

February 27, 2018

Town of Chapel Hill Historic District Commission  
Chapel Hill North Carolina

**Re: 517 East Franklin Street Fence Revision**

Dear Commissioners,

Please find attached, revisions to the proposed privacy fence at the rear of the yard at 517 East Franklin Street, as well as a letter from the owners of the property.

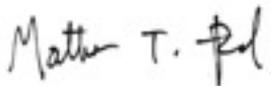
We have modified our proposal based on the feedback and comments at your February meeting. We appreciate the consideration that solid fences are referred to in the guidelines and have taken it under advisement to propose the attached fence design (A7 revision) which is of a semi-open design.

This will allow an increased amount of visual access through the fence that the previous, solid fence did not provide. Alternately, we include a proposed alternate. The owners would be amenable to a fence of this type, which occurs at other locations in the district. We can provide locations of similar fences at the meeting for discussion if that is appropriate. That said, we think the proposed vertical semi-open top fence will meet the safety and security concerns of the owner, and provide adequate containment for their dog, as well as privacy and safety for their children. We hope the attached letter by the owners clarifies some of their particular safety and security concerns.

Given the history of the site, we understand that this lot continued through to Rosemary Street and previously there was no property line mid-block with which to fence. That said, the subdivision of the property marks the living, changing history of the district and the site. Fencing the rear yards of houses is in keeping with the guidelines of the district, as referred to in our original application, and is typical in this neighborhood and district. We propose the more open fence we show here is congruous with the district.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to the meeting in March to clarify any revisions and answer any of your questions to the best of our ability.

all the best,



Matthew Ford, AIA  
Principal  
Moment Studio, PLLC

**YARBROUGH  
RESIDENCE**

517 East Franklin Street  
Chapel Hill, NC

Certificate of Appropriateness  
Application

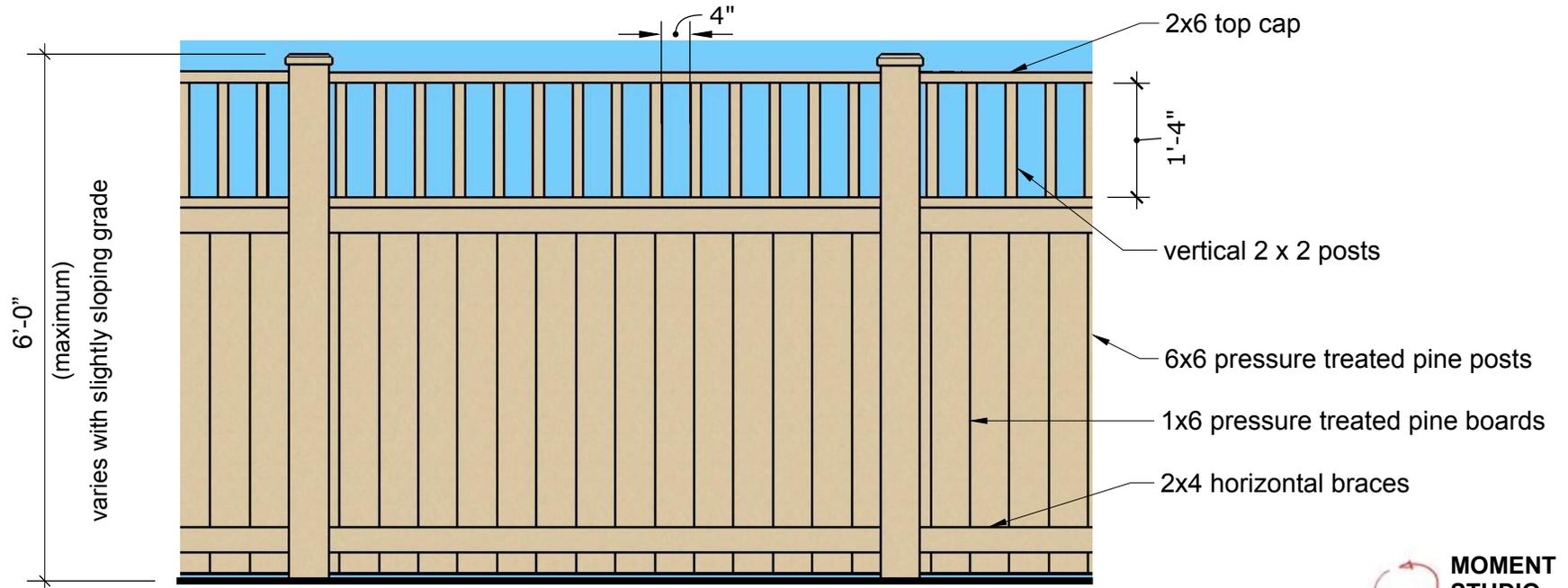
PROPOSED  
FENCE

REVISED 2.27.2018

REVISED SEMI OPEN  
PRIVACY FENCE



1-A7 REVISION A rendering of the proposed new fence as seen from the subject property. Vertical wood posts/slats provide a sense of openness and partial visual access to this semi-open privacy fence.



2/A7 REVISION

PROPOSED ELEVATION OF NEW FENCE (SUBJECT PROPERTY SIDE)

scale 1/2" = 1'-0"



**YARBROUGH  
RESIDENCE**

517 East Franklin Street  
Chapel Hill, NC

Certificate of Appropriateness  
Application

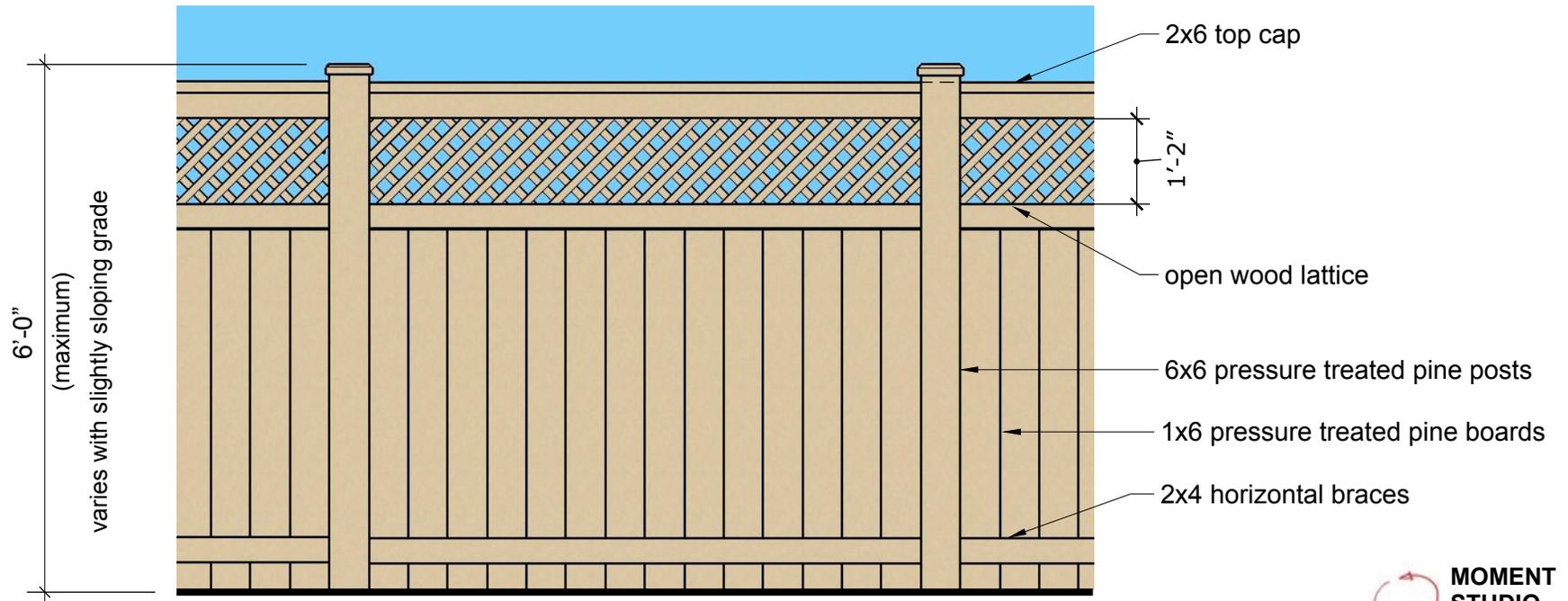
PROPOSED  
FENCE

REVISED 2.27.2018

ALTERNATE  
(LATTICE)



1-A8 A rendering of a proposed new fence alternate as seen from the subject property. A wood lattice top adds an amount of openness to the fence.



2/A8

PROPOSED ELEVATION OF NEW FENCE (SUBJECT PROPERTY SIDE)

scale 1/2" = 1'-0"



**Re: 517 East Franklin Street Fence Revision  
February 27, 2018**

Dear Members of the Chapel Hill Historic Commission,

We hope that the Historic Commission will view our revised application favorably, and not allow any of the history surrounding the fence on the NE corner of the property to color the evaluation of this revised application. The comments of the Commission during the prior meeting allowed us a fuller understanding of the expectations and concerns the Commissions has regarding applications for properties such as our own.

In addition to this, Courtney and I feel that we did not adequately express our own thoughts and concerns in our initial application, as we felt they were private. However, sharing these concerns may allow the Commission additional information when considering our revised application.

Soon after our marriage, Courtney was struck with a severe form of an inner-ear condition, Meniere's disease. If any of the Commission members know someone so afflicted, it is easy to understand the difficulties this disease can inflict. Most people unfortunate enough to suffer from Meniere's Disease contract it in their 50's or 60's. Courtney was diagnosed at 25. After a multiyear struggle with the illness, Courtney required 3 surgeries including a labyrinthectomy, permanently destroying her hearing in her left ear. Humans are reliant on hearing from both ears in order to locate noise, and are quite good at it with competent hearing - locating noises with 5-10 degrees with reliability. However, Courtney's ability to locate noise has been severely curtailed. We assume many of the Commission members have children. The safety of one's own children is paramount. Given Courtney's hearing impairment, and her position as the primary caregiver in our family, a secure fence would provide peace of mind that our 3 daughters are contained when playing outside. In addition, the canine member of our family is an athletic shepherd mix with remarkable jumping ability.

Though this information provides obvious rationale for a fence for containment, our additional desire for security comes from two additional points. For one, the fact of my wife's hearing impairment increases our desire and need to have some impediment to others knowing when and if our children are outside the house. This does not have to be complete privacy - thus the revision of the design we've submitted. Second, both Courtney's mother and father were victimized by stalkers . These occurred at different times - one soon after their marriage and the other when Courtney and her siblings were young. Thus, Courtney has heightened sensitivity to the ease with which our family's physical presence is known.

We realize that we are asking for some considerations to be made regarding the fence design of this house. We feel that we have an appropriate rationale for the consideration for which we're asking, and we have shown an alternate design that harmonizes more with the guidelines set forth for the Historic District and a multitude of other properties nearby. Similar designs abound in the immediate area of our house, decreasing the likelihood that such a fence would be incongruous with the surrounding properties.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Chester and Courtney Yarbrough  
Tinsley, Sutton, and Sienna  
Boone (the pooch)