



MEMORANDUM

TO: Heritage Markham Committee

FROM: Peter Wokral, Senior Heritage Planner

DATE: December 9, 2020

SUBJECT: Heritage Permit Application
Proposed New Black Chain Link Fence and Gates
Thornhill Cemetery
1 Church Lane, Thornhill Heritage Conservation District
HE 20 134735

Use: Cemetery established in the 1860's
Heritage Status: Designated under Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act

Application/Proposal

- The City's Operations Department has submitted a heritage permit application seeking approval for the replacement of the existing galvanized metal chain link fence and gates that enclose the Thornhill Cemetery along John Street, Sumner Lane and Charles Lane
- The proposed fence is a new 4 foot high, 1 ½" X 9 black vinyl chain link fence and gates along Sumner Lane. (1 ½" refers to the size of the openings, and 9 refers to the gauge or thickness of the wire)
- The intention is to use any existing posts in good condition and cover them with a new black vinyl sleeve, and replace any failed posts with new black tubular posts to match.

Background

- This heritage permit application is completely separate from the heritage permit approved by the City for the new wrought iron fence and gates along Church Lane;
- Although in previous discussions regarding the new wrought iron fence along Church Lane, Heritage Markham members indicated that they would prefer to see existing galvanized chain link fences replaced with new black wrought iron fences when necessary, Operations staff indicated that the cost to do so would be prohibitive and this appeared to be acknowledged and accepted by a majority of Committee Members.
- The Thornhill Heritage Conservation District provides guidance of fencing for front and rear yard situations with chain link not supported for front yard situations.

Staff Comment

- In this case, the front yard of the property would be on Church Lane. No chain link fencing is proposed along the front yard (west) of the cemetery. Although, the John Street frontage of the property is highly visible, chain link fencing has been used here for many years and appears appropriate given the type of land use (cemetery lands) and the expanse of the property with extensive vegetation.
- Staff has no objection to the replacement of the existing galvanized metal fencing and gates with new black vinyl coated chain link fences and gates, as the black colouring helps reduce the visibility of the fence and will match the colour of the new wrought iron fencing installed on Church Lane.

Suggested Recommendation for Heritage Markham

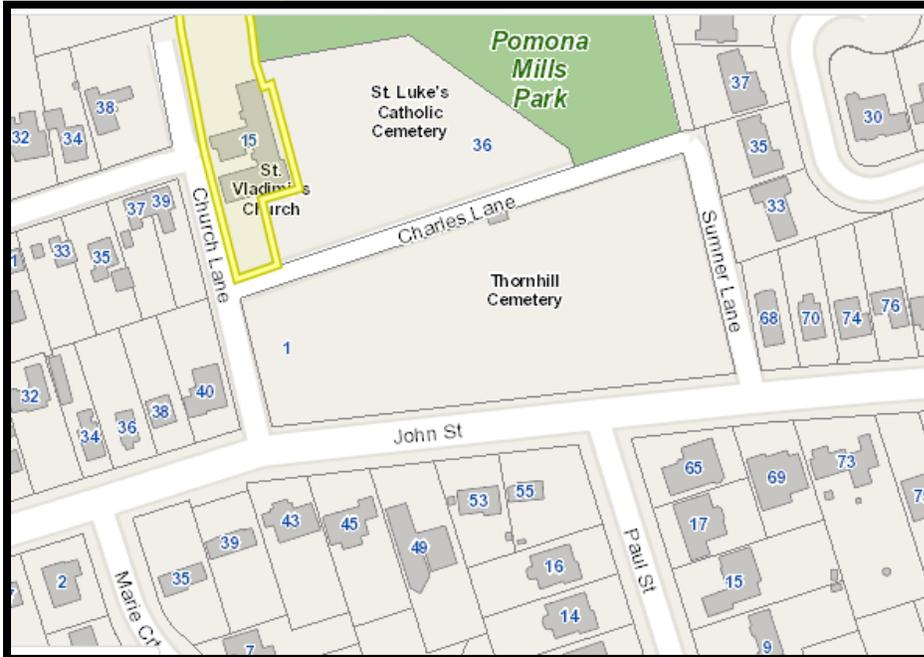
THAT Heritage Markham has no objection to the replacement of the existing galvanized metal chain link fencing and gates of the Thornhill Cemetery with new black, vinyl coated, 4 foot high chain link fencing and gates.

File: 1 Church Lane, Thornhill

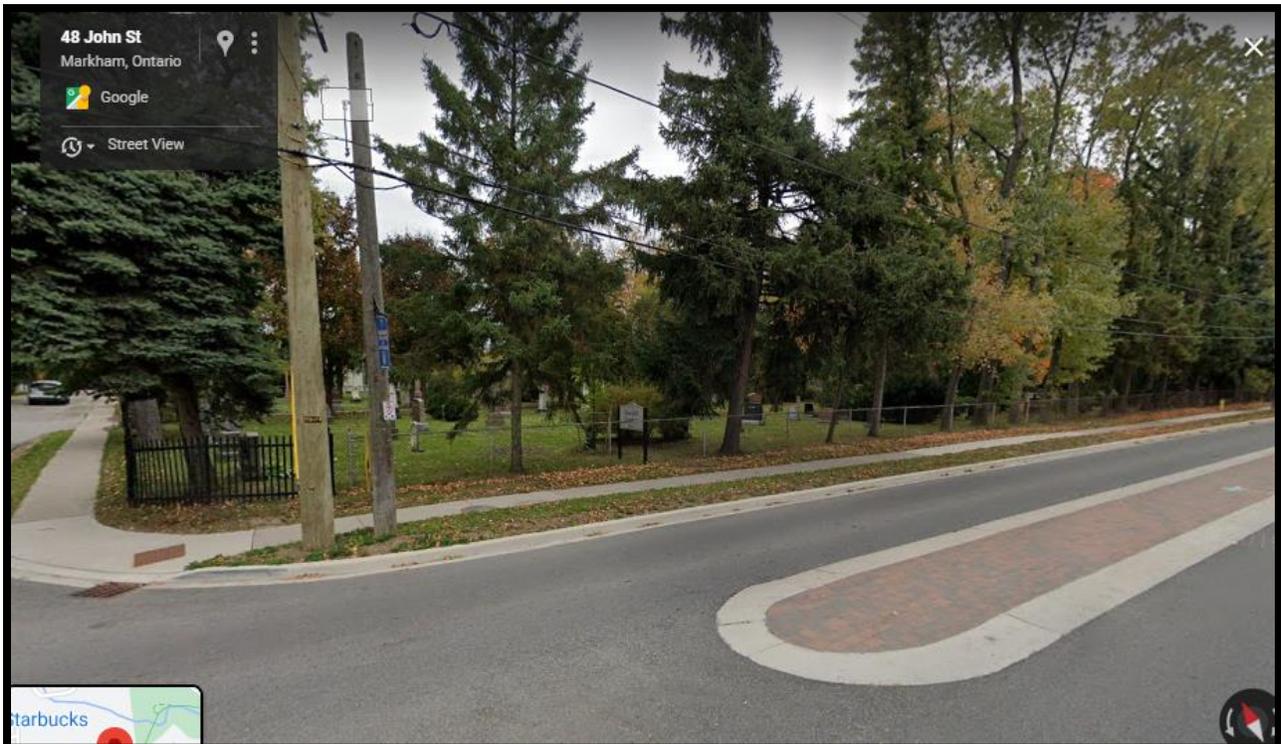
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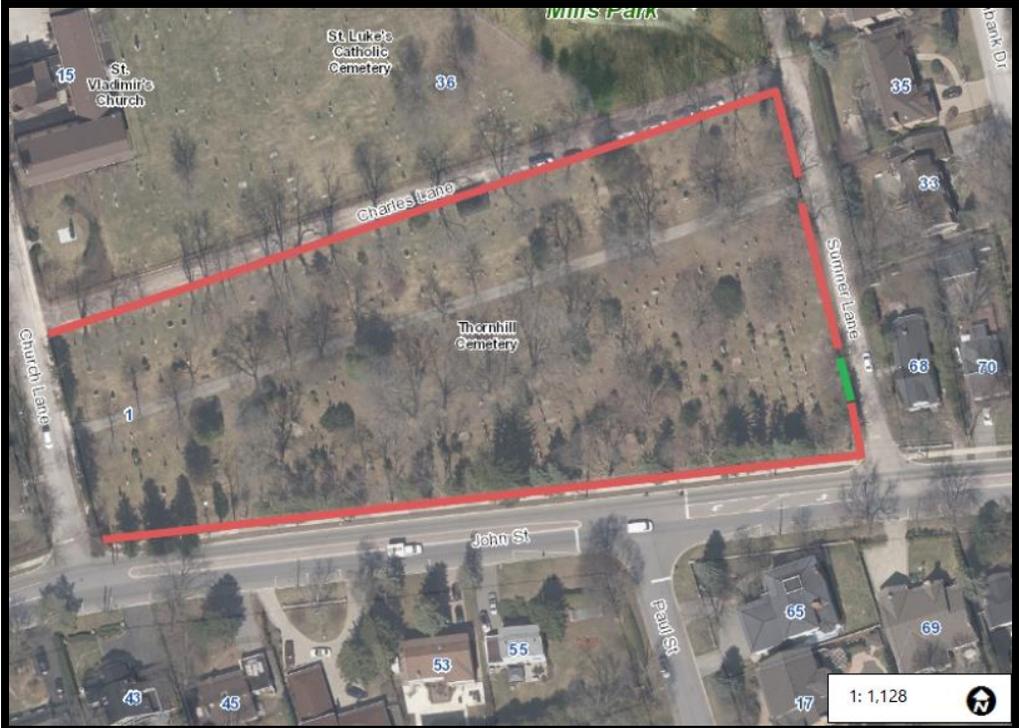
1 Church Lane,

Thornhill Cemetery



1 Church Lane, Northeast Corner of Church Lane and John Street
Thornhill Heritage Conservation District





Aerial Map showing location of proposed fence and gate replacement

Thornhill Heritage Conservation District Plan Policy and Guidelines

4.0 District Policies – Buildings and Sites

4.5.3 Fences

- a) Fences will be regulated by the municipal fence by-law.
- b) Existing picket fences will be preserved. The erection of new picket fences is encouraged.
- c) Front yard and backyard fences will conform to the Guidelines in Sections 9.7.4 and 9.7.5.

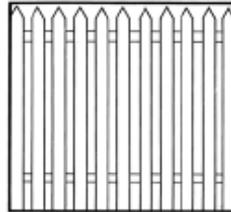
9.6.4 Front Yard Fencing

Front yard fences are traditional landscape features found in the District. Picket fences were used and while there are different varieties, only a few are common to the area.

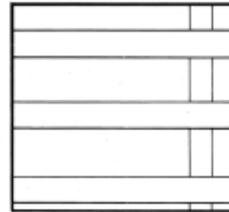
In all cases, it is encouraged that fencing be sensitive to the heritage character of the District.

Guidelines

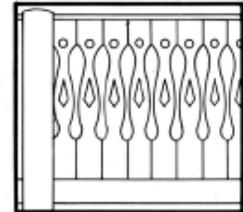
1. Traditional wood picket fences (3 feet high) are encouraged as a front yard landscaping treatment in the District.
2. Metal fencing in simple patterns may also be used.
3. Where historic fences or hedges exist, they should be retained.



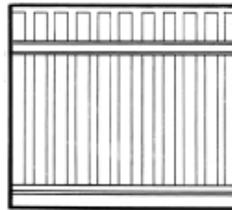
Appropriate: pointed picket



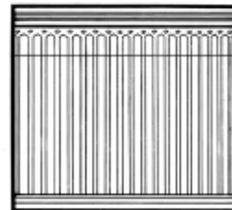
Appropriate: open horizontal board fence



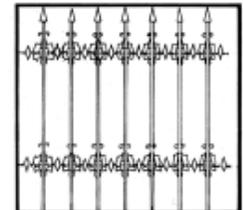
Appropriate: decorative picket—turn of the 20th century



Appropriate: plain picket



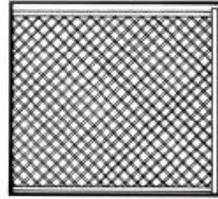
Appropriate: sturdy decorative



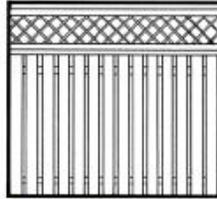
Appropriate: low, cast iron

9.6.4 Front Yard Fencing cont'd

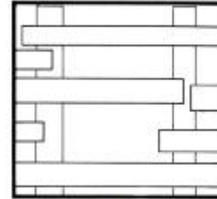
While traditional wood picket fencing is encouraged in the District, the examples of modern fencing at right are not compatible with the Heritage District context and should be avoided.



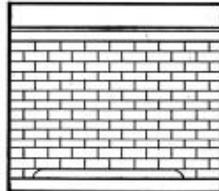
Inappropriate: chain link



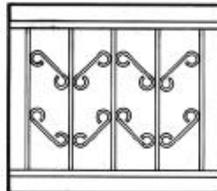
Inappropriate: pressure-treated wood, stock trellis



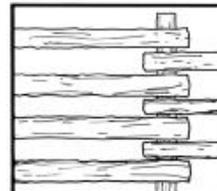
Inappropriate: abstract fence



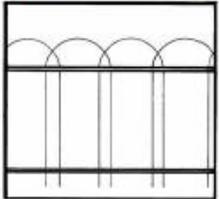
Inappropriate: brick or stone walls



Inappropriate: decorative wrought iron



Inappropriate: cedar rail



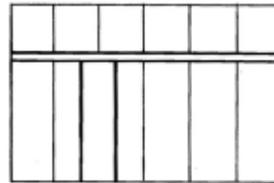
Inappropriate: wire

9.6.5 Backyard Fences

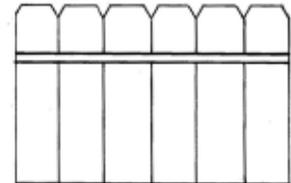
As a result of the historic lot plan of Thornhill, occasionally rear yard fencing runs along the street and is visible. In these cases in particular, special attention should be paid to ensuring that the fencing treatment is compatible with the Heritage District context. The general rule is that simplicity is preferred should apply with regard to rear yard fencing in the District.

Guidelines

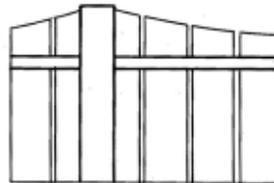
1. Wooden fences are preferred in the District. A straight board fence or a board-on-board fence are appropriate styles.
2. Where historic fences or hedges exist, they should be retained.
3. If a chain link fence is used, it should be black or dark green in colour.
4. All backyard fence heights will conform to the Town Fence By-law.



Clean straight fence top



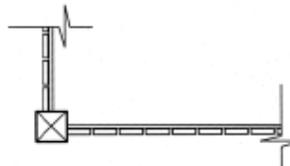
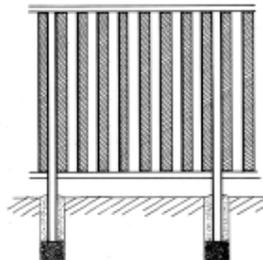
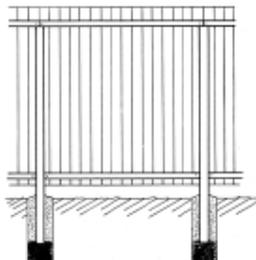
Dog-eared fence top



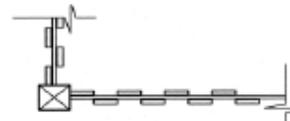
Bevelled fence top (shallow curve only)



Fence top flush with stringer



3.



Key to illustrations to the left:

1. Straight board fence with flat placement of boards, showing ground connection.
2. Board-on-board fence, with alternating placement of boards, showing ground connection.
3. Plan drawing of straight board fence shown in figure 1.
4. Plan drawing of board-on-board fence shown in figure 2.