



April 14, 2016

Ms. Sarah Fox  
City of Camas  
Community Development Department  
sfox@cityofcamas.us

In future correspondence please refer to:  
Project Tracking Code: 2016-03-02144  
Re: City of Camas Design Review Manual

Dear Ms. Fox:

The Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) has been notified of proposed changes and updates to the City of Camas Design Review Chapter 18.29.050. On behalf of DAHP, I have taken this opportunity to review proposed amendment language as well as the Camas Design Review Manual. I note from the Manual that a goal of the City's design review process is "To encourage better design and site planning so that new development will preserve or enhance the community's character as well as allow for diversity and creativity."

Although I do not have any comments or recommendations regarding the proposed amendment language, at some point in the future I recommend the City undertake updates to the Design Review Manual in order to provide property owners with greater direction on design treatment for historic buildings. A few recommendations are as follows:

- 1) In researching into DAHP's on-line interactive WISAARD database (<http://ssvwbohydahpgs3/wisaard>), I note a concentration of inventoried buildings over 50 years in age in downtown Camas and surrounding neighborhoods. There are likely several examples of buildings and structures worthy of preserving and rehabilitating in combination with local preservation incentives and preservation programs. Contact DAHP and/or the Clark County Historic Preservation Commission for how these programs may apply to properties in Camas.
- 2) We recommend that the Design Review Manual be updated with more specific and detailed information, approaches, and examples of recommended design treatments for historic properties. This should include approaches for signage, lighting, landscaping, windows, materials, and other aspects of buildings that retain historic character while providing for needed updates and new uses.
- 3) DAHP always recommends that approaching the rehab of historic buildings begins with a document called the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation* (Standards) (<https://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/rehabilitation.htm>). These 10 standards articulate common sense approaches for updating historic buildings while protecting historic character-defining features. In fact, we recommend the Standards as being the foundation for your local design review guidelines as they pertain to historic buildings.



- 4) Feel free to contact DAHP should you be interested in finding design guidelines that other communities have developed and adopted to revitalize historic buildings in their jurisdiction.

Finally, please note that in order to streamline our responses, DAHP requires that all documents related to project reviews be submitted electronically. Correspondence, reports, notices, photos, etc. must now be submitted in PDF or JPG format. For more information about how to submit documents to DAHP please visit: <http://www.dahp.wa.gov/programs/shpo-compliance>. To assist you in conducting a cultural resource survey and inventory effort, DAHP has developed guidelines including requirements for survey reports. You can view or download a copy from our website.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment. If you have any questions, please contact me at [greg.griffith@dahp.wa.gov](mailto:greg.griffith@dahp.wa.gov) or 360-586-3073.

Sincerely,



Gregory Griffith  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

