

OLATHE HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD

Public Hearing Minutes – December 10, 2025

Meeting called to order at 3:01 p.m. by Chair Tom Kearney. In attendance were members Tom Kearney, Lynn Gentry, Bob Courtney, Rick Babson, Emma Plankers, and Lexi Selvig; City staff attending included Emily Carrillo and Anna Will.

HL25-0001 (126 S. Cherry Street)

Chair Kearney introduced HL25-0001, a request to nominate 126 S. Cherry Street to the Olathe Register of Historic Places.

Ms. Carrillo presented the application, describing the property's location, history as a former post office, and its prior identification as an eligible landmark. She explained that the nomination was initiated in conjunction with an active FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant sought by the Gurdwara Nanak Sikh Temple to improve safety while preserving historic features. FEMA prepared the nomination application including photos along with the property owner's consent. Ms. Carrillo also noted an existing Exterior Preservation Easement was recorded in 2013 which requires that any major changes to the exterior would not be permitted without additional review and approval. Regardless of the nomination status, this easement is recorded and governs the property.

Ms. Carrillo reviewed the nomination criteria outlined in Chapter 2.84 of the Olathe Municipal Code, noting the property met Criteria #1 and #3:

- (1) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of history of the City, county, state or nation;*
- (3) Embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; represents the work of a master builder/architect; possesses high artistic values; or represents a distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction;*

She confirmed that only one criterion is required. She also summarized consistency with the PlanOlathe Comprehensive Plan and the Historic Preservation Master Plan. She stated City staff recommended approval of the nomination with no stipulations. The application would proceed to the Planning Commission on January 26, 2026, and City Council on February 17, 2026.

Board discussion followed, including questions about FEMA timelines, procedural requirements, and concern to not cause the applicant any undue delay.

Ms. Carrillo explained that no bonding or time restrictions were imposed by the City and that FEMA timelines governed the process.

Chair Kearney asked what alterations had been made to the building.

Board members discussed alterations to the building, including possible additions (wings), a basement believed to be original, and historic catwalk features from its time as a post office.

Ms. Selvig sought additional clarification regarding FEMA's role.

Ms. Carrillo responded, noting FEMA had completed the architectural survey, photographs, inventory, and statement of significance.

Chair Kearney called for any additional questions and noted, when the Historic Board initially approached the property owner representative about possible designation, he was hesitant. Chair Kearney noted he was appreciative that the applicant later expressed support for the nomination and demonstrated a willingness to pursue local historic recognition.

Ms. Carrillo added the Board didn't require any work in addition to what FEMA already had to do for their process.

Discussion also touched on the status of a historic mural previously associated with the site, which previously relocated to the downtown library in 1984.

Ms. Selvig noted the importance of supporting safety.

Chair Kearney noted the applicant was not present for any comments.

Chair Kearney opened the public hearing, but there was no public comment, nor speakers signed up to speak.

A motion to close the public hearing was made by Mr. Courtney, seconded by Ms. Selvig, and passed unanimously by a vote of 6 to 0.

A motion to approve HL25-0001 was made by Mr. Babson and seconded by Mr. Courtney. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 6 to 0. The Board recommended approval of the nomination.

HL25-0002 (600 E Park Street)

Chair Kearney introduced HL25-0002, a request to nominate 600 E. Park Street to the Olathe Register of Historic Places.

Ms. Carrillo read an email from the applicants requesting withdrawal of their application due to concerns about future resale limitations.

Board members discussed misconceptions about historic designation and the need for better public education through events like the Historic Homes Tour, printed materials, the City website, OlatheLink, and social media, including information on grants and benefits of designation.

Ms. Selvig moved to continue HL25-0002 to allow additional information to be shared with the applicants, and Ms. Plankers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 6 to 0.