Historic Preservation Commission
Staff Report

Meeting Date: October 14, 2026
Case #: HPC-56-26

Site Address:	50 Sherwood
Parcel ID:	31-05-22-1-107-007.000
Applicant:	Roger Bedford
Owner:	Roger Bedford
Proposed Work:	Petition for a Certificate of Appropriateness for the installation of a fence on the property located at 50 Sherwood Drive in the Sherwood Drive Historic District (Council District 4)
Current Zoning:	SFR-1H
Historic District:	Sherwood Drive Historic District
Architectural Style:	Split Level
Year Built:	1959
Contributing:	Yes
Historic Survey:	Sherwood Drive Historic Survey

Resource 19. #50 Sherwood Drive. 1959. One and one half story, split level of brick and wood frame, side gable roof of asphalt shingles, interior brick chimney of stretcher brick with soldier brick course, double lead wood and glass panel doors with flanking side lights and transom, 1/1 double hung sash windows, on half story the windows have surrounds that include a cornice, on first story windows have header brick sills, attached carport with engaged roof.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT:

On April 1, 2026, a letter of violation was sent to the property owner for constructing a fence without proper approvals from the city. Prior to the violation letter and the issuance of a stop-work order, the petitioner had constructed a 9' 8'' tall fence surrounding the side property lines of the subject property, with the unfinished side of the fence facing outward. The property owner did not submit a Certificate of Appropriateness for review.

The violation was placed on the agenda for the June 2026 Historic Preservation Commission meeting, where it was denied. A result letter was sent to the property owner informing him of the denial and providing instructions on the appeal and reapplication process. After the 15-day appeal window expired, Code Enforcement sent an additional violation letter, taped a copy of the letter to the door, and left a door tag with information on how to contact city staff.

In this letter, the property owner was instructed to remove all newly installed sections of the fence by July 17, 2026. When the deadline passed without response from the property owner, staff from both Planning and Code Enforcement remained unable to contact the property owner. On July 29th, the property owner's attorney reached out to the Director of Planning to notify staff that he would be assisting the property owner in bringing the fence into compliance.

On September 18th, the property owner submitted a Certificate of Appropriateness application for the fence. In the application, the property owner stated that several trees had been removed from the backyard and expressed a desire to retain the existing fence while adding a chain-link fence at the rear property line.

In this Certificate of Appropriateness application, the petitioner proposes to keep the 9'8'' tall fence on the side yard. On the rear property line, the petitioner proposes to place a black chain link fence to enclose the rear yard.

Wood slat fencing is listed as an appropriate material in the Design Guidelines, which also specify that the finished side of fences should face outward and that fence height should not exceed the average height of comparable fences on adjacent properties, generally remaining at or below 6'. Chain link is listed an inappropriate material for fences per the Design Guidelines.

APPLICABLE DESIGN GUIDELINES:

D. 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:
50 Sherwood Dr, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401

Historic District:
Sherwood Drive

Estimated Cost of Construction:
5000

Detailed Description of the Proposed Work:
As a result of fallen trees from the storms last year that struck the existing fence as well as previous year's of storm damage. I had to clear out the additional lot of my property behind my home as it had become a mess of fallen tree's that also had other dangerous trees that were on the verge of breaking that had to be cut as well. It had turned into a mosquito swamp on top of that from all the trees preventing the land from draining properly after rainfall.

As a result of the clearing the lot opened up in ways that weren't previously accessible at all from the road with the previous condition of the property. So I propose adding the exact same fence to my adjoining lot mentioned above for pedestrian liability protection being alongside a major roadway as well as the river walk, as general privacy as the fence still doesn't even reach the sidewalk as it's in a low lying area, and to keep the same look across the entire backyard for continuity purposes. It will be exactly the same construction materials and style as the existing fence that has been in place for over 7 years, and is proposed to be stained/sealed in a teak color pending that approval.

Detailed Description of the Proposed Materials:
Treated lumber , matching teak stain/seal.

It will have a black chain link across the back that was the same as the previous fence to make the backyard feel bigger as you can see through it.

Applicant Information:

Applicant Name:
Roger Bedford

Is the applicant also the property owner?
Yes

Supporting Documents:

Site Plan:

Elevation Drawings:

Proposed Materials Documents:

Additional Documents:

Once submitted, a staff member will contact the applicant using the email provided on this form. If more documents are required, the staff member will clarify what is required in that email. By submitting this application, you recognize the city will send public notification and place a sign on the property with information for the public.









VICINITY & AERIAL MAPS

50 Sherwood Drive

1 inch = 625 feet

0 300 600 900 1,200 Feet

N

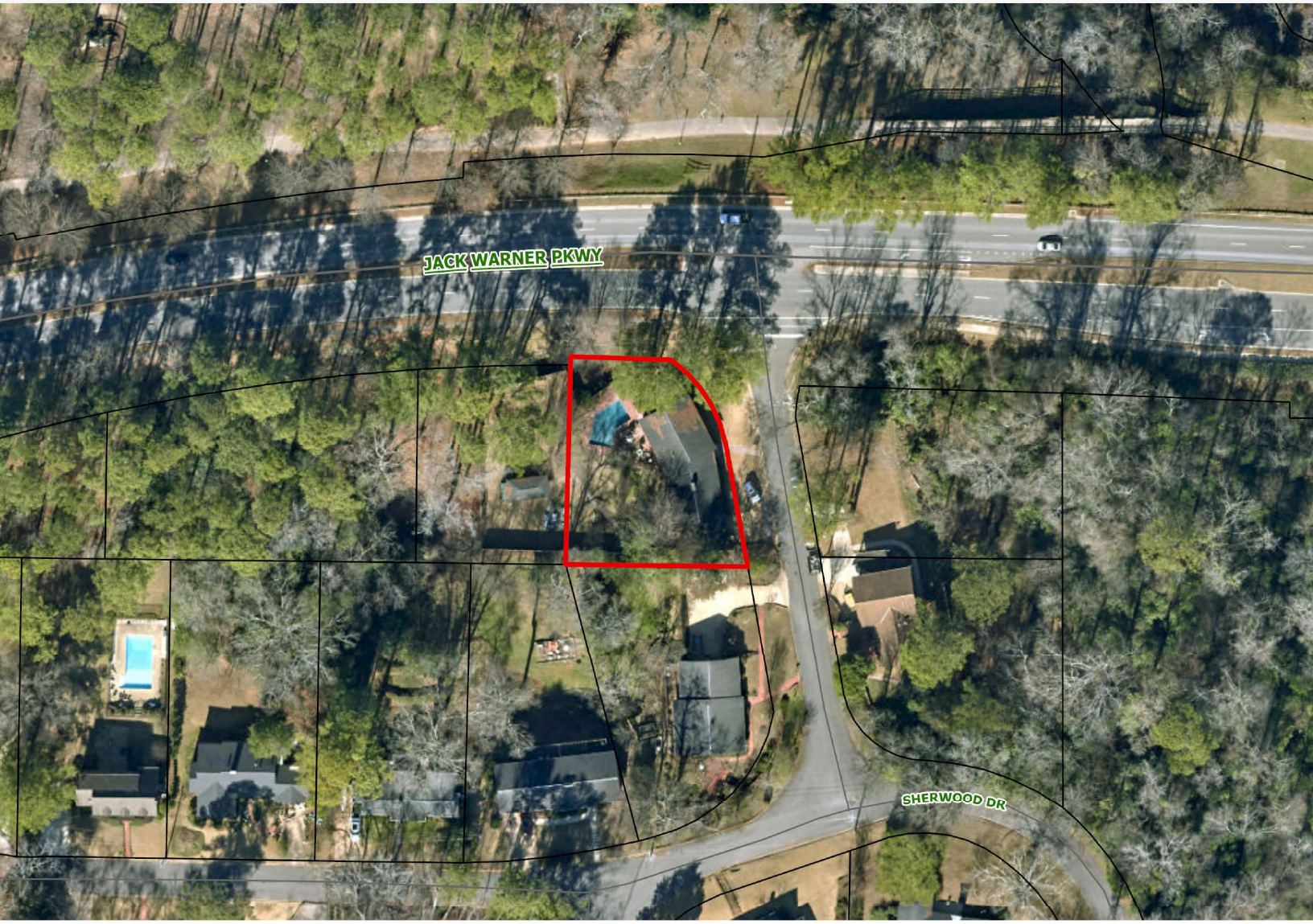


50 Sherwood Drive

1 inch = 80 feet

0 40 80 120 160 Feet

N



ADDITIONAL STAFF PHOTOS OF SUBJECT PROPERTY







STAFF PHOTOS OF ADJACENT PROPERTIES



