



CITY OF

# Ypsilanti

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## Historic District

### Fencing and Retaining Walls

This Fact Sheet is not a substitute for the ordinance, but addresses common questions about City ordinances. For further information, please contact the Historic District Assistant.

All permit applications are available from the Building Department and at [cityofypsilanti.com/permits](http://cityofypsilanti.com/permits).

Completed applications may be dropped off at the Building Department.

### City Hall

One South Huron  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

#### Building

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, City Hall  
Phone: (734) 482-1025  
[cityofypsilanti.com/157](http://cityofypsilanti.com/157)

#### Planning

4<sup>th</sup> Floor, City Hall  
Phone: (734) 483-9646  
[cityofypsilanti.com/planning](http://cityofypsilanti.com/planning)

#### Historic District

4<sup>th</sup> Floor, City Hall  
Phone: (734) 483-9646  
[cityofypsilanti.com/hdc](http://cityofypsilanti.com/hdc)

All permits, fees, and factsheets can be found at [cityofypsilanti.com/permits](http://cityofypsilanti.com/permits).

New fences, walls, or retaining walls must be designed to minimize their impact on existing historic fabric at the site. They must be compatible with the site in setback, size, and scale to protect the historic integrity of the property. They must be removable without impairing the essential integrity of the historic property.

- All wooden fences must be painted or opaque-stained in a color to complement the adjacent structure. Pressure-treated wood must be cleaned and dried or aged before painting or staining. To check if your pressure-treated wood is ready to hold paint or stain, check to see if it is dry to the touch. If it is not, wait longer. If it is, sprinkle water on it; if the water soaks in, it can be painted. If it beads up, wait longer.
- Brick or stone used for foundations, piers and/or walls must complement the structure/s on the site.
- Hedges and other natural plantings may be considered as alternatives to fencing. When planting hedges, take into consideration the mature height and width of the plant; take care to not block fences or drives, or to encroach on your neighbor's property.

*Full perimeter fencing and more than two types (styles) of fencing on a single lot are generally not permitted.*

The following styles are generally not permitted:



Stockade



Chain Link



Split Rail

The following styles are often found to not detract from the historic fabric of the district:



Twisted wire, wooden supports



Wrought iron, cast iron, or painted aluminum



Dogear