

## Application for Gate Approval

I am applying for two things: belated approval for a gate that has already been replaced, and approval for a proposed new gate.

I replaced an existing gate that was failing from post-rot and was not very attractive or secure. I didn't apply for approval beforehand because I believed it was not necessary when replacing a gate or fence that was already there.

The replacement gate was put in exactly the same place, same height and width, same design in that it consists of a central 2 part swinging gate and a cantilevered screen on the side, covered by a transom. It was built on the very same metal frame (painted to be less visible), in the same square-framed style—with pickets that were not dogged-eared or rounded.

Two things are different about the new gate. First, the old gate was a darker color. The new one is the color of new redwood. It could be stained, but it will naturally weather to the same color as all the fences in the neighborhood and be less noticeable.

The other difference is the spacing of the pickets. On the old gate they were separated. On the new gate they are not. They will shrink as they dry, creating some spaces, but not as wide.

One of the things I didn't like about the old gate was that it provided little privacy or security from the street. The last time I was working on the house in between tenants, I had some nighttime intruders. Because of the spaces between the pickets, the old gate could be climbed even when it was locked.

And there is no reason to believe that the flimsy gate that was there before was faithful to the style of the 1939 cottage. Four by four redwood posts don't last 80 years in the ground without rotting. So the old gate was probably installed in the 70's or 80's at the earliest. It was not necessarily appropriate to the original cottage which is built of good sturdy redwood.

City of Santa Rosa  
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Planning & Economic  
Development Department

PART TWO

My second application is for a new gate at the back of my side-yard. My previous front gate extended over a two foot strip of property that belongs to my neighbor. She wanted it removed so that she could have unfettered access to that strip, which gives full access to anyone on the street to my side and back yard.

I want to provide my tenants with a private, secure and fully fenced backyard. They have children, pets, and things they don't want stolen. As it's not feasible to put in a property line fence, I'd like to put a gate across the back of the side yard which would secure most of the backyard.

It would be a two-part redwood gate, 6 feet high and 14 feet wide. It would match the front gate in style. It would not be visible from the street. It would stretch from the corner post of the existing property-line fence to the corner of my house.