



Henika District Library Historic Status

We want to hear from our community!

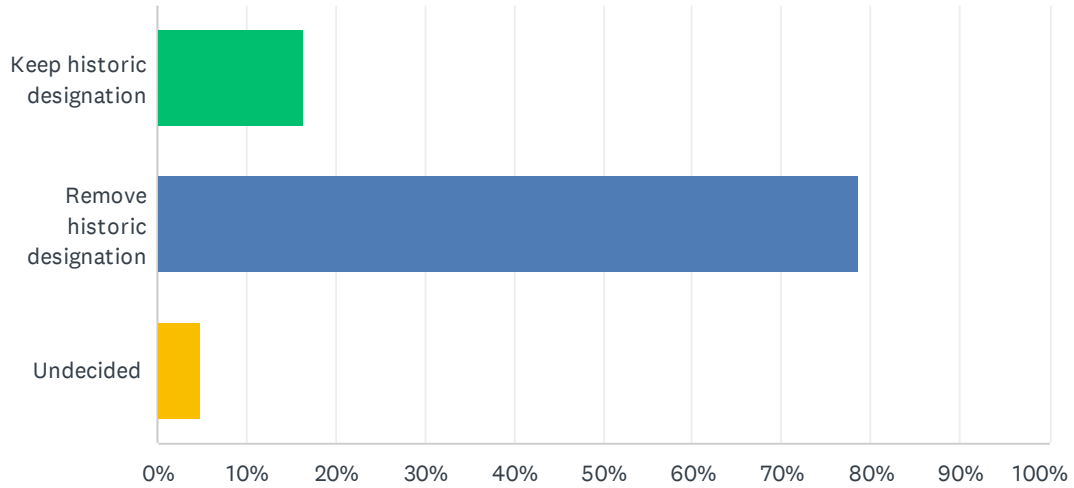
As we investigate the opportunity to expand our building to offer more services, we have run into a road block. While our original field stone building was built in 1899, the secondary expansion where the brown brick work begins wasn't added until the late 1960's. The library is registered as a state historical site (hence the marker on our front lawn). The state history center considers the late 1960s add on to be part of the historic status and will not allow us to alter it in any way.

This leaves us with two options should we want to expand. Option one is to keep our historic status and build a completely separate building which would be considerably more expensive to construct, staff, and maintain. Option two is to withdraw the historic status with the state. They would then remove the historic marker which would allow us to expand the building off the 1960s addition while still preserving the original 1899 portion. We have no desire to alter the treasured historic nature of our field-stone building, but the historic status marker is creating barriers to advancement while not providing many benefits in return.

As we a community centered resource, we want to hear from our community on this issue. What do you think we should do?

Q1 What do you think the library should do in regards to its state historic status?

Answered: 103 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Keep historic designation	16.50%
Remove historic designation	78.64%
Undecided	4.85%
TOTAL	

Q2 Comments

Answered: 43 Skipped: 60

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	As long as the original part of the building will stay intact I say remove the historical marker and add on to the 60's addition!	6/12/2024 10:33 AM
2	Is the library able to reapply for the historic marker to exclude the addition that was done in the 1960s? I would prefer one space as my family uses the library often and I think it will be more efficient. However I do want the historic front and field stone protected and enjoy the historic marker. Thank you for consideration community thoughts on our beloved library.	6/12/2024 9:57 AM
3	It's a shame the state considers the 1960s addition part of the historic status. That is unfair of them. Do what is best for the library and community. If the historic status is doing nothing more than providing a plaque, it makes sense to let that go so you can continue to build what is best for the community.	6/12/2024 8:32 AM
4	History preservation is more important than expanding the building imo.	6/11/2024 9:10 PM
5	I would like to see you expand to match the foot print of the original building and add a floor and basement space.	6/11/2024 7:01 PM
6	Addition for programming needed.	6/7/2024 2:23 AM
7	My grandkids would rather go to Henika than their brand new library in Allendale. It's cute, homey, like a place to curl up with a good book	6/5/2024 6:20 PM
8	We love the library! However, we also want to see the expansion. Much more important than the historic status.	6/5/2024 4:01 PM
9	The community trusts that the library will still respect the historic building, but having the flexibility to make the necessary changes for our community is important.	6/5/2024 4:00 PM
10	i think it is a good idea to be able to expand the learning environment of our young readers !	6/5/2024 12:50 PM
11	Definitely remove the sign and modernize!	6/5/2024 11:53 AM
12	Is there a way to have the designation redone? Reassessing so the 1899 portion is only historical?	6/5/2024 11:38 AM
13	Is it possible to remove the stand holding the sign, and keep the sign as a plaque to mount indoors? The history is quite interesting!	6/5/2024 8:57 AM
14	Petition the state to have the 1960s part of the library removed from the historic designation of the building. Keep the historic designation on the 1899 portion.	6/4/2024 10:15 PM
15	In order to continue to grow and provide for the community, more space is needed. Historical status is just status.	6/4/2024 10:15 PM
16	The expansion of the library may require the loss of the historic designation. The library really needs to expand to properly serve the community. It is presently under utilized now.	6/4/2024 8:27 PM
17	I would vote remove the designation but we need more parking as that parking that is their now is not feasible for older people and trying to get out of there and if you would tell the dentist office etc. to park in their own parking spots back there we would even have more room to park.. You are losing many patrons because of the parking!!!!	6/4/2024 7:25 PM
18	We look forward to the expansion!	6/4/2024 6:55 PM
19	I think that having access to a larger number of books and resources outweighs having a "historical building" status. I believe it would be more beneficial to the community. The original	6/4/2024 5:07 PM

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structure as you state, must remain unaltered! It is an integral part of Wayland history! That being said, expansion seems to be necessary. I remember growing up in Rochester, MI, the library was my favorite place to go. It was huge and had so much to offer and I hope Wayland's library can do the same for the youth around here!

20	I would like you to be able to expand but keep the stone building intact.	6/4/2024 3:07 PM
21	While this is such a tough choice, being able to add on to the current building and still maintain the original parts seems more important (to me) than spending the money to build an entire new library. Just give the old building a little facelift ;)	6/4/2024 3:06 PM
22	More information is needed. What do the current expansion plans look like? Where is the addition going to be built? In what style of architecture, with what kind of materials? What amenities will actually be added? I lean toward keeping the historic designation, because these types of questions have not been answered satisfactorily; additionally, purchase requests have gone unacknowledged. It seems, despite these surveys, that no one actually cares about what the community thinks and wants, but is only sending this survey to appear to take our thoughts into consideration.	6/4/2024 3:03 PM
23	Our Community is growing so much. The building is outdated and cannot keep up with today's standards. Even adding on will not give enough space and will still be outdated. Dorr, Byron Center and Caledonia are much nicer facilities and offer so much more.	6/4/2024 2:53 PM
24	Although the historic designation is really cool, the fact that it's considered the "new" side and not the old side really is pointless. The front of the building is the really gorgeous part that I love showing off. I would love a bigger library to help the community, our library is just so small and while I also love the quaintness, I mostly get holds from other libraries brought in and rarely find myself exploring the shelves we have after checking the coop site and seeing we don't have it. While everything should be expanded I personally would love to see the basement turned into the kids area (or just teens) and have kids and teens separated. I am an adult and read mainly YA and always feel a bit strange going downstairs because I feel out of place.	6/3/2024 11:52 AM
25	Allow the Library to grow and better the community!	6/2/2024 11:33 PM
26	Just please do always keep the front fields tone portion!	6/2/2024 9:04 PM
27	Remove it if there is no benefit to keeping the designation.	6/2/2024 5:44 PM
28	If there is no major benefit of having the historic status (no financial benefit, other protections, etc), then I would say remove it. A cool plaque is nice, but what's even better is a library that is able to serve the community in every way possible.	6/2/2024 5:02 PM
29	Grow!!!	6/2/2024 5:01 PM
30	I hate to see this done but I truly believe library's and reading is the better way for the future.	6/2/2024 10:38 AM
31	It's just a legality. Don't let it hinder growth and improvement!	6/1/2024 9:40 PM
32	While the history is cool it really doesn't benefit the patrons to be considered "historic" I would love to see a more modernized library constructed.	6/1/2024 9:20 PM
33	Having most of the original architecture is amazing, but libraries must grow with their communities!	6/1/2024 7:59 PM
34	The historic status of the building gives this institution a barrier of protection from future generations and or boards of directors who might choose to do further alterations/damage to the original structure. That designation is the single most important defense against anything that would compromise the structure from indiscriminate changes.	6/1/2024 7:23 PM
35	Libraries are not monuments, they are there to support the community in their literacy. Expansion is important!	6/1/2024 6:48 PM
36	2 buildings would not be cost effective.	6/1/2024 6:05 PM
37	This little town is going to grow in leaps and bounds in the next decade. You need a space that can handle that. If you cannot remove the Historical designation then you should relocate.	6/1/2024 5:28 PM

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There are empty buildings available within the city limits. You have to do what is best for the community and NOT worry about children accessing after school. There is always the possibility of arranging bussing through the school district. Has that been explored?

38	Keep the historic look to the front, but add on	6/1/2024 3:58 PM
39	We enjoy visiting the library and look forward to what new opportunities this will provide for the community!	6/1/2024 3:39 PM
40	I think a building expansion offers a lot more to the future of our community than a historic designation. Everyone in city will know it's historic importance, no need for a title that is just holding it back.	6/1/2024 3:36 PM
41	The community has waited long enough for an addition to the current building. Please move forward and get it done already.	6/1/2024 3:24 PM
42	I think the historic designation is cool, but at the end of the day, if you plan to keep the historic original part and just add to the building, I think it still will have it's historic and nostalgic feel, while allow you all to work within a better budget, and saving money means more opportunities to bring more to the community! Apologies for this run-on sentence.	6/1/2024 3:12 PM
43	You can always put plaques up that post the history of it and still make an honorable area, make like a memorial and going into the newer part of the building tell a story about how "Wayland grew and grew" kinda of thing for kids	6/1/2024 3:07 PM