



*Iron gate at the Howes-Graus House,  
718 Vermillion Street.*

Fences usually mark the transition from the public street to the private yard. Late nineteenth-century fences in Hastings included wood dowels or flat sawn pickets supported by boxed posts as well as elaborate wrought iron or simple arched wire.

Hastings' steep terraces provided a challenge for the builders of stone and brick retaining walls. These historic walls contribute greatly to the historic landscape along Vermillion Street and elsewhere and should be conserved.



*An old limestone wall at W. 8th and  
Vermillion streets.*

### Design Guidelines

#### 1. Repair and Conservation

Existing historic fences of metal or wood should be repaired and conserved wherever possible. Repairs should be compatible with the original materials and design of the fence.

#### 2. New Fences

New fences should be compatible with the architectural character, materials, and scale of the principal building and surrounding streetscape.

Fences enclosing the front yard should be semi-transparent. Appropriate materials include wrought iron and painted wooden pickets. In general, complete enclosure by opaque fences is not appropriate.

#### 3. Chain Link Fences

Chain link fences should not be used to enclose front yards or the front half of side yards.

Fences that allow some visual penetration of front yard space are preferable to complete enclosure. Chain link fences should not be used to enclose front yards or the front half of side yards.

#### 4. Repair and Conservation of Retaining Walls

Existing historic walls (and stairs, where applicable) of fieldstone, limestone, brick, or stucco should be repaired and conserved. Repairs should be compatible with the adjoining masonry. (See Masonry Guidelines.)

#### 5. New Retaining Walls

New walls should be compatible with the architectural character and scale of the principal building and surrounding streetscape. Masonry retaining walls should be finished with caps and other appropriate details.

Limestone, brick, and natural-color split-face (rock-face) concrete block are appropriate materials for the construction of new retaining walls visible from the public right-of-way. Block with a round, striated, or polygonal profile is not appropriate.

Landscape timber is not appropriate for new retaining walls visible from the public right of way.