



The City of Seattle

Pioneer Square Preservation Board

Mailing Address: PO Box 94649, Seattle WA 98124-4649

Street Address: 600 4th Avenue, 4th Floor

PSB168/25

Staff Report

Board meeting July 9, 2025

Board Members Please Note: The citations from the District Ordinance, Rules for the Pioneer Square Preservation District, and Secretary of the Interior's Standards listed below are for your consideration in addition to any other citations you find relevant in considering each application.

070925.51 J and M building -Annex building/Little Collins Building

201 1st Ave S

Applicant: Matt Allfs, Building Work

Proposed: Demolition of the rear walls, the portion referred to as the Little Collins building or the Annex as phase one of rehabilitation

Staff report: The Board has reviewed several proposals for the rehabilitation of the J and M building. The most recent was a Certificate of Approval from 2017 rehabilitation of the J and M which included demolition of the Little Collins/Annex planned to salvage the bricks to clad the new walls exterior wall and install a new storefront on the Washington St façade where the original storefront was missing had been replaced with a wood wall. In 2017, the structural report showed that the walls and foundation were structurally unsound and could not be repaired as existing. This structural report is included in the application as well as an update to the report indicating that the wall has further bulged. The new owner of the building intends to rehabilitate the building but is not proposing to salvage and reuse the bricks in the rebuilding of the back portion of the building.

While the back portion of the building referred to as the Little Collins or annex were built separately, the historic report shows they were combined with the J and M early on. The National Register nomination explains that the Little Collins building by itself is not distinguished architecturally, but because it is adjoined to the J and M which does have historical significance it was considered contributing also.

The property owner is asking the Board to consider demolition under SMC23.66.115 B will they continue with rehabilitation plans and new construction for this portion of the building.

Code Citations:

Seattle Municipal Code

23.66.030 Certificates of Approval required

Certificate of approval required. No person shall alter, demolish, construct, reconstruct, restore, remodel, make any visible change to the exterior appearance of any structure, or to the public rights-of-way or other public spaces in a special review district, and no one shall remove or substantially alter any existing sign or erect or place any new sign or change the principal use of any building, or any portion of a building, structure or lot in a special review district, and no permit for such activity shall be issued unless a certificate of approval has been issued by the Department of Neighborhoods Director.

23.66.115 Demolition approval

A. Demolition or removal of buildings or other structures in the District is prohibited unless approved by the Department of Neighborhoods Director. Except as provided in subsection B below, no approval shall be given for building demolition or removal unless the following prerequisites are met:

1. The Director of Neighborhoods, following a recommendation by the Preservation Board, determines that the building or structure has no architectural or historic significance; and
2. Use and design of the replacement structure has been approved by the Department of Neighborhoods Director; and
3. Proof acceptable to the Department of Neighborhoods Director of a valid commitment for interim and long-term financing for the replacement structure has been secured. In addition to other proof, the Department of Neighborhoods Director may accept a bond, letter of credit or cash deposit as a demonstration that the project has adequate financial backing to ensure completion; and
4. Satisfactory arrangements have been made for retention of any part of the structure's facade which the Department of Neighborhoods Director, following a recommendation by the Preservation Board, determines to be significant; and
5. Satisfactory assurance is provided that new construction will be completed within two (2) years of demolition.

B. When demolition or removal of a building or other structure in the District is essential to protect the public health, safety and welfare or when the purposes of this ordinance will be furthered by the demolition or removal, then the Director of Neighborhoods, following review and recommendation by the Board, may

authorize such demolition or removal whether the prerequisites of this Section 23.66.115 are satisfied or not.

Rules for the Pioneer Square Preservation District

III. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR REHABILITATION AND NEW CONSTRUCTION

Rehabilitation is defined as the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values.

Secretary of Interior's Standard for Rehabilitation

1. A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces and spatial relationships.
2. The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.
3. Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other historic properties, will not be undertaken.
4. Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.
5. Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.
6. Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.
7. Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.
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 would be unimpaired.

Issued: July 2, 2025
Genna Nashem
Pioneer Square Preservation Board Coordinator