Council HARB **COA Summary for Council** January, 20, 2026

Item 2. Sara Walker
844 West 3rd Street
65-004-103 1895 Brick, two and one half story Victorian eclectic house with a multigabled (partial) slate (partial asphalt) roof. Roof dormers with mullioned windows. Two story protruding bay in front, and on each side. Wrap around porch/square posts, enclosed at the bottom with fish scale siding.

A. On east side of property, in same location as existing metal accessory structure, remove the torn cover and install a new canvas cover over the top and all four sides of the metal frame.
recommended for denial by HARB. See minutes

HARB MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:44 pm. Trade Transit 2, 144 West Third Street.

Present: Anthony Visco, Mary Rucinski, Hannah Ramsauer, Dante Elion.

Intro: Property owners in the Historic District must obtain a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) before performing exterior alterations, repairs, improvements, demolitions, or construction. There is no fee for a COA. Applications are available at Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB) - City of Williamsport Applicants should include photos, drawings, and any information to clarify a project. Submit at least one week before the HARB meeting. Meetings are held monthly, usually on the 3rd Tuesday, in Trade & Transit II–144 West Third St. at 6:30 PM. A representative of the applicant should attend. City Council issues COA's. Applicants can discuss a request with Council if they disagree with HARB's recommendation.

Item 1. Review minutes from December 16, 2025

Motion by Hannah Ramsauer to accept minutes. Dante Elion seconded. Mary Rucinski pointed out revisions to 2 dates, March meeting moved to March 10th, September meeting corrected to September 15th. All ayes.

Item 2. Sara Walker
844 West 3rd Street
65-004-103 1895 Brick, two and one half story Victorian eclectic house with a multigabled (partial) slate (partial asphalt) roof. Roof dormers with mullioned windows. Two story protruding bay in front, and on each side. Wrap around porch/square posts, enclosed at the bottom with fish scale siding. Photos attached

A. On east side of property, in same location as existing metal accessory structure, remove the torn cover and install a new canvas cover over the top and all four sides of the metal frame.

.**Possible Standards** to Consider: #9... exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize a property. New work … shall be compatible with massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment. Hist Pres Act 89-665: Any governing body in determining whether or not to certify to the appropriateness of the erection, reconstruction, alteration, restoration, demolition or razing of a building, in whole or in part, shall consider the effect which the proposed change will have upon the general historic and architectural nature of the district. The governing body shall pass upon the appropriateness of exterior architectural features which can be seen from a public street or way, only, and shall consider the general design,

arrangement, texture, material and color of the building or structure and the relation of such factors to similar features of buildings and structures in the district. The governing body shall not consider matters not pertinent to the preservation of the historic aspect and nature of the district. See photos for location (on property) and views

Note: This item was on the HARB December 16th Agenda and was reviewed. No representative was present. On December 18th HARB received an e mail from Ms. Walker saying she did not receive the e-mailed Notice of Meeting, and a mailed notice didn't arrive until December 17th. She requested the request be re-reviewed at another meeting so she can attend. By pole HARB agreed. The December 16th recommendation was not submitted to City Council and Ms. Walkers application is on the January 20, 2026 agenda.

Mrs Walker was present. Mr Visco reviewed the application including possible standards to consider. Mrs. Walker explained she didn't receive notice of the December meeting in time. That is why she wasn't present. She wants to replace a damaged carport/storage structure. It will not be just a tarped roof, the walls would also be enclosed with the tarp material. She doesn't understand what the issue is. She googled Historic district rules and other places allow this. She said codes said they can't issue a permit until a COA is issued. Mr. Visco said there are many historic districts, they have different requirements. Rucinski said the Possible Standards as read have a summary of this information. There is information on the city HARB web page that can be reviewed. Mr. Visco said state, local and the preservation act all have information. Hannah Ramsauer explained the metal frame, covered and enclosed with material is not compatible with the district or with the architectural features of the brick home at 844 W 3rd. HARB noted it is also is visible from West 3rd St on the front and Hadley St. on the back. Hadley St. runs between the rear of the property and Ways Garden. Mrs. Walker asked how a carport-could fit in the district and that she has seen carports in other locations. The Rowley house drive up entry was mentioned and Mr. Visco found a sample photo of an attached carport that simply reflected the attached buildings features. There are many designs that could be compatible. He clarified that the Historic District has some different standards from the majority of the City. HARB does not review something out of the district. The canvas carports Mrs Walker mentioned were not in the District. Mrs. Walker said there was a garage on her property but it collapsed around 1990. She doesn't have funds to build a new garage. Mr. Visco mentioned there are district properties that have old stables converted to garages and garages that were built before the ordinance took effect. Mr. Elion asked why Mrs. Walker needs the structure. She wants it for storage of lawn equipment and possibly a vehicle. She could access it from Hadley St, in the rear. HARB discussed relocating the structure but that is something that apparently requires set backs. Mrs. Walker said Codes told her the existing structure is too close to the property line. The Building Officer conveyed they consider this an Accessory Structure, subject to setbacks, which would affect any alternative siting. Hannah Ramsauer made a motion to recommend the request be denied because it is not compatible with the properties features or the district generally and it is visible from streets at the front and rear. Dante Elion seconded. All Ayes. Rucinski explained to Mrs. Walker that HARB is making a recommendation to Council. Council actually issues Certificates of Appropriateness. Mrs. Walker has the right to speak to Council about her request. Mrs. Walker said she wants to do that. There are Council meetings on February 5th and February 19th. Rucinski will contact the

City Clerk to verify a date and notify Mrs. Walker by mail and by text or phone call within the next few days. The COA will be submitted to council for review on the available date.

.Item. 3. Any other business Adj