



October 8, 2025

Carnegies Whiskey Library LLC

c/o Wade Stine, Thomas Architecture Studios  
221 20<sup>th</sup> Ave SW  
Olympia WA, 98501  
SENT BY ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY TO: <[wade@tasolympia.com](mailto:wade@tasolympia.com)>, <[jillian@tasolympia.com](mailto:jillian@tasolympia.com)>,  
<[mikem@morgantransfer.com](mailto:mikem@morgantransfer.com)>,

**SUBJECT: 620 Franklin St SE- Carnegie Whiskey Library Preliminary Design Guidance**

Dear Wade,

This letter is to forward the notes and guidance from the Heritage Review Committee of the Olympia Heritage Commission regarding the proposed work on the property located at 620 Franklin St SE.

The Carnegie Library is individually listed on the Olympia Heritage Register, Washington State Heritage Register, the National Register of Historic Places, and is noted as 'Contributing' to the character of the nationally recognized Downtown Olympia Historic District. According to Olympia Municipal Code (OMC) 18.12.090:

*"For a property individually listed on a Heritage Register, the proposed work should not detrimentally alter, destroy or adversely affect any exterior feature or interior feature relating to the designation of the property to the Heritage Register. In the case of construction of a new improvement, building or structure on the site of a Heritage Register property, the exterior of such construction will not adversely affect and will be compatible with the external appearance of existing designated improvements, buildings and structures on the site. [...] For any property located within a Historic District, the proposed construction, removal, rehabilitation, alteration, remodeling, excavation or exterior alteration shall conform to the standards in OMC 18.105.020 and OMC 18.105.030 and preserve the historic context and merit of the district, consistent with The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (as amended)."*

The Carnegie Library Building was constructed in 1914 using Chehalis, buff colored brick with decorative terra cotta and red colored brick detailing. Many windows are currently aluminum sash, and a few of the original windows remain. Original muntins are emulated on the non-original windows, and historically the windows on the lower level of the structure were four over four. The proposal is to retain and preserve the exterior of the original structure, while doing an addition over the existing addition that was constructed in the 60's. The proposal includes a terraced design with an outdoor dining area, and a connection to a new rooftop deck on the original library structure. The current proposal also includes new signage on the exterior façade of the library building.

The committee performed a site visit on September 29, 2025 and was briefed on the design intent based on the design development plan set dated September 10, 2025. The committee has the following informal comments meant to provide insight for future design iterations so that the project can align more closely with the Secretary of Interior's Standards.

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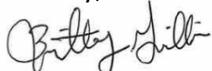
1. The design does not appear to echo any architectural elements of the original building into the proposed addition. **Consider adding design features on the east and west facades to carry over some of the visual elements from the original structure onto the addition.** For example:
  - a. Adding windows or other rectangular design elements to the addition to echo the library's windows;
  - b. Adding a band of a different material or color on the base of the addition to echo the red brick along the base of the library building;
  - c. Referencing the orientation/shape/design of any masonry details- crenellated cornices, string course, quoins, pilasters etc.; and/or
  - d. Updating the siding orientation to be horizontal on the east façade so that it creates a visual flow with the main building.
2. The proposed wall-mounted sign may compromise the integrity of the masonry and surrounding architectural details. **The committee would prefer not to have new signage mounted on the façade and would instead support a monument sign to avoid damaging the historic masonry.**
3. There were concerns raised about the visibility of the rooftop deck, possible furniture, and adjoining staircase causing detriment to the historic facade of the library building. **The committee would prefer to see the deck shifted away from the east edge of the library roof** and to remain distant on the south and west edges of the library roof to reduce the visual impact when viewing the structure. Additionally, if there is information that could be provided in future design packages to identify the potential furniture or fixtures for protection from the elements, the committee would appreciate clarity on what will or will not be visible from the street.
4. If the applicant is interested in refurbishing the existing aluminum windows to create more uniformity with the historic design, it may be helpful to look into the following:
  - a. Pressure fit storm windows with decorative muntins to go over existing aluminum windows
  - b. Painting aluminum windows to match the colors of existing wood windows
  - c. Aluminum clad wood windows with decorative muntins and aluminum colored to match other window paint
  - d. Reaching out to local craftsmen that specialize in historic windows for site-specific consultation

**NOTE:** Vinyl windows are NOT recommended in any case

Additionally, the Heritage Commission and Heritage Review Committee would like to express their thanks for the work being put into the reuse of the historic building and to express their excitement to see the structure activated and in use by the community. The committee is glad to see the efforts to maintain the integrity of the historic building that have gone into the project.

If there are additional questions about these recommendations, please contact Brittany Gillia at [bgillia@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:bgillia@ci.olympia.wa.us). Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Brittany Gillia, Associate Planner  
Olympia Heritage Commission