

REPORT TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

DATE: July 24, 2025

SUBJECT:

Case #251789 – 318 West Poplar Avenue – Request for a Certificate of Appropriateness for a front yard fence

INTRODUCTION:

- Property owners/applicants, Karen and Jeff Tabor, are requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness (CofA) for a 42-inch tall, split-rail wood fence with welded wire mesh backing in the front yard of a house constructed in 1955 (see Exhibits 3 and 4).
- The subject property is north of West Poplar Avenue, at the intersection of Cooper Street (see Exhibit 1). The split-rail fence will be visible from West Poplar Avenue, Cooper Street and Amelia Cove.
- The subject property is composed of two (2) lots with a combined area of approximately 1.62 acres and zoned R-1: Low Density Residential.

KEY POINTS:

1. The existing home is around 70 years old; however, it is not eligible for the National Register District.

- The one-story, single-family home was constructed circa 1955.
- The 2004 and 2021 Historic Resource Surveys indicate this structure is not a Contributing Structure for Collierville's National Register District.

2. The Historic District Design Guidelines states new fences should blend with materials and designs found in the Historic District (see Exhibit 5).

- In the local Historic District, commonly used materials are iron, wood, and plantings. Often the materials relate to the materials used elsewhere on the property and on the structure.
- According to the Historic District Design Guidelines, appropriate fence materials are iron, wood, plantings, brick, and stone.
- The Historic District Guidelines state front yard fences should not exceed 3.5 feet. The Historic District Commission (HDC) may approve taller fences on a case-by-case basis, but in no case shall front yard fences exceed a height of 4 feet.
- Wire mesh is allowed in combination with wooden fences only if authorized by the HDC. In February 2017, the HDC approved a combination of wood fencing and wire mesh backing for 437 College Street. The HDC also approved a four-foot tall three board fence with wire mesh backing at 209 College Street in January 2017.

3. The applicant proposes a 3.5-foot-high, split-rail wood fence in the front yard with welded wired mesh backing and masonry columns (see Exhibits 3 and 4).

- The proposed fence material is a combination of wood and 2" x 2" or 4" x 4" metal mesh painted blackish-green to match the fence.
- The applicant states the welded wire mesh will blend with the landscaping and unobtrusive while ensuring the safety of their dogs within their property.
- The applicant also plans to extend an existing 6-foot shadow box fence in the rear yard to the

property's east side yard. The shadow box fence complies with the Town's guidelines if screened with landscaping.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of the applicant's request for a Certificate of Appropriateness for a 3.5-foot front yard fence with wire mesh since proposed fence meets the Historic District Guidelines.

ATTACHMENTS:

[Exhibit 1 - Vicinity Map 7-10-25.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2 - Conditions of Approval and Next Steps.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3 - Applicant Cover letter 7-1-25.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 4 - Proposed Fence Layout 6-27-25.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 5 - Excerpt from HDC Guidelines.pdf](#)

PROPOSED MOTION:

To approve the applicant's request for a Certificate of Appropriateness for a front yard fence at 318 West Poplar Avenue, subject to the conditions in Exhibit 2.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

	Property Owners	Project Planner
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