Staff Report and CommentsNameCornelius Agriculture BuildingAddress19623 School St.City State ZipCornelius, NC 28031

Item: Application for COA HLC482

Project Description

 Renovation and addition to the Cornelius High School Agriculture Building for the Cornelius History Museum. Exterior will remain mostly unchanged, while constructing an addition on the south elevation to incorporate a new elevator, ADA restrooms, and main entrance to the building. Windows will be replaced, and some previously infilled windows openings may be reopened.

Exhibits presented to and considered by the Commission:

Exhibit A – Map

Exhibit B – Existing Conditions

Exhibit C – Proposed Plans

The HLC has acknowledged the need to alter or add to a historic property to meet continuing or new uses while retaining the property's historic character.

Based upon the information presented in the application, staff offers the following suggested applicable findings of fact:

1. The proposed project meets HLC standards 1-7 and 9-10.

Staff suggests that the Commission approve the application as presented, or with conditions.

THE HLC STANDARDS

Rehabilitation is defined as the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values.

- 1. A property shall be used for its historic purpose or be placed in a new use that requires minimal change to the defining characteristics of the building and its site and environment.
- 2. The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided.
- 3. Each property shall be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or architectural elements from other buildings, shall not be undertaken.
- 4. Most properties change over time; those changes that have acquired historic significance in their own right shall be retained and preserved.
- 5. Distinctive features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a historic property shall be preserved.
- 6. Deteriorated historic features shall be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature shall match the old in design, color, texture, and other visual qualities and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features shall be substantiated by documentary, physical, or pictorial evidence.
- 7. Chemical or physical treatments, such as sandblasting, that cause damage to historic materials shall not be used. The surface cleaning of structures, if appropriate, shall be undertaken using the gentlest means possible.
- 8. Significant archeological resources affected by a project shall be protected and preserved. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures shall be undertaken.
- 9. New additions, alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.
- 10. Alterations, new additions, and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

Exhibit A

Polaris 3G Map – Mecklenburg County, North Carolina

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Exhibit **B**

Existing Conditions

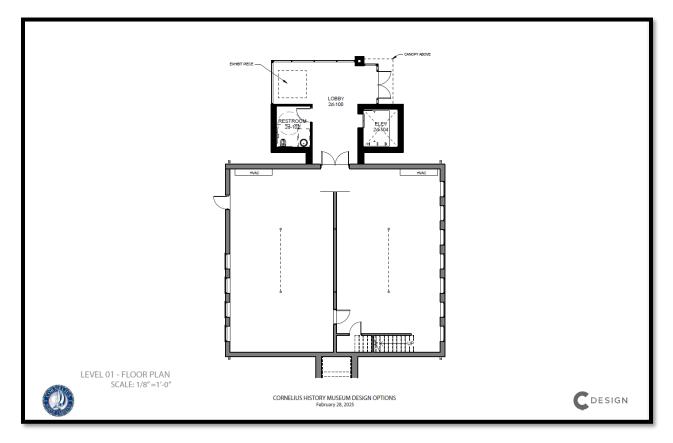


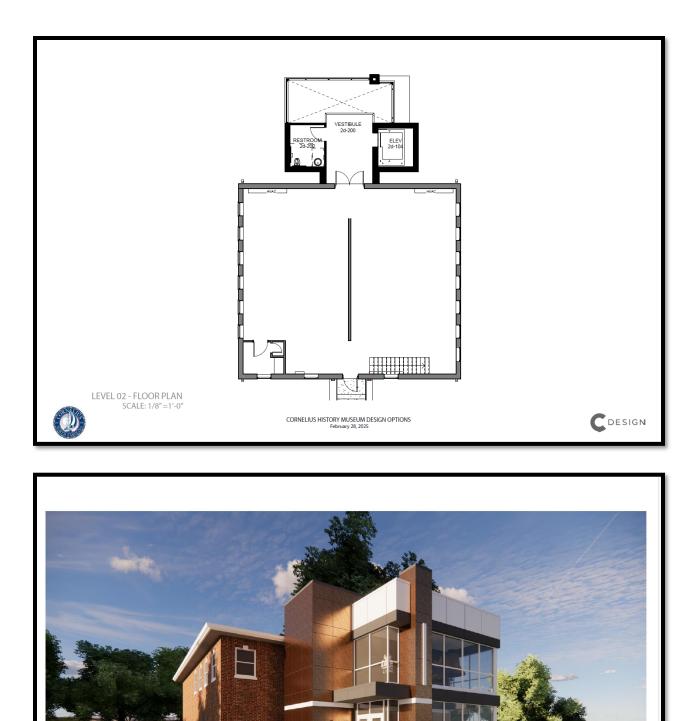




Exhibit C

Proposed Plans





CORNELIUS HISTORY MUSEUM DESIGN OPTIONS February 28, 2025 SOUTHWEST PERSPECTIVE SCALE: NTS

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