



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

January 7, 2025

Robert Peirent
Amherst Special Capital Projects Coordinator
Town of Amherst
4 Boltwood Avenue
Amherst, MA 01002

RE: Jones Library Renovation and Expansion, 43 Amity Street, Amherst, MA; MHC# RC.60731

Dear Mr. Peirent:

Staff of the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) have reviewed the draft Memorandum of Agreement, received at this office as part of the ACHP e-106 filing on February 3, 2025. The staff of the MHC have the following comments.

12th Whereas Clause

This whereas clause should cite the specific adverse effect and associated regulatory citations.

Stipulation I

An additional subsection should be added to include:

A virtual tour shall be created of the existing Jones Library. The virtual tour should be made available on the Jones Library website. The virtual tour must be posted to the Jones Library website before demolition activities can commence.

Stipulation II (A.)

Along with the Town, the Amherst Historical Commission, Amherst Historical Society, and the Amherst Historic Preservation Commission should also be provided a draft of the interpretive plaque content and design for review and comment. Additionally, a review time should be incorporated into the stipulation (e.g., 30 days to review and comment).

Stipulation III (A)

The following should be added to the end of Stipulation III(A):

“A book drop will not be cut into the stone façade on the front of the building. Free standing book drop boxes will be provided for book returns. The existing slate roof will be replaced with salvaged slates from the existing roof and new slates that match the size, color, and profile of the existing slates.”

Stipulation III (B)

This stipulation should be expanded upon to describe in more detail the extent of the proposed work to protect and restore the pineapple ornament at the main entrance. Additionally, it is unclear if the intent is to focus on the pediment or the entire door surround.

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Additional Stipulations

The MHC recommends that follow stipulations be included in the MOA as additional mitigation measures for the adverse effects to the Jones Library:

- All historic mahogany wood removed from the historic library shall be carefully removed and saved in a secure location. The salvaged mahogany shall be reinstalled within the rehabilitated library and/or the new addition.
- The landscape plan shall be reviewed and approved by the Amherst Historical Commission and the Amherst Historical Society.
- All replacement windows must match the appearance, size, design, proportions and profiles of the existing historic windows and must have clear glazing.

These comments are offered to assist in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (36 CFR 800). Please do not hesitate to contact Elizabeth Sherva of my staff if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Brona Simon
State Historic Preservation Officer
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

xc: Sharon Sherry, Jones Library, Inc.
Ann Piesen, National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)
Martha Curran, HUD
Rachael Mangum, ACHP
Bill Marzella, ACHP
Maxwell Sickler, ACHP
Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners
Massachusetts Cultural Council
Amherst Historical Commission
Amherst Historical Society
Amherst Historic Preservation Coalition