

Front Fences

Front fences are a dominant and important design feature of many heritage houses and conservation areas.

Fences, gates and landscaping have a significant effect on the streetscape. The relationship of fences to the width of a street, to the footpath, nature strip widths and to the distance that houses are set back from the front boundary is of importance.



The character, quality and heritage of the street cannot be achieved where fences obscure the houses. In particular, fences should not draw attention away from the street or the houses, but should complement the existing qualities of the environment. High front fences or privacy walls which conceal a heritage item or a building within a conservation area are detrimental.

Front fences and side fences forward of the building line should not be more than 1.2 metres in height. In some circumstances the scale and proportion of the property or heritage value, may warrant a higher fence. In these cases it should not be higher than 1.8 metres, with that part over 1.2 metres in open style.

Modifications to the front fence and garden of a heritage item or within a conservation area must be designed in a manner which contributes to the historic style of the building and streetscape context.



The visual impact of fences should be limited by selecting materials compatible to the age and architectural style of the house (eg. Late Victorian - use cast iron pickets; Federation - use timber). If original fences cannot be repaired, sympathetic reconstructions of front fences are encouraged.



Original walls and fences should, however, be retained and restored wherever possible. In particular, all sandstone fences and walls should be retained. New fences should be compatible with the style and character of fencing typical of the architectural period of the building.

In order to ensure that the character and quality of the premises and the streetscape are maintained and reinforced, the following materials are not appropriate for front and side return fences or for side fences to corner properties:

- Arc mesh, concrete block
- Sheet metal - flat or corrugated and/or Colourbond
- Pressed metal coloured sections, eg. Colourbond
- Sheet material such as plywood, chipboard, fibre cement or glass fibre
- Textured brickwork
- Timber fences where the pickets are butted together

Before you consider a new fence, please consult Mosman Residential Development Control Plan, Mosman Fence brochure, NSW Heritage Office publication "Getting the Details Right" in the library, Local Studies photographic collections and books and the Mosman Heritage Advisory Service.

