HSPN 01B. VICTORIAN FENCE GUIDELINES

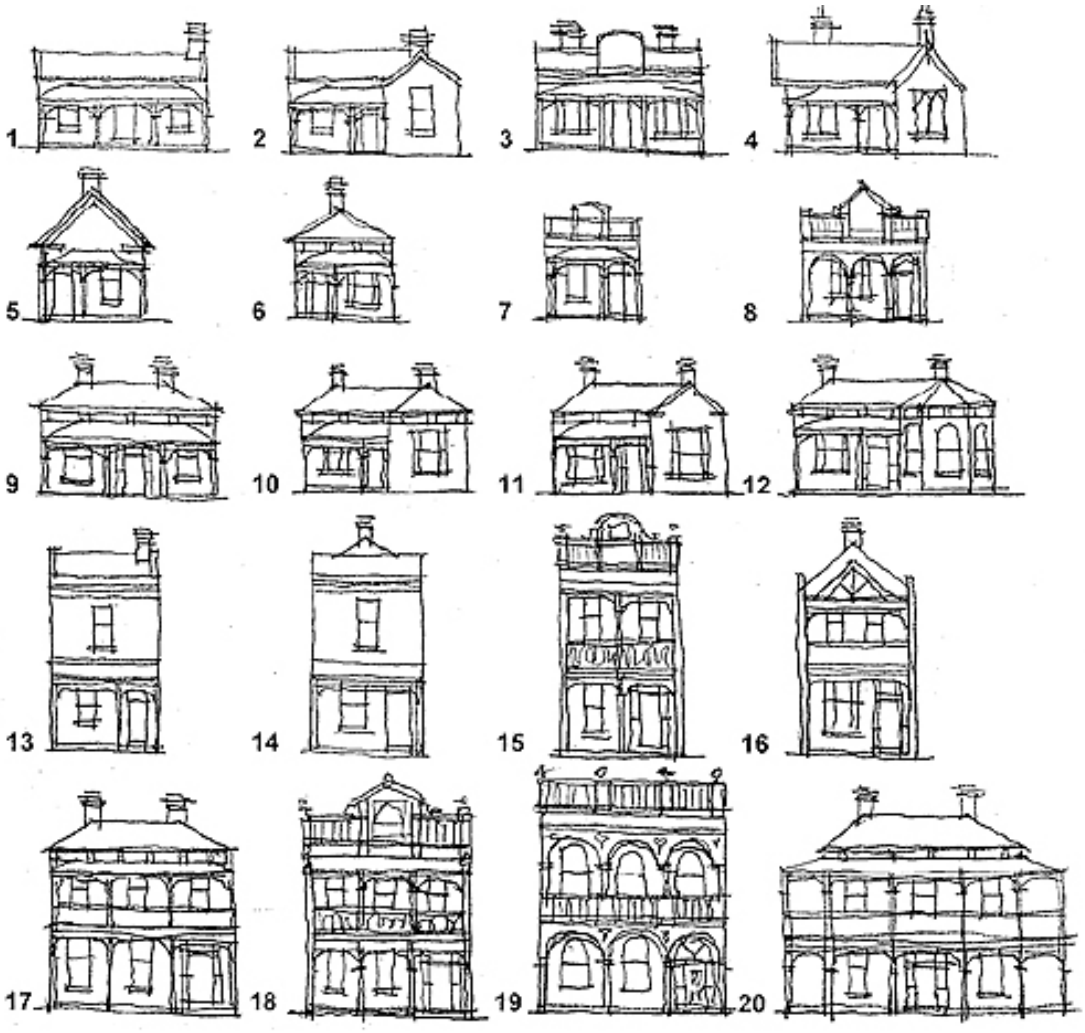
METAL AND MASONRY (PALISADE) FRONT FENCES - VICTORIAN DWELLINGS

Brick and Rendered Dwellings Only. Single and Double Storey.

- Planning Permits are required for all fences in Heritage Overlay Areas of the City of Port Phillip;
- This guideline provides options for and information on Metal and Masonry fences suited to brick and rendered Victorian dwellings. If yours is one of the types shown below or is similar, you can select the type of fence and its details from those shown on the succeeding pages of this Guideline and submit them on a Counter Application Form for a fast track permit approval;
- Note that timber fences can be used for all Victorian dwelling construction types. Metal and Masonry fences are a further option for Brick and Rendered dwellings, but they should not be used for timber dwellings.

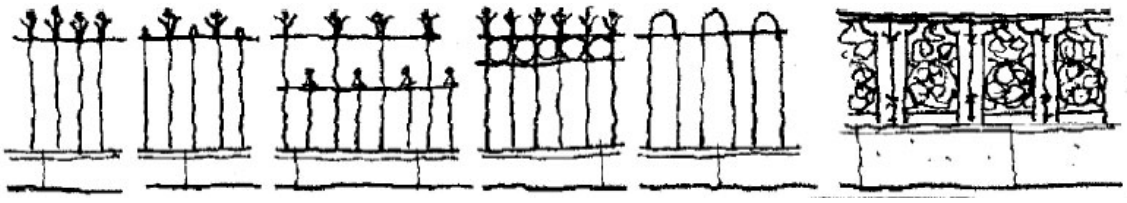
TYPICAL VICTORIAN STYLE DWELLING TYPES.

Free standing, attached or terraces (note special requirements for attached and terrace types).

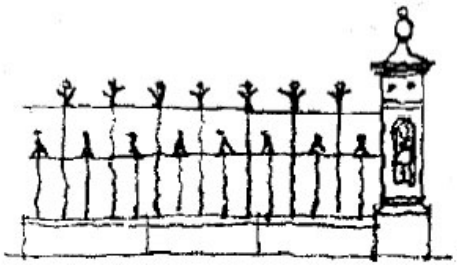


METAL AND MASONRY (PALISADE) FENCE TYPES Use simple types & details for simple dwellings.

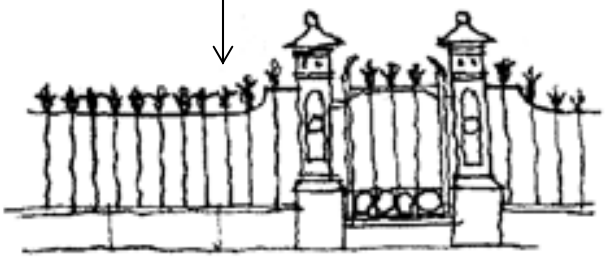
1. Basic **2**. Alternating **3.** Double Palisade **4.** With Frieze **5.** Hooped **6.** Cast iron balustrade panels



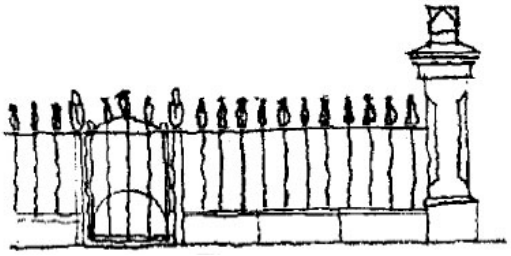
Double palisade with cast iron piers



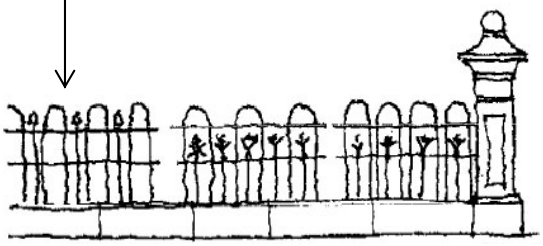
Step up to higher post at stepped entry



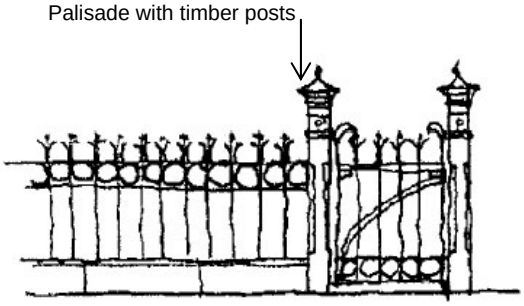
Palisade with masonry piers & secondary posts at gate



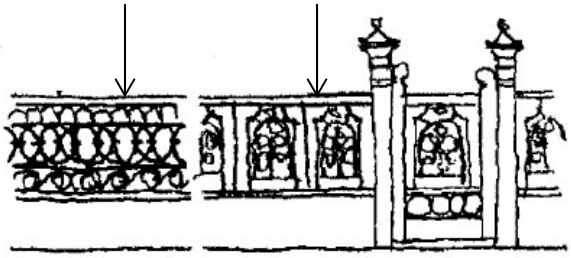
Hooped versions



Palisade with timber posts



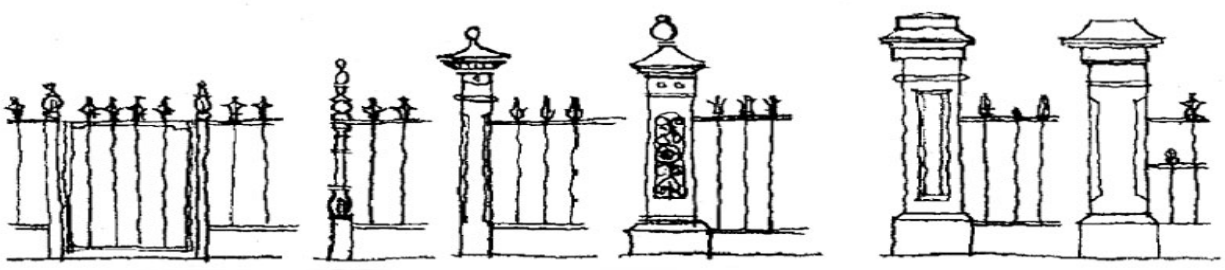
Cast iron balustrade panel with timber rail, posts & gate



MAIN POSTS

Simple types to fancy >>>

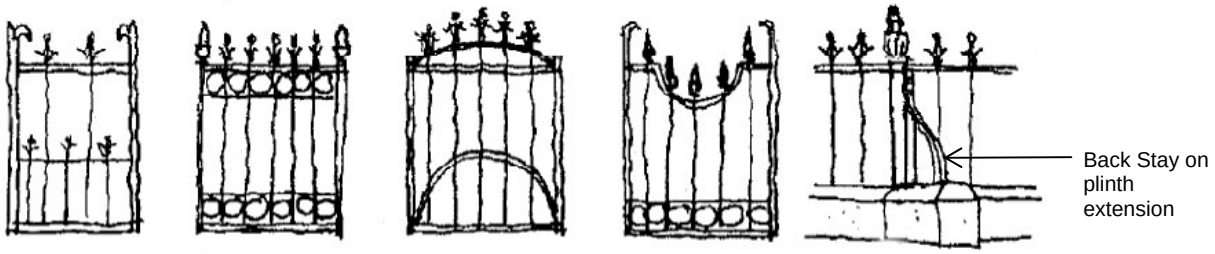
1. small/plain/50mm steel **2**. small/fancy/cast iron **3**. timber with cast iron cap **4**. Cast iron/ Lion post **5**. Various rendered b/wrk



SECONDARY OR INTERMEDIATE POSTS & GATES

- Main piers/posts should be used only at ends, gates and changes in direction of front fences;
- Secondary posts may be used at central gates and always if gate is asymmetrical.

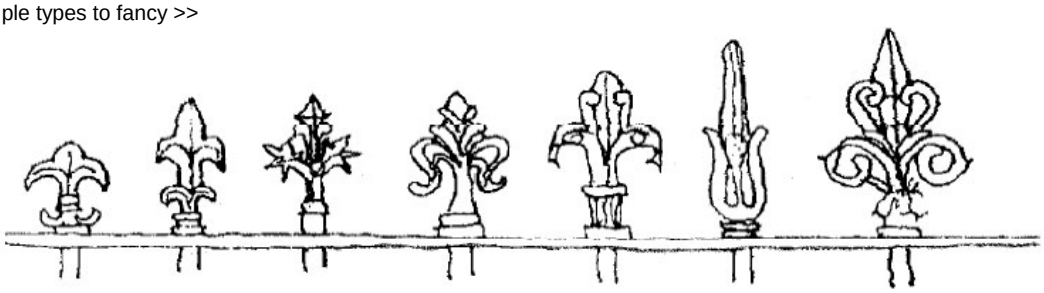
1 2 3 4



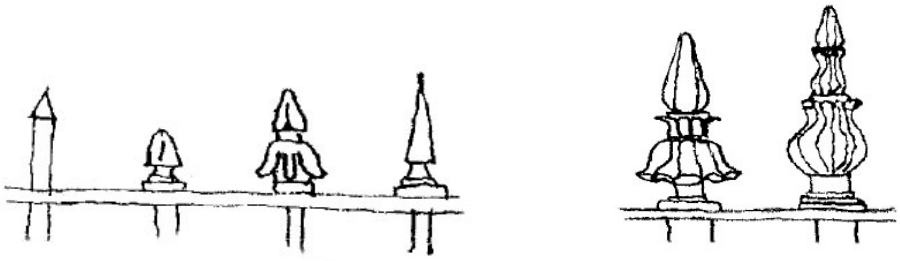
SUGGESTED PICKET HEADS

- For reproduction heads in two level palisades, the picket head on the lower level should be a smaller version of the upper (these can be obtained in some patterns), or a different, less elaborate small head.
- Large and small or different picket heads can alternate on a fence top.

Simple types to fancy >>



1 2 3 4 5 6 7



8 9 10 11

12 13

Minimised heads

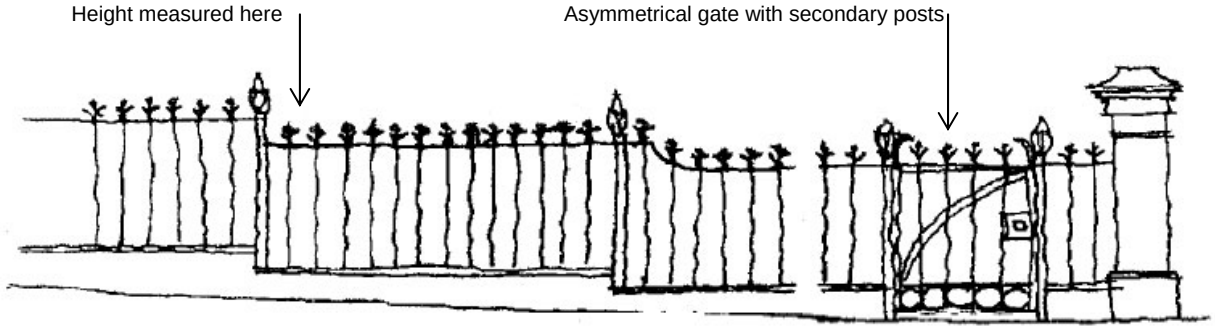
50mm plain post tops

GENERAL NOTES AND GUIDELINES

- Lack of an original fence is an indicator that it was of timber. Metal fences should only be used where the dwelling is of face brickwork or is rendered. One indicator of a previous metal fence is a basalt threshold, possibly marked by a gate swing or with a post hole;
- Full ”reproduction” fences should be avoided. It is desirable that new fences are apparent as such and simplified detail and materials are desirable, eg, use a rendered plinth and delete or minimise traditional spearheads. Where ”reproduction” is undertaken, inscribe the year of construction in a visible location, eg, on a pedestal base.
- Metal/masonry fences are not generally recommended unless there is evidence of a prior example on the site or where they provide continuity of fence construction across a group of dwellings,

especially terraces. Timber fences are a very acceptable option for Victorian buildings and were historically more common. Timber is the preferred construction method. See HSPN 01A for Timber fence guidelines;
- Variations to the guidelines will be acceptable where valid physical or photographic evidence of a pre-existing fence is produced;
- Any combinations of the suggested forms, posts, pickets, gates, etc, may be used, BUT….
- Fences should be kept as simple as possible, especially on simple dwellings. Avoid over-elaboration unless there is specific evidence. Try to match "status" of fence to "status of dwelling. Fences should never be superior. Posts 1, 2 or 3 are preferred unless there is evidence of another type having existed;
- The detail of masonry piers should be a simplified version of a known example in the vicinity;
- Fences for terraces or obvious groups, attached pairs, etc, should match. See HSPN 01;
- Locate pedestrian gate directly in front of front door, or against the side post/pier for single fronted dwellings. Use secondary posts for asymmetrical gate (see below);

SLOPING FRONTAGES
- Metal fences should step horizontally to follow the footpath gradient;
- Level transitions should be on the downhill side of a post.



HEIGHT OF FENCES (measured from highest footpath level at lowest picket, see stepped fences above)
- Single storey dwellings, 1200 to 1350;
- Two storey dwellings, 1200mm to 1650mm;
- Higher fences may be acceptable where the floor level of the dwelling is considerably elevated above the footpath, in which case the masonry plinth is raised as a retaining wall to achieve 1200 internal height.

LOCATION OF FENCES
- Full width of the frontage with gates to all openings and with no setback. Do not place plants in front of fences.
- On corners of streets, the front fence should return along the side street to the line of the front of the house. Corners should not be splayed.
- On corners of lanes, the front fence should be to the frontage only.
- Dividing fences between sites should be of simple opaque form or match front fence.

HEDGES

Hedges may be used for additional privacy, but apart from roses, hedges are not considered appropriate for Victorian dwellings.

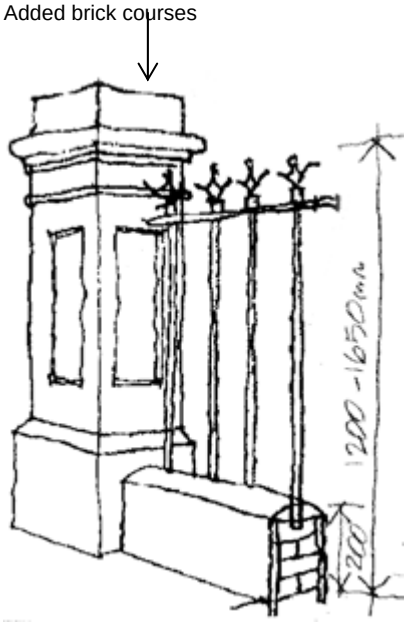
CONSTRUCTION OF FENCES.

Note the following suggestions when specifying your requirements and ensure that the contractor complies with them.

- Timber posts should be 140mm square or larger, of highly durable timber such as Cypress Pine, Red Gum or Jarrah.
- Exposed posts should be dressed (planed smooth), not rough sawn.
- Stop chamfers to timber posts should be at 45 degrees and about 15mm deep. Avoid moulded chamfers. Chamfers on rendered posts should be about 30-40mm deep.
- Large posts, masonry and cast iron, should sit on a chamfered pedestal that is about 50mm forward of and 75mm higher than the masonry plinth.
- Face brickwork was occasionally be used for posts, but this form should be avoided in new work on Victorian sites.
- The plinths/pedestals of original iron fences were almost invariably constructed of margined basalt blocks. For new fences, rendered brickwork is preferred. Grooving of the render with movement control joints reflects the character of stone construction. Face brickwork, faux stone and rough pitcher construction should be avoided.
- Precast concrete post caps are usually of poor detail and should be avoided. If used, place a rendered course or two of brickwork on top to enhance the proportions of the post.
- Steel rails should be at the top and intermediate levels only. Picket rods should be built into the plinth at the bottom without a connecting rail. Rails should be built into rendered posts.
- Prefabricated panels held in position with metal brackets should not be used.
- Rods and rails should be of solid steel (never hollow) and preferably galvanised.
- Paint all iron work in one dark colour. A deep red or deep green is best. Do not use black or pale colours. Render should be tinted a warm mid-grey.

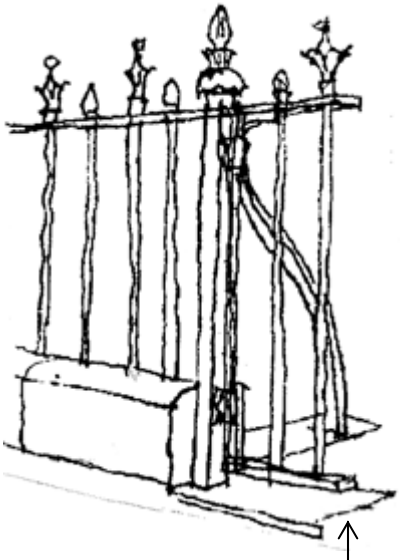
Typical construction

Masonry pier with precast cap



Rods built into plinth
Plinth and pier rendered brick
Plinth 200-300mm high

Basic post with backstay



Basalt threshold

Cast iron balustrade panels