

HISTORIC AND DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION

June 21, 2023

HDRC CASE NO: 2023-231
ADDRESS: 404 N ALAMO ST
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: NCB 433 BLK: 15 LOT 13 FIRST PRESBYTERIAN SUBD
ZONING: FBZ T6-, HL
CITY COUNCIL DIST.: 1
APPLICANT: Craig Noto/SA Quality Fence & Welding
OWNER: FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TYPE OF WORK: Fence installation
APPLICATION RECEIVED: May 30, 2023
60-DAY REVIEW: July 29, 2023
CASE MANAGER: Rachel Rettaliata
REQUEST:

The applicant is requesting approval to install a 6-foot-tall wrought iron perimeter fence.

APPLICABLE CITATIONS:

Historic Design Guidelines, Chapter 5, Guidelines for Site Elements

2. Fences and Walls

A. HISTORIC FENCES AND WALLS

- i. *Preserve*—Retain historic fences and walls.
- ii. *Repair and replacement*—Replace only deteriorated sections that are beyond repair. Match replacement materials (including mortar) to the color, texture, size, profile, and finish of the original.
- iii. *Application of paint and cementitious coatings*—Do not paint historic masonry walls or cover them with stone facing or stucco or other cementitious coatings.

B. NEW FENCES AND WALLS

- i. *Design*—New fences and walls should appear similar to those used historically within the district in terms of their scale, transparency, and character. Design of fence should respond to the design and materials of the house or main structure.
- ii. *Location*—Avoid installing a fence or wall in a location where one did not historically exist, particularly within the front yard. The appropriateness of a front yard fence or wall is dependent on conditions within a specific historic district. New front yard fences or wall should not be introduced within historic districts that have not historically had them.
- iii. *Height*—Limit the height of new fences and walls within the front yard to a maximum of four feet. The appropriateness of a front yard fence is dependent on conditions within a specific historic district. New front yard fences should not be introduced within historic districts that have not historically had them. If a taller fence or wall existed historically, additional height may be considered. The height of a new retaining wall should not exceed the height of the slope it retains.
- iv. *Prohibited materials*—Do not use exposed concrete masonry units (CMU), Keystone or similar interlocking retaining wall systems, concrete block, vinyl fencing, or chain link fencing.
- v. *Appropriate materials*—Construct new fences or walls of materials similar to fence materials historically used in the district. Select materials that are similar in scale, texture, color, and form as those historically used in the district, and that are compatible with the main structure. Screening incompatible uses—Review alternative fence heights and materials for appropriateness where residential properties are adjacent to commercial or other potentially incompatible uses.

C. PRIVACY FENCES AND WALLS

- i. *Relationship to front facade*—Set privacy fences back from the front façade of the building, rather than aligning them with the front façade of the structure to reduce their visual prominence.
- ii. *Location*—Do not use privacy fences in front yards.

FINDINGS:

- a. The property located at 404 N Alamo is commonly known as First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio. The historic structure was constructed in 1910 in the Gothic Revival style and was designed by Atlee B. Ayres. The education building addition was constructed circa 1920, and the property features a central courtyard and a rear parking lot. The property is designated as an individual landmark.
- b. FENCE INSTALLATION (LOCATION) – The applicant has proposed to install a 6-foot-tall wrought iron fencing around the perimeter of the property. The applicant has proposed to install a four-rail panel with rings and cast-iron spears at the north property line along McCullough to the west of the existing garage door, along the front (west) façade at N Alamo, along the south property line at 4th Street, and at the east property line along Avenue E to terminate at the southeast corner of the rear structure. Guideline 2.B.iii for Site Elements states that the appropriateness of a front yard fence is dependent on the conditions within a specific historic district. According to Guideline 2.B.ii for Site Elements, fence installation should be avoided where one did not historically exist, particularly within the front yard. Additionally, new fences and walls should appear similar to those used historically within the district in terms of their scale, transparency, and character. The design of the fence should respond to the design and materials of the house or main structure. As the property is an individual landmark located in a largely commercial context and the front façade features a setback from the public right-of-way, staff finds the fencing location generally appropriate.
- c. FENCE INSTALLATION (HEIGHT) – The applicant has proposed to install a 6-foot-tall wrought iron fencing around the perimeter of the property. Guideline 2.B.iii for Site Elements states that the height of new fences within the front yard should be limited to four feet. The appropriateness of a front yard fence is dependent on conditions within a specific historic district. New front yard fences should not be introduced within historic districts that have not historically had them. If a taller fence or wall existed historically, additional height may be considered. The height of a new retaining wall should not exceed the height of the slope it retains. Guideline 2.C.i for Site Elements states that privacy fences should be set back from the front façade of the building rather than aligning them with the front façade to reduce their visual prominence. As the property is an individual landmark in a commercial context and is not residential, staff finds that the green space along N Alamo provides a buffer zone between the public right-of-way and the structure. Additionally, an open 6-foot-tall fence will not obscure or detract from the structure or its architectural features due to the scale of the historic structure. Staff finds the height generally appropriate.
- d. GATE INSTALLATION – The applicant has proposed to install five (5) pedestrian gates, four (4) sliding gates, and two (2) double gates. The front façade of the structure extends the full length of the block between McCullough and 4th Street and the primary entrance along N Alamo features an entry steps near the southwest corner of the property. The applicant has proposed the installation of two (2) sliding gates at this location and has provided renderings showing the treatment of this condition. The applicant has proposed to install the fence posts on either side of the entry step landing and the sliding gates will open to the full width of the entry steps. Guideline 2.B.i for Site Elements states that new fences and walls should appear similar to those used historically within the district in terms of their scale, transparency, and character. The design of the fence should respond to the design and materials of the house or main structure. Staff finds the locations of the proposed gates to be generally appropriate but finds that the applicant should submit specifications for the proposed pedestrian gates and double gates to staff for review.
- e. ARCHAEOLOGY – The project shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations regarding archaeology, as applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the perimeter fence installation based on findings a through e with the following stipulations:

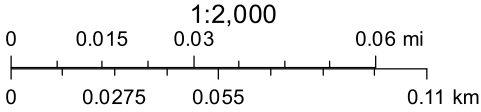
- i. That the applicant submits specifications for the proposed pedestrian and double gates to staff for review and approval prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness based on finding d.
- ii. ARCHAEOLOGY – The project shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations regarding archaeology, as applicable.

City of San Antonio One Stop



June 16, 2023

— User drawn lines



404 N Alamo St

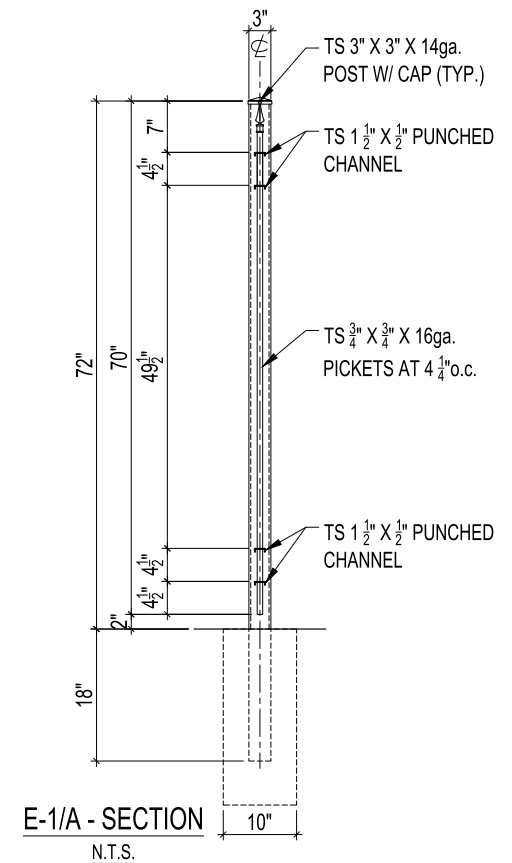
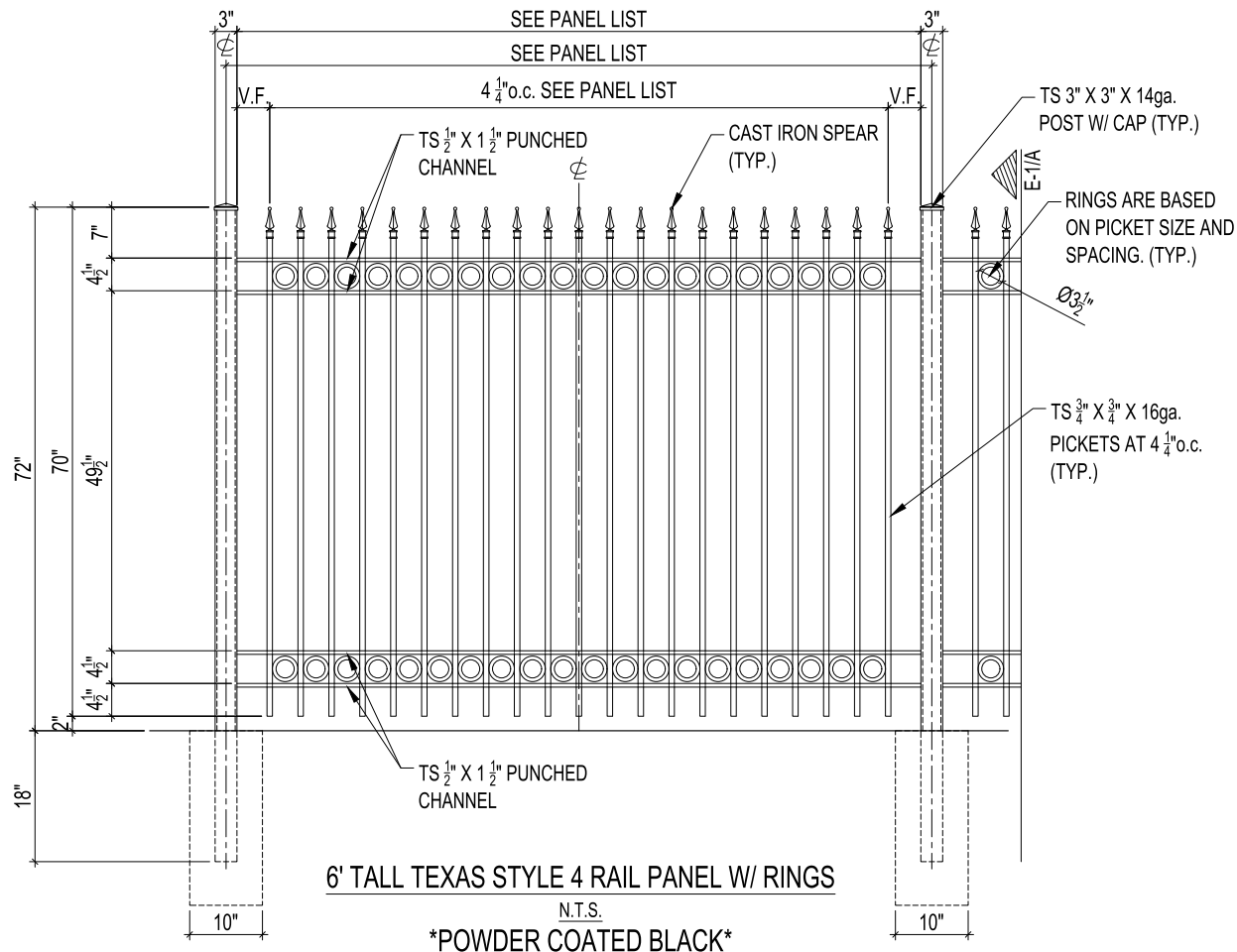












MATERIAL:	WF: C's-A992 Gr. 50 / TUBES-A500 Gr. B (46 ksi)		
MATERIAL:	PIPE-A53 TYPE E OR S Gr. B / OTHER-A36 UNINTD		
HOLES:	E-3 UNINTD		
EDGE DIST:	1"4 UNINTD		
ELECTRODES:	E70XX-3" MIN. FILLET WELD UNINTD	NO.	DATE
FINISH:	POWDER COATED BLACK		DESCRIPTION
			SHEET RECORD



QUALITY

FENCE & WELDING

13115 Wetmore Rd. San Antonio, TX 78247

(210) 545-6767 | Fax (210) 490-9353

www.saqualitysteel.com

DRAFTER: C.C. DATE: 05/23/23 CHECKER: S.S. DATE: 05/23/23	CUSTOMER: FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PROJECT: TEXAS STYLE 4 RAIL PANEL W/ RINGS ARCH. OR ENGR.:	JOB NO: 23052142 DWG NO: E-1
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THE
UNIVERSITY
OF TEXAS







NO
PARKING
ANYTIME
TOW AWAY ZONE
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SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 AM
10:00 AM &
CONTEMPORARY
SERVICES 11:00 AM
FOR THE FULL SUNDAY SERVICE
PROGRAM VISIT US AT

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WEDNESDAY
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10:00 AM
LUTHERAN
WEDNESDAY
SERVICES

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CHURCH