



Agenda Item #4

Application 2025-12-CA

DETAILS

Location: 159 S. Jefferson

Summary of Request:

After-the-fact approval of a 7'-0" privacy fence

Applicant (as applicable):

Taylor Atchison

Property Owner:

same

Historic District:

Church Street East

Classification:

Contributing

Summary of Analysis:

- The placement and materials of the fence are compliant with the *Guidelines*.
- The height of the fence falls outside of the *Guidelines'* height allowances for fencing.
- The fence falls within CRC height regulations.

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PROPERTY AND APPLICATION HISTORY

Church Street East Historic District was initially listed in the National Register in 1971 under Criteria A (historic significance) and C (architectural significance) for its local significance in the areas of architecture, education, and urban planning. The district is significant for its concentration of multiple 19th century architectural styles and because it encompasses the site of Mobile in the early 1700s. The district boundaries were expanded in 1984 and 2005.

The property at 159 S. Jefferson Street is a one-story frame vernacular bungalow topped by a gable roof. The three-bay façade is articulated by a gable roofed front porch. A small cross-gable projection extends from the south elevation. It is unclear when the existing house was constructed, but historic Sanborn Insurance Maps and aerial photographs reveal that it was either constructed on-site or moved to the subject lot between 1925 and 1952. Its form and features suggest a construction date around the 1930s or 1940s. A one-story duplex dwelling is represented on the 1904 and 1924 Sanborn map. Its long narrow form implies a shotgun typology. This structure had been replaced by the current building by the time of the 1955 overlay. Both the front and side projecting porches were screened at some point. The screening has now been removed.

According to Historic Development records, this property has never appeared before the Architectural Review Board.

SCOPE OF WORK

After-the-fact

Construct a 7'-0" high wood privacy fence.

- a. The fence would sit behind the dwelling's front plane, beginning in line with the side projection on the south elevation.
- b. The fence would run along the south property line for approximately 75'- 0", abutting an existing fence rear fence on the east property line.
- c. Additional fencing would adjoin the southeast corner of the neighboring dwelling (to the north) and run eastward to the extant rear fence. This portion of privacy fence would begin on the west end at 6'-0" high and taper upward to 7'-0" on the east end.

APPLICABLE STANDARDS (*Design Review Guidelines for Mobile's Historic Districts*)

1. **10.2** Design a fence to be compatible with the architectural style of the house and existing fences in the neighborhood.

REAR AND NON-CORNER SIDE FENCES (LOCATED BEHIND THE FRONT BUILDING PLANE)

- Design a fence located behind the front building plane to not exceed 72" in height. If the subject property abuts a multi-family residential or commercial property, a fence up to 96" will be considered.
- An alternative fence material with proven durability, matte finish and an accurate scale and proportion of components is acceptable. A simple wood-and-wire fence is acceptable provided it is appropriate to the style of the house.

ACCEPTABLE FENCE MATERIALS

Materials that have a similar character, durability and finish to those of fences of historic properties in the district are acceptable.

These often include:

- » Wood picket
- » Wood slat
- » Wood lattice
- » Iron or steel
- » Historically appropriate wire fences

- » Aluminum that appears similar to iron

UNACCEPTABLE FENCE MATERIALS

Materials that do not have a similar character, durability and finish to those of fences of historic properties in the district are unacceptable.

These often include:

- » Chain link
- » Stockade
- » Post and rail
- » Masonite
- » PVC
- » Plywood or asbestos paneling
- » Razor wire
- » Barbed wire

STAFF ANALYSIS

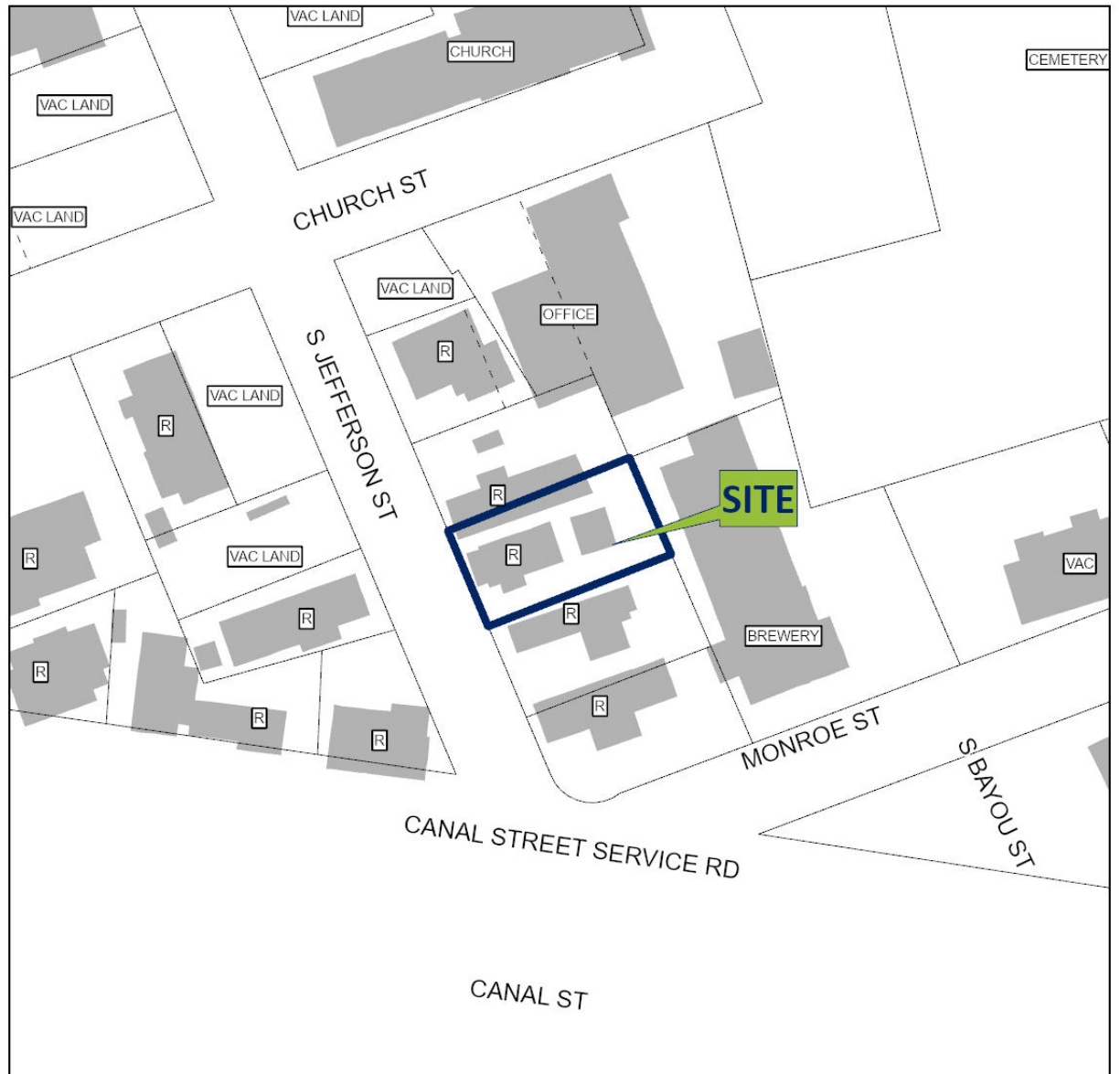
The property at 159 S. Jefferson is a contributing property to the Church Street East Historic District. The application under review requests after-the-fact approval for a 7'-0" fence which runs along the south and north property lines.

The subject fence is compliant with the *Guidelines'* directives regarding placement and materials. The fence exceeds the *Guidelines'* height restriction of 72" (6ft). It adjoins a previously existing 96" fence which runs along the east (rear) property line. The height of this rear fence is compliant with the *Guidelines'* allowance for fences up to 96" when a commercial property abuts a residential lot. (10.2)

Of note, the 7'-0" height is allowed under CRC regulations.

Site Location – 159 S. Jefferson Street

**ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
VICINITY MAP**



APPLICATION NUMBER <u>4</u>	DATE <u>3/19/2025</u>	
APPLICANT <u>Taylor Atchison</u>		
PROJECT <u>After-the-fact: construct a 7' high wood privacy fence</u>		

Site Photos – 159 S. Jefferson Street



1. View of property, looking NE



2. View of fence along south property line, looking NE (from neighboring property)



3. View of fence along east end of south property line, looking S (from rear yard of subject lot)



4. View of fence along east end of north property line, looking NE.