

Docket Item #8  
BAR CASE# 2004-0192

BAR Meeting  
September 23, 2004

**ISSUE:** Fence

**APPLICANT:** Barbarann O'Neil

**LOCATION:** 500 North Columbus Street

**ZONE:** CL Commercial

---

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of the application as submitted.

### **I. ISSUE:**

The applicant is requesting approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for a new wood picket fence around the perimeter of the front and side yards of 500 North Columbus Street, located on the northwest corner of Columbus and Oronoco Streets. The fence will be 3' high and will be painted white. There will be a gate located at the front (east side) and at the rear (west side) of the fence. The gates will have convex curved tops and black metal hardware. According to the plat provided by the applicant, the fence will be located entirely on the applicant's property, leaving a narrow strip of city owned property between the fence and sidewalk on the front and side.

### **II. HISTORY:**

500 North Columbus Street is a brick two story end unit building that was constructed in 1963. Until recently, the address 500 North Columbus Street was one consolidated parcel with three attached rowhouses with the street addresses of 500, 502 and 504 North Columbus Street. On October 19, 2002 City Council approved the subdivision of 500 North Columbus Street into three separate lots (SUB#2002-0004) along with a parking reduction (SUP# 2002-00061).

The Board of Architectural Review has approved alterations at 500 North Columbus Street a number of times in recent years. In 1999, the Board approved a request for painting unpainted masonry (BAR Case #97-0209, 10/15/97). In 2003, the Board approved alterations to the front and a waiver of roof top screening (BAR Case #s 2003-00151 & 2003-152, 7/16/2003). Also in 2003, the Board approved replacement windows (BAR Case #2003-231, 10/15/2003). The Board also approved alterations at 502 and 504 North Columbus, including the construction of a 6' high board fence in the rear yards to create new private open spaces for each property (BAR Case #2002-0280, 11/6/2002).

### **III. ANALYSIS:**

The proposed fence complies with the zoning ordinance requirements. The zoning ordinance permits open fences which do not exceed 3.5' in any required front, side and rear yard (7-202(A)). On corner lots, the zoning ordinance prohibits any structure, fence, shrubbery or other obstruction to vision more than 3.5' above the curb level (Section 7-801(A)).

In the opinion of Staff, the proposed fence is appropriate for the building at 500 North Columbus Street and the surrounding neighborhood. The proposed white painted wood picket fence conforms to the *Design Guidelines* which recommend the use of wood picket fences within the historic districts and recommend that wood fences be painted or stained (Fences - Pages 2 & 3). As it is only 3' high and open, the proposed fence will permit views into the yard and preserve the open feeling of the corner.

### **IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Therefore, Staff recommends approval of the application as submitted.

CITY DEPARTMENT COMMENTS

Legend: C - code requirement R - recommendation S - suggestion F- finding

Code Enforcement:

“No comments.”

Office of Historic Alexandria:

“No comment.”