



Project Review Sheet

Committee: Landmarks Commission	Meeting Date: 7/11/2019
Agenda Item Number: 19-00924	Historic Name/District: Northwestern Hotel
LCOA and LP&RG Request: 322 Williams St.	

Details: The applicant, Chris Vincent, would like to paint a mural onto the east wall of the building at 322 Williams St. The building is brick, but it has been painted for many years. The mural will be painted directly over the existing paint. It will include several guitars and a depiction of the historic stage. The primer will be latex, and the topcoat will be a graffiti paint material.

Several buildings in Waukesha have murals painted directly on masonry, but none of them are Local Landmarks or in historic districts. Murals in historic districts have been done on wooden boards, which have then been attached to the sides of the buildings. In those cases murals generally do not need approval from the Landmarks Commission. None of the historic masonry buildings that have murals on them have been painted. The Wisconsin Historical Society strongly advises against painting historic masonry buildings and recommends that the owners of masonry buildings that have been painted consider removing the paint rather than repainting them. However, in the past the Landmarks Commission has allowed masonry buildings that were already painted to be repainted with similar colors.

The Waukesha Public Art Committee approved the design at its June 25th meeting. The mural will not be considered a sign as long as the Club 400 wording is removed.

Paint and Repair Grant Information:

Relevant Secretary of the Interior Standards:

2. The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided.
9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work will be differentiated



from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.

10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment will be unimpaired.

Staff Recommendation: If the Landmarks Commission finds that painting a mural onto the wall of the building at 322 Williams St. will not destroy historic materials, features, or spatial relationships that characterize the property it should approve a Certificate of Appropriateness. Landmarks Commissioners *should not* base their decision or place any conditions on the content of the mural.