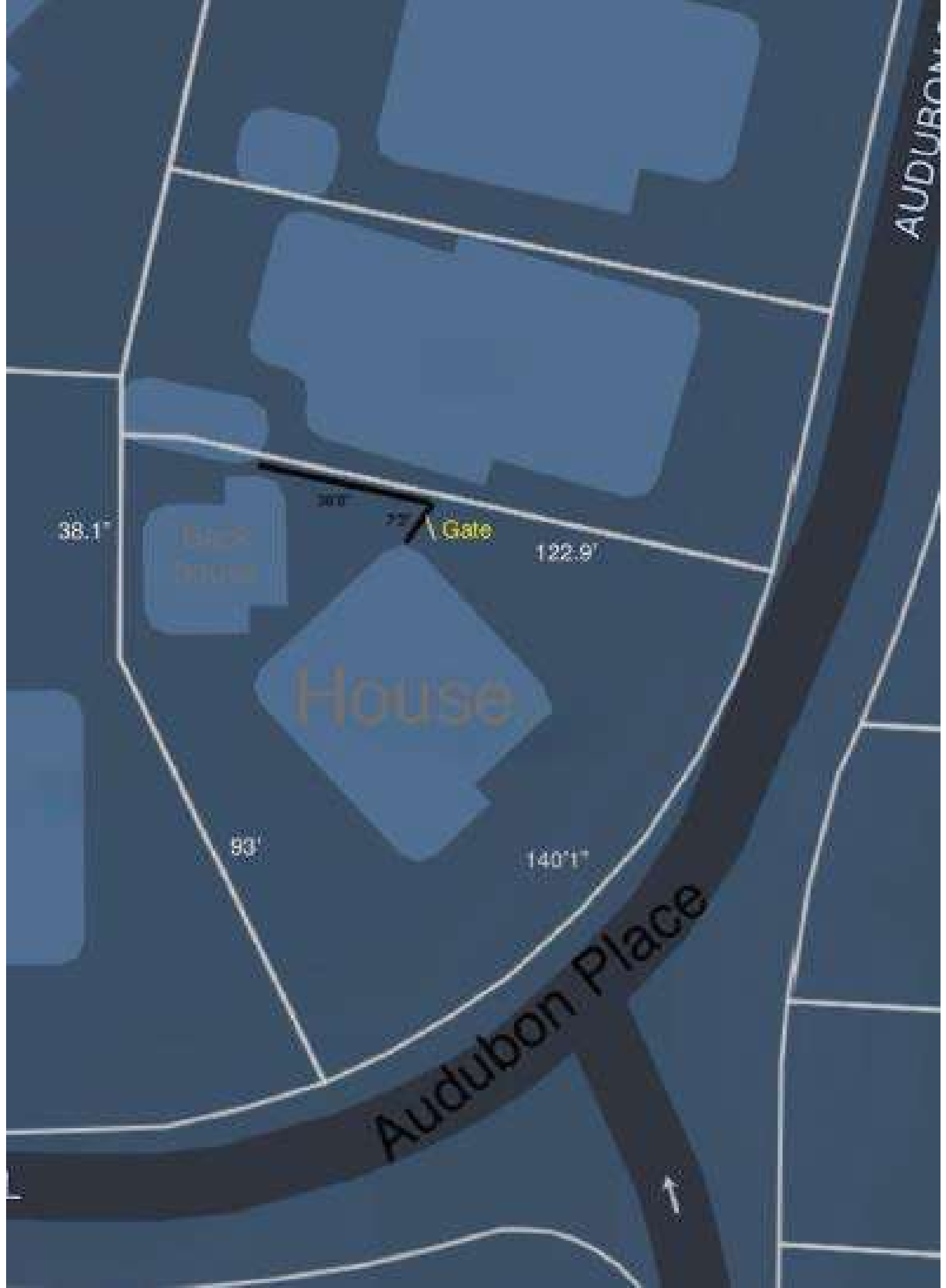
Elevation_Drawings.pdf

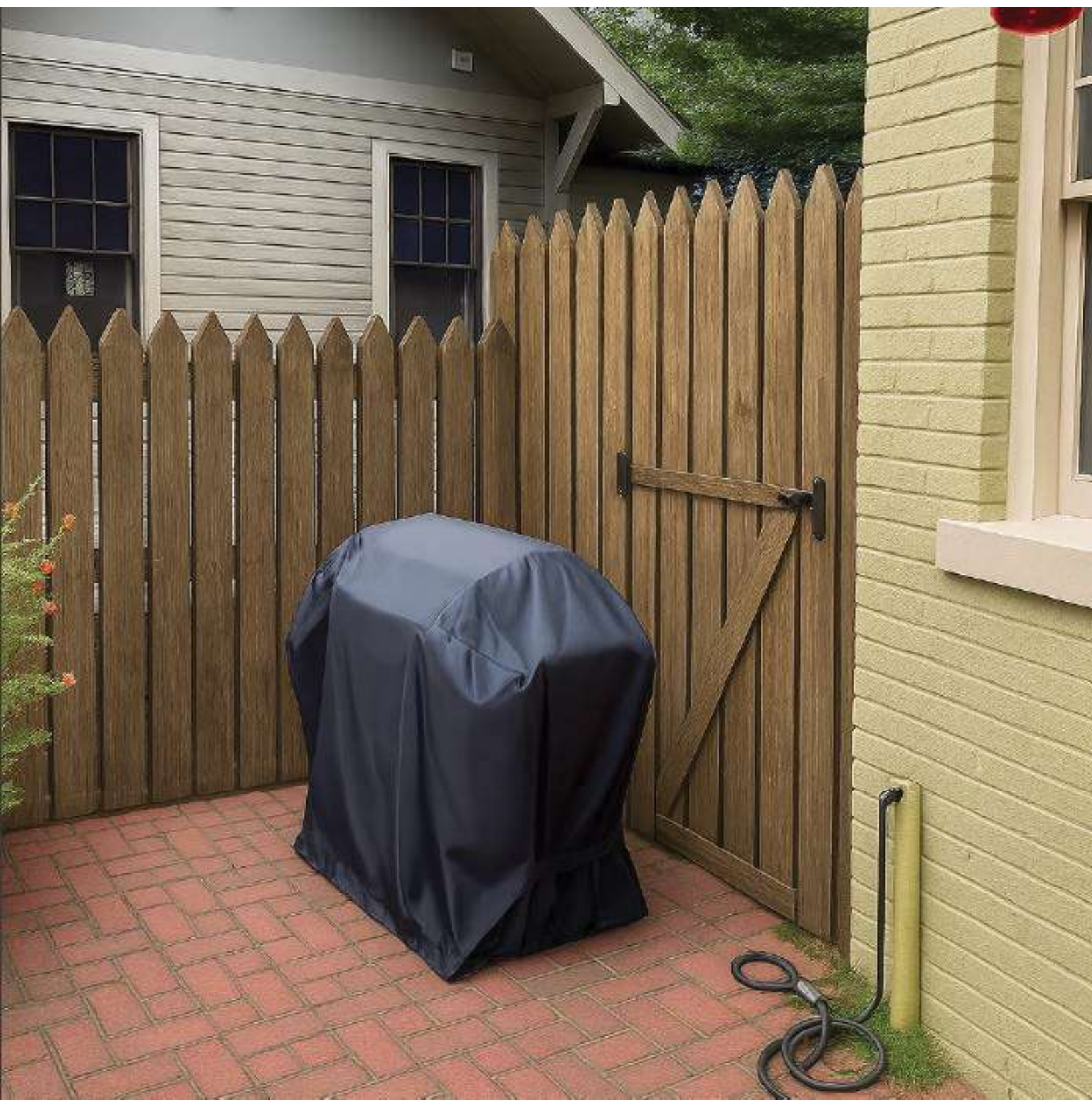
Proposed Materials Documents:**Additional Documents:**

existing_chain_link_fence_final.pdf

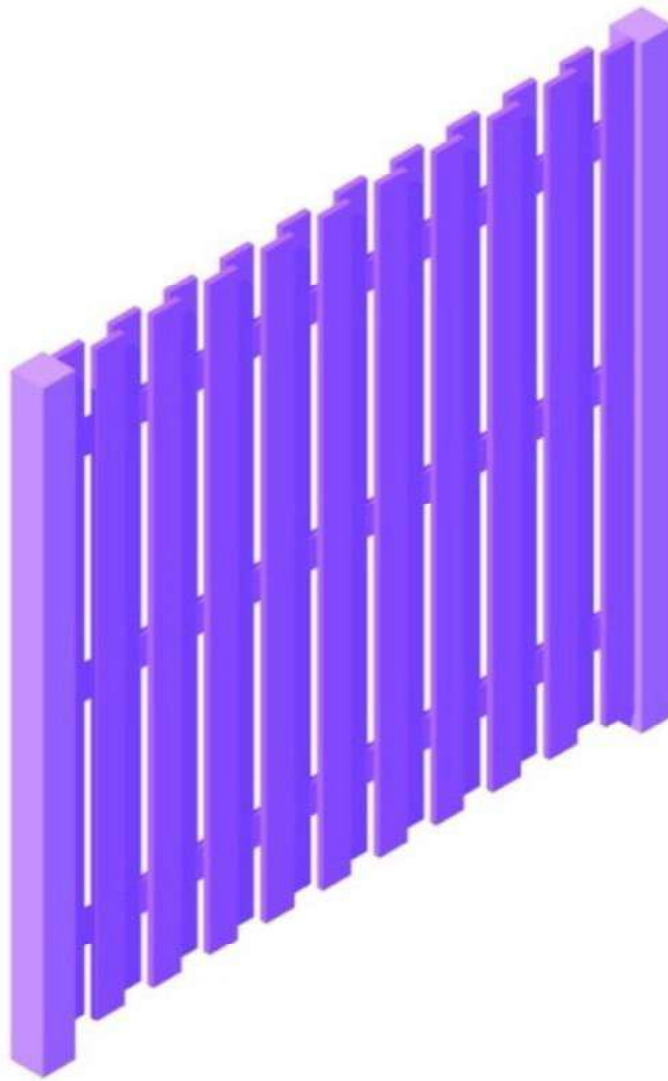
proposed_wooden_fence.pdf

Once submitted, a staff member will contact the applicant using the email provided on this form within 24 hours. If more documents are required, the staff member will clarify what is required in that email.









Details

Height: 8' | 1.83-2.44 m

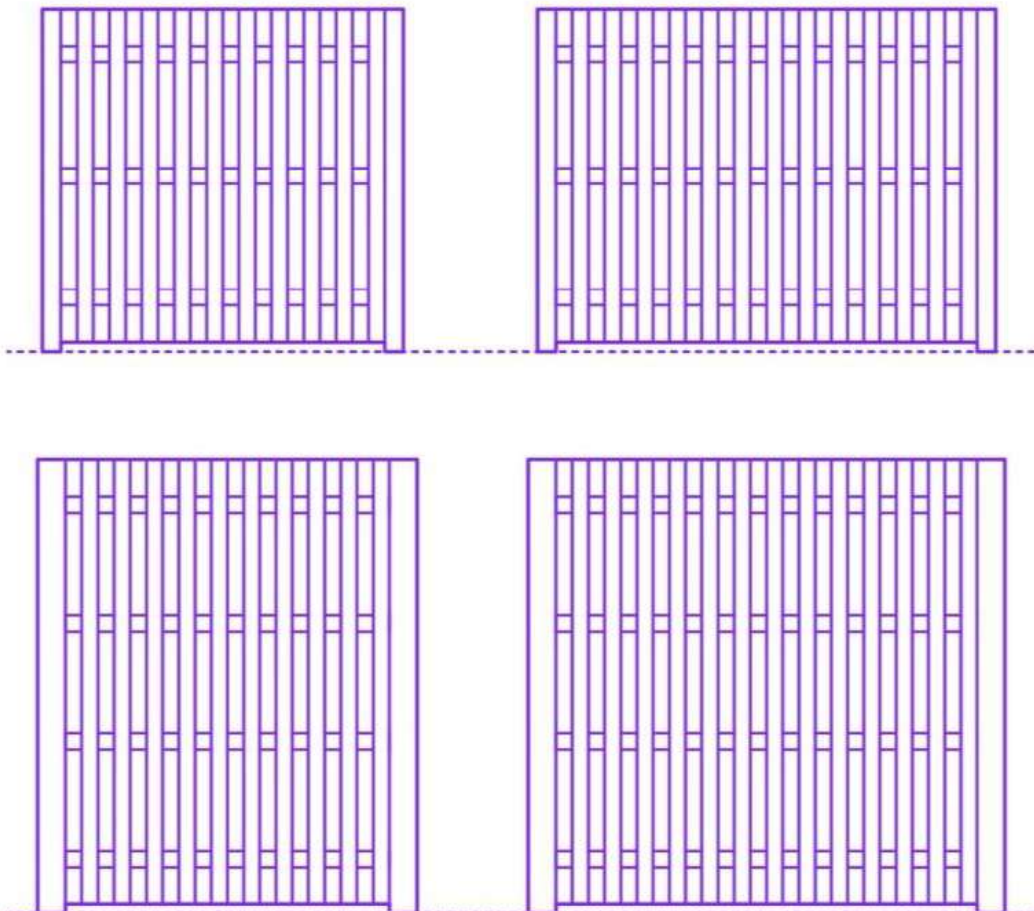
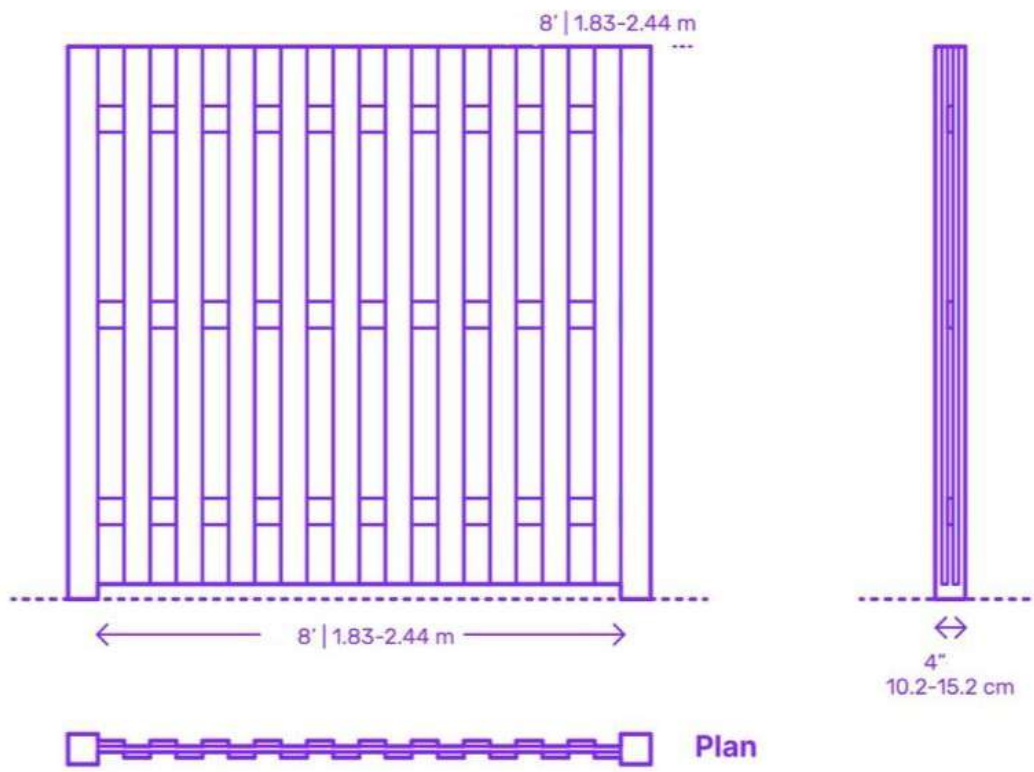
Width: 8' | 1.83-2.44 m

Depth: 2.25" | 5.7 cm

Picket Width: 3.5" | 8.9 cm

Picket Depth: .75" | 1.9 cm

Post Size: 4" | 10.2-15.2 cm



VICINITY & AERIAL MAPS



15 Audubon Place

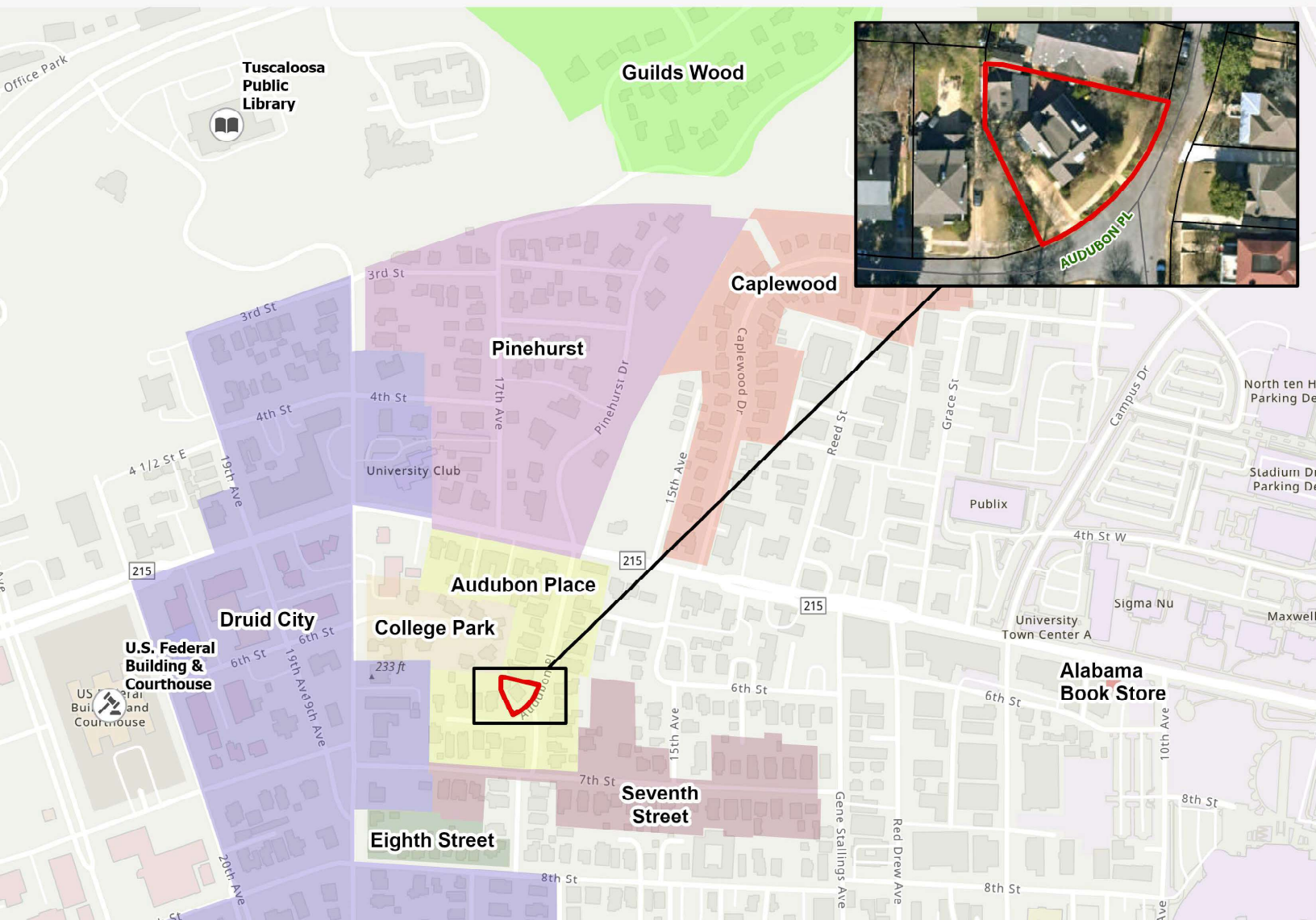
1 inch = 50 feet
0 25 50 75 100 Feet





15 Audubon Place

1 inch = 400 feet
0 200 400 600 800 Feet



ADDITIONAL STAFF PHOTOS OF SUBJECT PROPERTY







STAFF PHOTOS OF ADJACENT PROPERTIES



