

City of Calistoga Planning Commission

Agenda Item Summary

DATE

March 13, 2019

ITEM

Calistoga Distillery

Conceptual Design Review CDR 2019-1

PROPERTY ADDRESS

1345 Lincoln Avenue

ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NOS.

011-221-019 and 011-221-020

GENERAL PLAN DESIGNATION

Downtown Commercial

ZONING DISTRICT

DC: Downtown Commercial

APPLICANT

John Hardesty

STAFF CONTACT

Zach Tusinger, Senior Planner

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS

Commissioner Abernathy

RECOMMENDATION

Review the conceptual plans, receive comments from the owner, the project team and the public,

and provide preliminary comments.

CALISTOGA PLANNING COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

To: Calistoga Planning Commission

From: Zach Tusinger, Senior Planner

Meeting Date: March 13, 2019

Subject: Calistoga Distillery – Conceptual Design Review (CDR 2019-1)

1345 Lincoln Avenue

ITEM

Review of conceptual plans for a proposed redesign of the seismic retrofit and the adaptation of the property for use as a bar and distillery. The potential project site includes the two-story building at 1345 Lincoln Avenue and the vacant parcel behind it (APNs 011-221-019 and 011-221-020).

KEY ISSUES

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- Revised plans for a seismic retrofit of an historic building
- Appropriateness of change of use to distillery
- Modest increase in required parking
- Reconfiguration of rear parcel and access from Washington Street
- Need for additional information to understand potential impacts to public utilities

PROPERTY BACKGROUND

The two-story building at 1345 Lincoln Avenue was constructed in 1887 for the International Order of the Odd Fellows and is currently occupied by retail and office uses. The Calistoga Building Official has declared the property's primary structure to be an unreinforced masonry building and is required by the Calistoga Municipal Code to be seismically retrofitted to ensure public safety.

A 2017 historic resource evaluation of the property concluded that the structure is eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources because it is an excellent example of the Romanesque Revival architectural style. The building design utilizes key elements and character-defining features of this



1345 Lincoln Avenue

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style, including molded semi-circular window openings, a molded belt, decorative cornice molding, column capitals and heavily-massed brick construction.

The building permit application submitted for the seismic retrofit of the structure in 2018 proposed to reinforce the northern half of the building by applying concrete to two exterior walls. Calistoga Municipal Code (CMC) Section 17.41.020(B)(4) requires design review by the Planning Commission of alterations to structures listed or eligible for inclusion on a federal, state or local inventory of historic or cultural resources. The seismic retrofit design was therefore referred to the Calistoga Building Standards Advisory and Appeals Board for its input as to whether the exterior retrofit approach is justified. On April 11, 2018, the Board acted to unanimously support the exterior retrofitting approach, subject to design review approval by the Planning Commission. The retrofit plan relied on the application of exterior concrete ('shotcrete') to the side and rear facades. The Planning Commission approved the retrofit plan on August 22, 2018.

This section of Lincoln Avenue includes several tasting rooms, retail shops, restaurants, a bank, and second-floor offices. The property next door at 1339 Lincoln is slated to be demolished due to its inability to be seismically retrofitted. No plans for the future use of that property have been submitted.

PURPOSE OF REVIEW

The Conceptual Design Review process provides an opportunity for a property owner or developer to receive feedback on a development concept prior to submitting a formal development application. The scope of Conceptual Design Review encompasses all aspects of a project and allows for identification and discussion of potential issues at the earliest stage in the development process. It is the City's expectation that the property owner will use the feedback received through this process as guidance when preparing the formal development application.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The applicant is in contract to purchase the building at 1345 Lincoln Avenue and the adjacent parcel to the rear of the building. The intent is to redesign the seismic retrofit to better preserve the historic architecture and to modify the interior of the building and the adjacent parcel to accommodate a whiskey distillery that includes a bar and retail area. Long-term plans may involve the addition of a microbrewery on the site.

The proposed changes to the seismic upgrade plans would shift most of the modifications to the interior of the building. The advantage of this approach is that it would result in only very minor changes to the appearance of the historic structure, rather than the large-scale encasing of the building's side and rear facades in concrete as was planned in the previously-approved retrofit. Exact details of the new seismic retrofit plan are still being determined. If feasible, the applicant also proposes to add windows to the side of the building on the first floor along the alleyway that connects Lincoln Avenue to the parcel to the rear. These windows must to be taken into account when designing the seismic retrofit and planning any upgrades for fire protection.

The applicant intends to rehabilitate the front façade of the building, notably restoring the first-floor storefronts to a more historically-accurate appearance. On the interior, a yet undefined retail area related to the distillery would occupy the 48 feet of storefront along Lincoln Avenue. A bar area for whiskey tasting would be included. Outdoor seating is also contemplated for part of the outdoor area on the adjacent parcel to the rear. Tours of the distillery facility are anticipated to be part of the project's programming.

A portion of the second floor would be removed to accommodate the vertical height of the distilling equipment. Some of the second floor would be retained as a mezzanine level that would accommodate ancillary uses like office space and storage.

On the rear parcel, parking, outdoor seating, and landscaping are proposed. There is a right-of-way that extends from Washington Avenue, alongside the Police Department building to the edge of the rear parcel. While the exact nature of the access rights through that right-of-way are still to be determined, the conceptual plan anticipates using it as access to the parcel for customer parking, truck deliveries, and fire access. Currently it is anticipated that trucks will need access approximately four times per week.

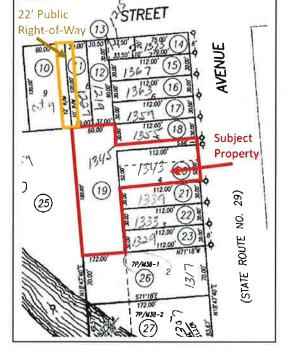
The applicant intends for this project to complement any future plans for the Sharpsteen Plaza area.

ANALYSIS

The project's preliminary consistency with the City's applicable plans, policies and codes is evaluated below.

Calistoga General Plan

The project site is designated by the General



Location of right-of-way

Plan's Land Use Map as Downtown Commercial. The Downtown Commercial designation applies to properties located on the central portion of Lincoln Avenue. This area provides retail and other business uses for visitors and residents. The principal uses are to be stores and other retail facilities, offices, restaurants, bars and visitor accommodations. The Downtown Character Area overlay, which also applies to this property, encourages and supports a diversity of land uses. The proposed distillery would be a unique business that is of a type not currently present in Calistoga.

The Community Identity element encourages the preservation of historic properties such as the building at 1345 Lincoln Avenue through "restoration, sensitive renovation and adaptive reuse." (Community Identity Policy 3.1-1). Final plans for the retrofit and the modifications for the distillery will need to be considered in this context.

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Zoning Code

The project site is zoned Downtown Commercial (DC). Certain uses involving alcohol require approval of a conditional use permit in this district. Additional information and plans will be required from the applicant that demonstrate there will be no noxious odors or fumes, noise, vibration, or potential for hazard and explosion resulting from the presence of the distillery use, in accordance with Section 17.21.050(A)(8) of the Calistoga Municipal Code.

There would be a limited increase in parking requirements for this change of use based on the conceptual plans. In the building's current configuration, 20 parking spaces are required (14 for retail on the first floor, and 6 for office space on the second floor). Based on preliminary calculations for the proposal, there would be a net increase of 5 spaces to a total of 25 parking spaces needed for the proposed use. While an exact configuration has not yet been determined, the applicant intends to provide some additional parking on the adjacent rear parcel.

Public Works and Fire Department Review

This project will likely result in increased demands on public utility systems, including water, sewer and storm drainage facilities. Preliminary comments from the Public Works Department indicate the need for additional information related to water usage, the amount and nature of sewage, and a potential need for off-site improvements. Any improvements to the rear parcel will need to be studied closely for impacts to stormwater runoff.

Additional information is also needed from the applicant regarding the distillery equipment, production capacity, storage of materials, and setup. Beyond fire sprinklers, it is possible that additional fire and building code safety provisions could be triggered due to this occupancy type.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Consideration of the Conceptual Design Review application is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as no approvals or entitlements are being requested or will be granted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

As of March 8, 2019, no public comments had been received regarding this project.

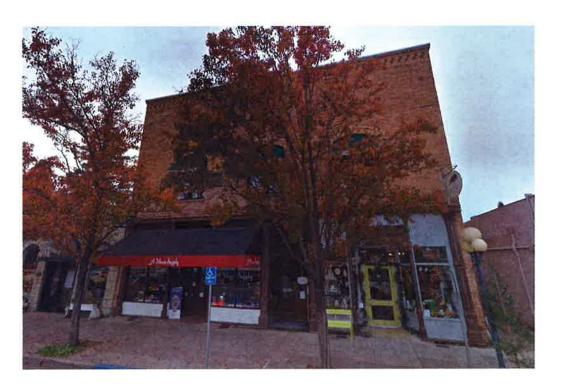
RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission review the conceptual site plan and renderings, receive comments from the applicant, the project team and the public, and provide preliminary comments to the applicant and staff. It should be noted that Planning Commission comments during conceptual design review are advisory only and should not be considered by the applicant to be requirements or an endorsement of the project until a complete application is considered through the formal review process.

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ATTACHMENTS

- 1. Conceptual Design Review Submission
- 2. Vicinity Map



1345 LINCOLN AVENUE CALISTOGA DISTILLERY

1345 LINCOLN AVE, CALISTOGA
CONCEPTUAL DESIGN
REVIEW SUBMISSION

FEBRUARY 13th, 2019



CALISTOGA DISTILLERS

CONTEXT

Calistoga Distillers have agreed to purchase 1345 Lincoln Avenue, Calistoga, and the 26-acre vacant parcel to the rear thereof, subject to a feasibility study period during which the viability for their envisaged use of the building must be determined before the sale is finalized.

To that end, this document sets out the Conceptual Design envisaged for the project in terms of the proposed uses, site access to facilitate that use, intent for the required seismic upgrade of the building, and early design intentions.

VISION

Calistoga Distillers intends to construct a distillery that produces barrel-aged whiskey, with an ultimate intention that it be distilled from beer brewed at the same location. This initial proposal is for the whiskey distillery only, with the brewery component forming part of a potential future phase.

Tours of the facility and tastings of the product are envisaged to be part of the plan. Additionally, a possible beer garden is proposed in which visitors can sample the beers from which the whiskeys are distilled.

CHANGE OF USE

The existing building will require change of use from the existing first floor retail and second floor business (office space) to a new distillery. Additionally, there will be retail with ancillary tasting facilities to the Lincoln Avenue frontage, and a bar to the rear engaging with a future Sharpsteen Plaza and connections to the Napa River, which are intended to be preserved.

HISTORIC CHARACTER AND STRUCTURAL DESIGN

1345 Lincoln Ave has been identified as an important amenity with respect to the historic character and urban fabric of the City of Calistoga. The building, however, does not meet the current structural requirements of the California Building Code and requires a significant seismic upgrade.

Calistoga Distillers' vision is to retain the integrity of that historic character and safeguard it against future earthquakes through an internal seismic upgrade retrofit.

OPERATION

Hours of operation, while not finalized, are intened to be at least 9am-11pm, seven days per week.

Five employees are anticipated for the manufacturing operation, with five-to-seven further anticipated for the tasting room (retail & bar) operations.

LOGISTICS

Based on the anticipated operations, it is estimated that delivery & collection access for 24' trucks at a frequency of four visits per week will be required.

It is envisaged that the vacant parcel to the rear will be utilized for parking, loading, landscaping, and a beer garden with space for approx. 30-40 people.

PROJECT LOCATION



SITE LOCATION PLAN
1345 LINCOLN AVENUE, CALISTOGA, NAPA COUNTY, CA
APN 011-221-020-000 & 011-221-019-00 / City of Calistoga Zoning: DC

WHO WE ARE

PROSPECTIVE OWNER

HUNDRED ACRE WINE GROUP / ONE TRUE VINE, LLC 1345 RAILROAD AVE, STE. 2A ST. HELENA. CA 94574 P: 707.322.6311

CONTACTS: EMAIL:

JOHN HARDESTY, CEO iohn@hundredacre.com

PROJECT ARCHITECTS

WILLIAM DUFF ARCHITECTS 1531 MISSION ST. SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103 P: 415.371.0900

CONTACTS: EMAIL:

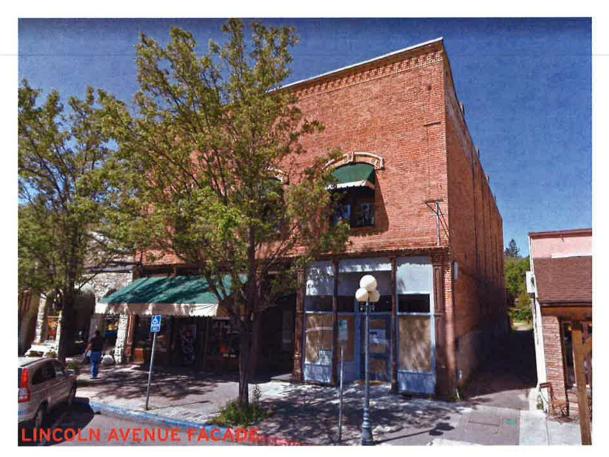
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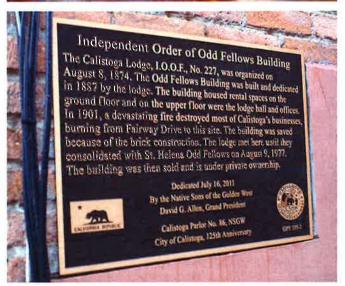










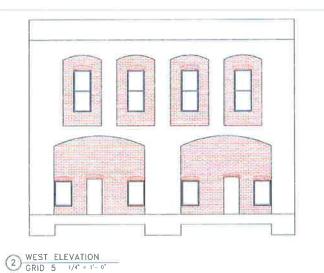






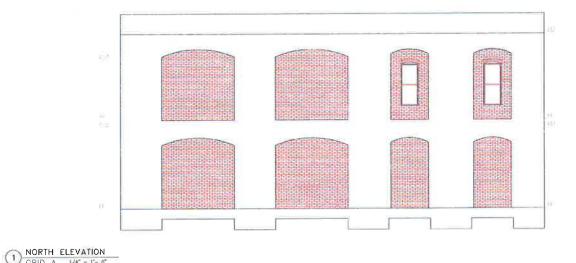


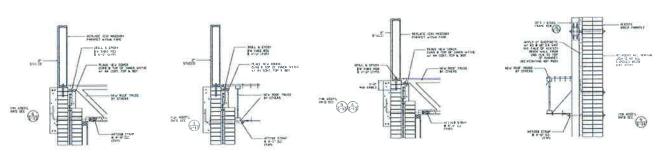




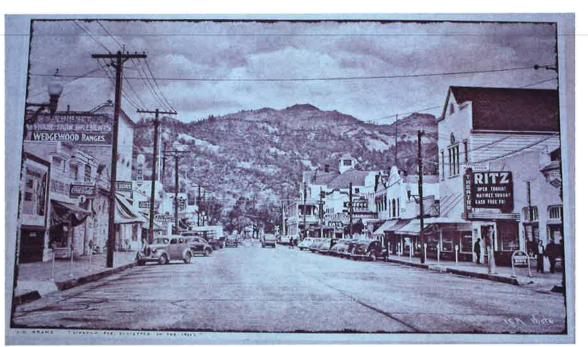


1 EAST ELEVATION
GRID 1 1/4" = 1"- 0"





PREVIOUSLY APPROVED, EXTERNALLY APPLIED SEISMIC UPGRADE STRUCTURAL SOLUTION (NO LONGER GOING FORWARD)



Circa. 1930s CALISTOGA The Odd Fellows Hall to the left middle ground



Circa. 1905 CALISTOGA
The Odd Fellows Hall to the right middle ground

HISTORIC CHARACTER

THE ODD FELLOWS HALL WAS CONSTRUCTED IN 1887 BY A LOCAL MASON WITH BRICK SUPPLIED FROM A KILN LESS THAN 2mi FROM CALISTOGA.

THE ODD FELLOWS
ORGANIZATION UTILIZED THE
SECOND FLOOR FOR MEETINGS
AND LODGING. THE FIRST
FLOOR WAS LEASED AND USED
FOR RETAIL.

THIS BUILDING, IN PARTICULAR THE EAST FACADE, IS PROMINENT IN CALISTOGA AND ITS RETENTION IS CRITICAL TO MAINTAINING THE CULTURAL CHARACTER OF THE CITY AND LINCOLN AVENUE AS ITS FOCAL POINT AND PRIMARY THOROUGHFARE.

SEISMIC UPGRADE

THE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED STRUCTURAL SOLUTION, WHICH IS NO LONGER GOING FORWARD, EMPLOYED THE USE OF EXTERNALLY APPLIED SHOT CRETE TO THE NORTH AND WEST (REAR) FACADES TO SEISMICALLY UPGRADE THE STRUCTURE.

THE NEW PROPOSAL WILL EMPLOY AN INTERNAL SEISMIC UPGRADE RETROFIT TO PRESERVE THE HISTORIC AMENITY AND WILL CONSIST OF EITHER;

- CONCRETE SHEAR WALLS,
- A STEEL FRAMED SYSTEM SUCH AS MOMENT FRAME,
 OP
- BRACED FRAMES, AND WOOD/HEAVY TIMBER FRAMING







CELEBRATE HISTORIC CHARACTER

THE HISTORIC FACADE'S
CHARACTER WILL BE
PRESERVED THROUGH AN
INTERNAL SEISMIC RETROFIT
UPGRADE.

ANY NECESSARY ALTERATIONS OR ADDITIONS, ARISING FROM PROGRAMMATIC REQUIREMENTS, WILL ADHERE TO AND MAXIMIZE THE INTEGRITY OF THE HISTORIC CHARACTER OF THE EXISTING FACADE AND LINCOLN AVENUE.

ACTIVATE FACADES

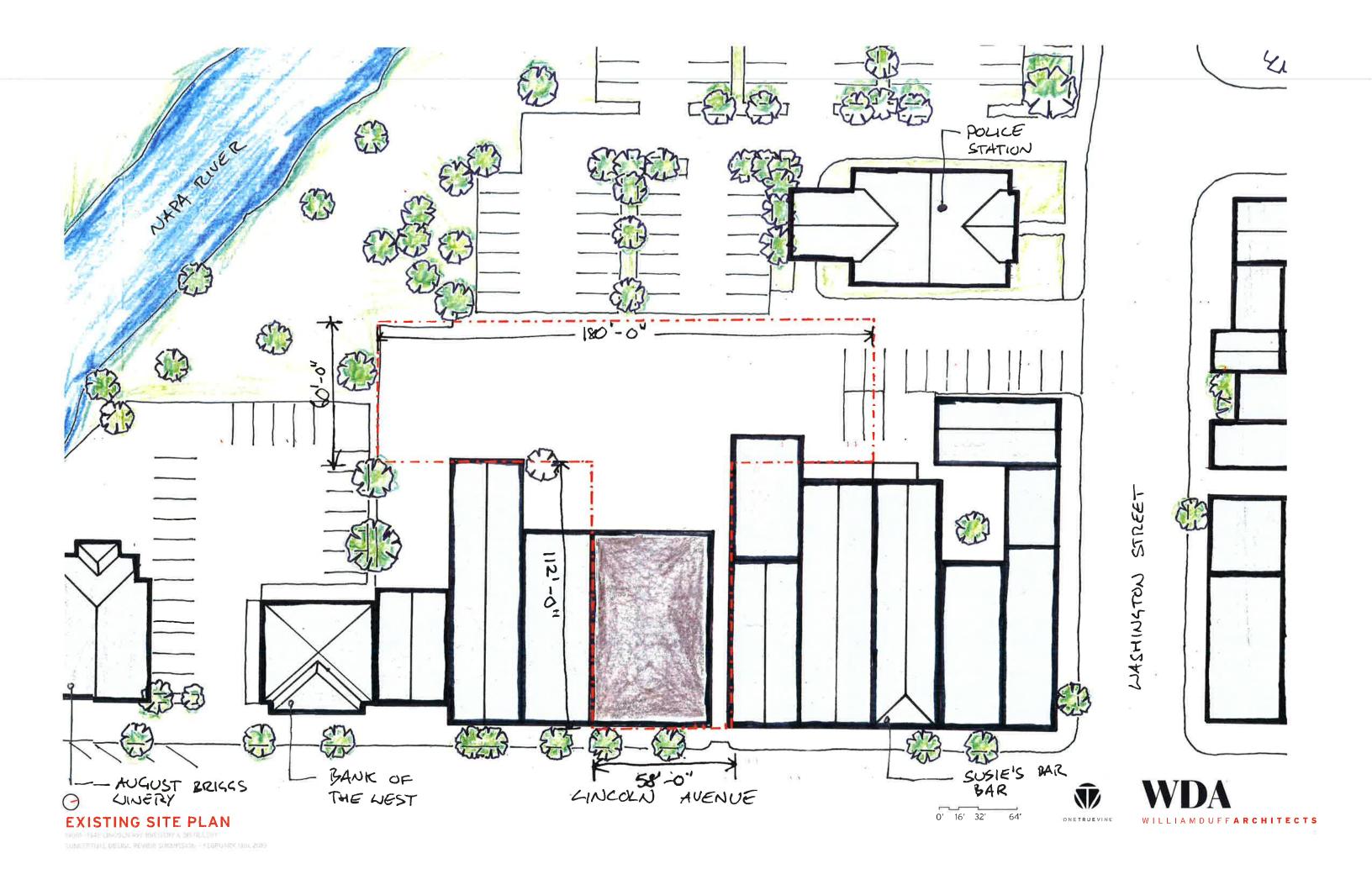
THE CONCEPTUAL INTENT IS FOR THE EXISTING ALLEYWAY TO ENHANCE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN LINCOLN AVENUE AND THE REAR OF THE SITE.

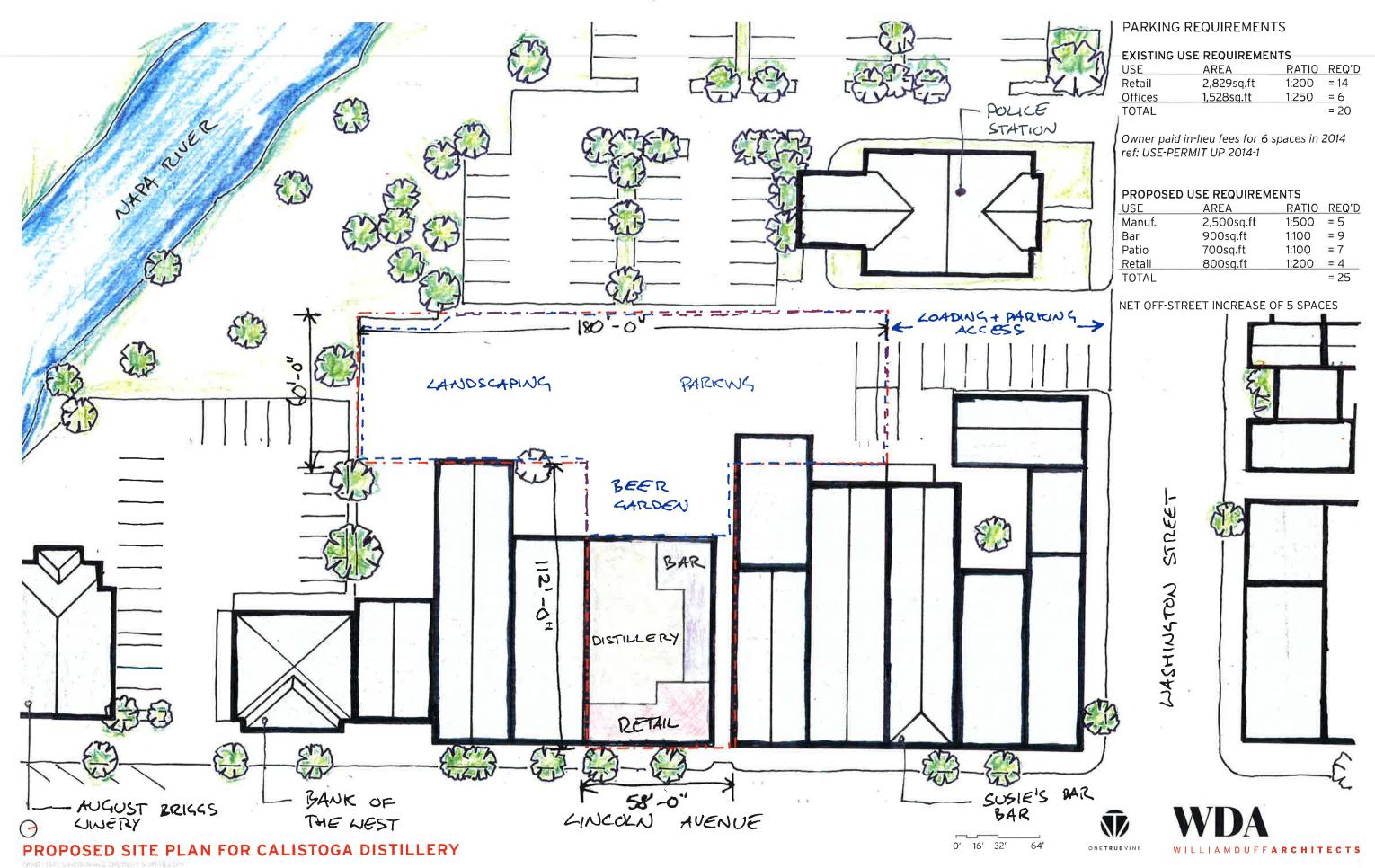
THIS WILL BE ACHIEVED
THROUGH NEW WINDOWS
ACTIVATING THE FACADE ALONG
WITH AN UPGRADE OF THE
EXISTING PAVING SURFACE.

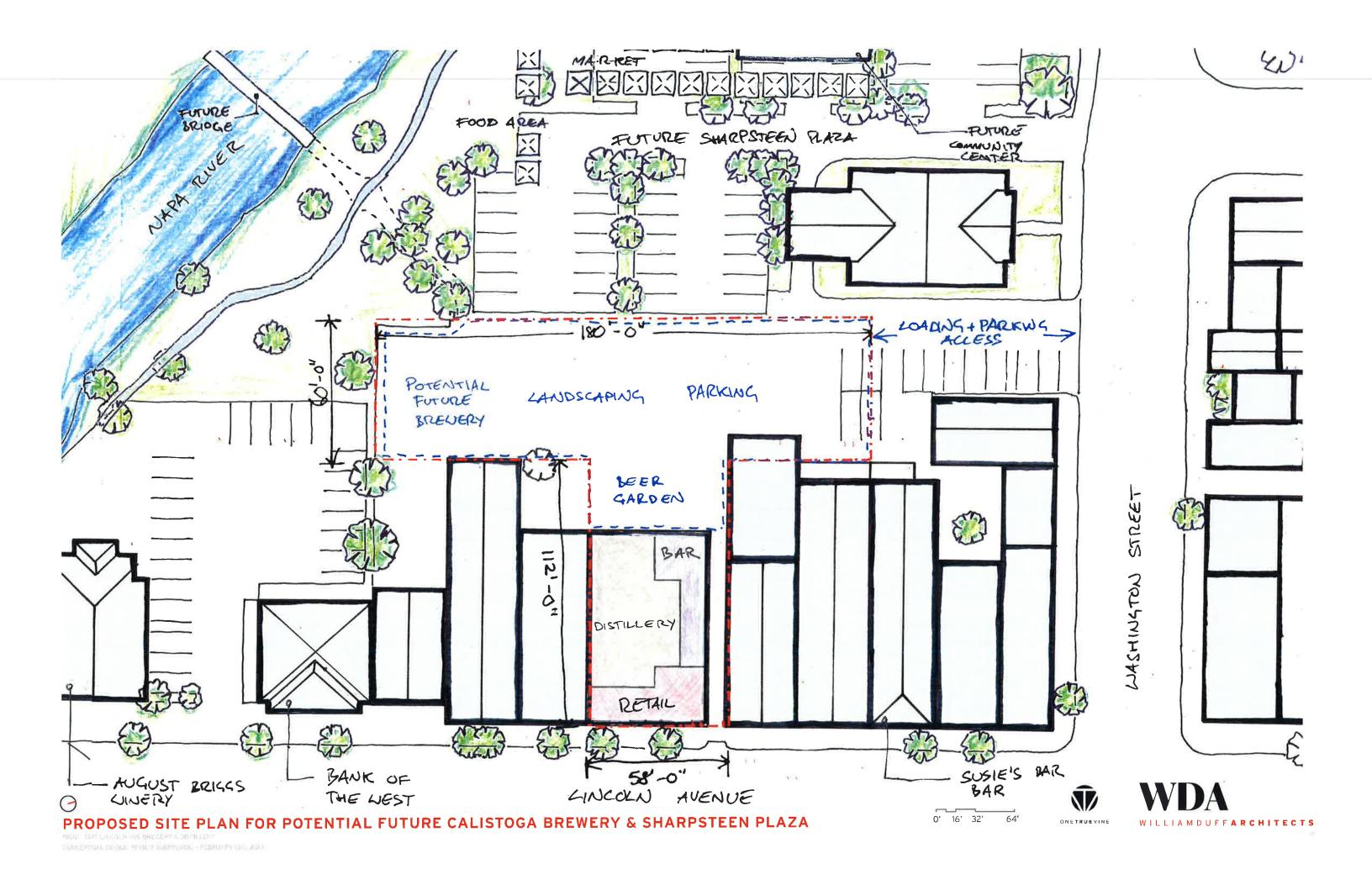
THIS WOULD SERVE TO CREATE A MORE INVITING SPACE WHICH WILL DRAW PEOPLE THROUGH TO THE AMENITIES IN THE REAR AND TO THE FUTURE SHARPSTEEN PLAZA.

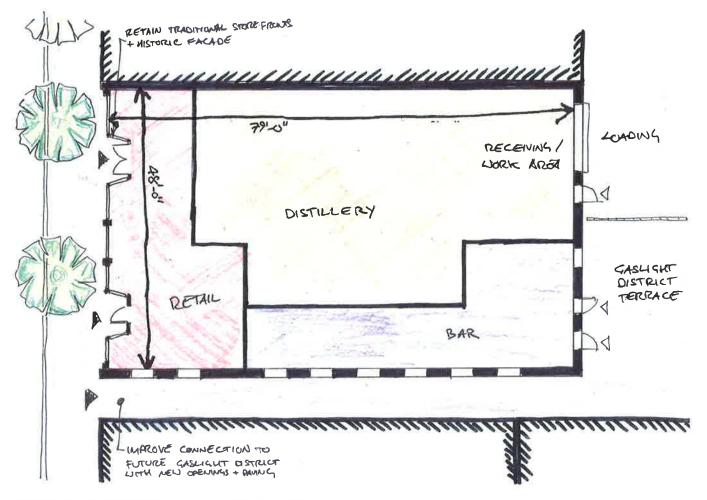






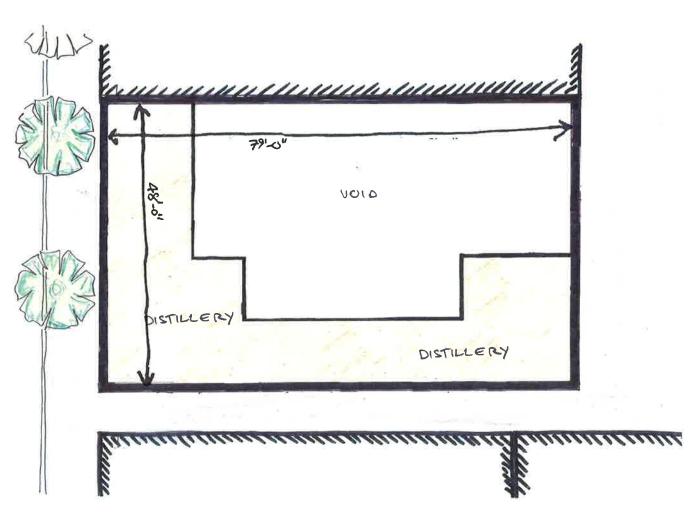






PROPOSED CONCEPTUAL FIRST FLOOR

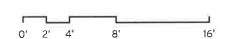
- RETAIL USE ACTIVATES LINCOLN AVENUE
- BAR USE ACTIVATES ALLEY & REAR OF SITE
- WHISKEY MANUFACTURING IS FOCAL POINT



PROPOSED CONCEPTUAL SECOND FLOOR MEZZANINE

- VOID OVER DISTILLING AREA
- ANCILLARY DISTILLERY USE SPACES OCCUPY MEZZANINE FLOOR (OFFICES / STORAGE / ETC.)









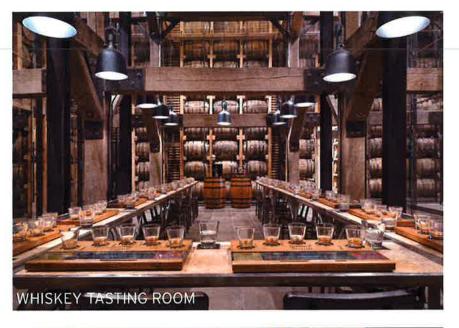












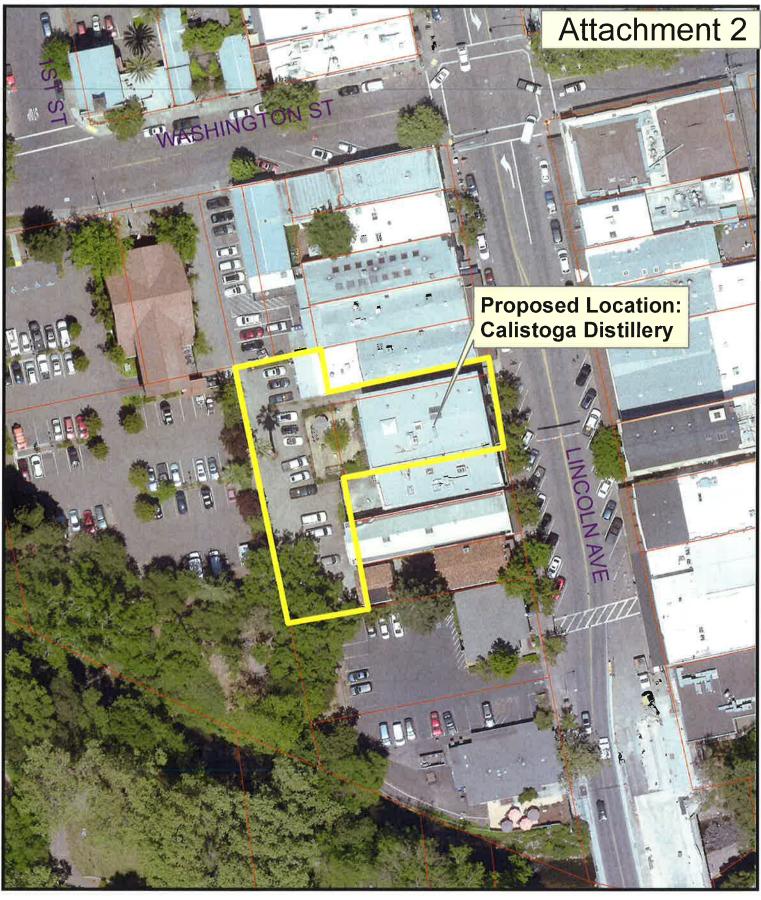






THANK YOU





LOCATION MAP
Calistoga Distillery
CDR 2019-1

