



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**August 21, 2013**

**Ordinance 17635**

**Proposed No. 2013-0166.2**

**Sponsors Phillips**

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to landmarks; making a  
2 technical correction in the definition of "landmark"  
3 property and modifying the criterion for designating an  
4 historic resource as a King County landmark; and  
5 amending Ordinance 4828, Section 2, as amended, and  
6 K.C.C. 20.62.020 and Ordinance 4828, Section 4, as  
7 amended and K.C.C. 20.62.040.

8 **PREAMBLE:**

9 The King County Code provides the guidelines for evaluating historic  
10 properties for designation as King County landmarks. The King County  
11 landmarks commission, city landmark commissions and the general public  
12 use the guidelines for determining the significance of historic resources.

13 The King County Code contains an incorrect section reference which  
14 directs the reader to the wrong section of the code for explanation of the  
15 process. Additionally, the King County landmark designation criterion for  
16 determining the physical and historical integrity of a nominated property  
17 may be interpreted to be ambiguous. The criterion is intended to reflect  
18 the intent of the U.S. National Park Service standards for integrity. The  
19 King County landmarks commission believes that the proposed

20 King County landmarks commission believes that the proposed  
21 amendment will clarify the criterion and provide the flexibility required  
22 for evaluating varied historic resource types while meeting the spirit of the  
23 National Park Service standards.

24 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

25 SECTION 1. Ordinance 4828, Section 2, as amended, and K.C.C. 20.62.020 are  
26 hereby amended to read as follows:

27 The following words and terms shall, when used in this chapter, be defined as  
28 follows unless a different meaning clearly appears from the context:

29 A. "Alteration" is any construction, demolition, removal, modification,  
30 excavation, restoration or remodeling of a landmark.

31 B. "Building" is a structure created to shelter any form of human activity, such as  
32 a house, barn, church, hotel or similar structure. Building may refer to an historically  
33 related complex, such as a courthouse and jail or a house and barn.

34 C. "Certificate of appropriateness" is written authorization issued by the  
35 commission or its designee permitting an alteration to a significant feature of a  
36 designated landmark.

37 D. "Commission" is the landmarks commission created by this chapter.

38 E. "Community landmark" is an historic resource which has been designated  
39 pursuant to K.C.C. 20.62.040 but which may be altered or changed without application  
40 for or approval of a certificate of appropriateness.

41 F. "Designation" is the act of the commission determining that an historic  
42 resource meets the criteria established by this chapter.

43 G. "Designation report" is a report issued by the commission after a public  
44 hearing setting forth its determination to designate a landmark and specifying the  
45 significant feature or features thereof.

46 H. "Director" is the director of the King County department of permitting and  
47 environmental review or his or her designee.

48 I. "District" is a geographically definable area, urban or rural, possessing a  
49 significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects  
50 united by past events or aesthetically by plan or physical development. A district may  
51 also comprise individual elements separated geographically but linked by association or  
52 history.

53 J. "Heritage" is a discipline relating to historic preservation and archaeology,  
54 history, ethnic history, traditional cultures and folklore.

55 K. "Historic preservation officer" is the King County historic preservation officer  
56 or his or her designee.

57 L. "Historic resource" is a district, site, building, structure or object significant in  
58 national, state or local history, architecture, archaeology, and culture.

59 M. "Historic resource inventory" is an organized compilation of information on  
60 historic resources considered to be significant according to the criteria listed in K.C.C.  
61 20.62.040\_A. The historic resource inventory is kept on file by the historic preservation  
62 officer and is updated from time to time to include newly eligible resources and to reflect  
63 changes to resources.

64 N. "Incentives" are such compensation, rights or privileges or combination  
65 thereof, which the council, or other local, state or federal public body or agency, by virtue

66 of applicable present or future legislation, may be authorized to grant to or obtain for the  
67 owner or owners of designated landmarks. Examples of economic incentives include but  
68 are not limited to tax relief, conditional use permits, rezoning, street vacation, planned  
69 unit development, transfer of development rights, facade easements, gifts, preferential  
70 leasing policies, private or public grants in aid, beneficial placement of public  
71 improvements, or amenities, or the like.

72 O. "Interested person of record" is any individual, corporation, partnership or  
73 association which notifies the commission or the council in writing of its interest in any  
74 matter before the commission.

75 P. "Landmark" is an historic resource designated as a landmark pursuant to  
76 K.C.C. (~~20.62.060~~) 20.62.070.

77 Q. "Nomination" is a proposal that an historic resource be designated a landmark.

78 R. "Object" is a material thing of functional, aesthetic, cultural, historical, or  
79 scientific value that may be, by nature or design, movable yet related to a specific setting  
80 or environment.

81 S. "Owner" is a person having a fee simple interest, a substantial beneficial  
82 interest of record or a substantial beneficial interest known to the commission in an  
83 historic resource. Where the owner is a public agency or government, that agency shall  
84 specify the person or persons to receive notices under this chapter.

85 T. "Person" is any individual, partnership, corporation, group or association.

86 U. "Person in charge" is the person or persons in possession of a landmark  
87 including, but not limited to, a mortgagee or vendee in possession, an assignee of rents, a

88 receiver, executor, trustee, lessee, tenant, agent, or any other person directly or indirectly  
89 in control of the landmark.

90 V. "Preliminary determination" is a decision of the commission determining that  
91 an historic resource which has been nominated for designation is of significant value and  
92 is likely to satisfy the criteria for designation.

93 W. "Significant feature" is any element of a landmark which the commission has  
94 designated pursuant to this chapter as of importance to the historic, architectural or  
95 archaeological value of the landmark.

96 X. "Site" is the location of a significant event, a prehistoric or historic occupation  
97 or activity, or a building or structure, whether standing, ruined, or vanished, where the  
98 location itself maintains an historical or archaeological value regardless of the value of  
99 any existing structures.

100 Y. "Structure" is any functional construction made usually for purposes other  
101 than creating human shelter.

102 SECTION 2. Ordinance 4828, Section 4, as amended, and K.C.C. 20.62.040 are  
103 hereby amended to read as follows:

104 A. An historic resource may be designated as a King County landmark if it is  
105 more than forty years old or, in the case of a landmark district, contains resources that are  
106 more than forty years old, and possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials,  
107 workmanship, feeling, ~~((and))~~ or association, or any combination of the foregoing aspects  
108 of integrity, sufficient to convey its historic character, and:

109 1. Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the  
110 broad patterns of national, state or local history; ~~((or))~~

111           2. Is associated with the lives of persons significant in national, state or local  
112 history; ((or))

113           3. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, style or method of  
114 design or construction, or that represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose  
115 components may lack individual distinction; ((or))

116           4. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or  
117 history; or

118           5. Is an outstanding work of a designer or builder who has made a substantial  
119 contribution to the art.

120           B. An historic resource may be designated a community landmark because it is  
121 an easily identifiable visual feature of a neighborhood or the county and contributes to the  
122 distinctive quality or identity of such neighborhood or county or because of its  
123 association with significant historical events or historic themes, association with  
124 important or prominent persons in the community or county((;)) or recognition by local  
125 citizens for substantial contribution to the neighborhood or community. An improvement  
126 or site qualifying for designation solely by virtue of satisfying criteria set out in this  
127 section shall be designated a community landmark and shall not be subject to ((the  
128 provisions of)) K.C.C. 20.62.080.

129           C. Cemeteries, birthplaces((;)) or graves of historical figures, properties owned  
130 by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved  
131 from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily  
132 commemorative in nature((;)) and properties that have achieved significance within the

133 past forty years shall not be considered eligible for designation. However, such a  
134 property shall be eligible for designation if they are:

135 1. An integral part of districts that meet the criteria set out in ~~((20.62.040A))~~  
136 subsection A. of this section or if it is:

137 2. A religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or  
138 artistic distinction or historical importance; ~~((or))~~

139 3. A building or structure removed from its original location but ~~((which))~~ that  
140 is significant primarily for its architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most  
141 importantly associated with a historic person or event; ~~((or))~~

142 4. A birthplace, grave or residence of a historical figure of outstanding  
143 importance if there is no other appropriate site or building directly associated with his or  
144 her productive life; ~~((or))~~

145 5. A cemetery that derives its primary significance from graves of persons of  
146 transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features~~((;))~~ or from  
147 association with historic events; ~~((or))~~

148 6. A reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment  
149 and presented in a dignified manner or as part of a restoration master plan, and when no  
150 other building or structure with the same association has survived; ~~((or))~~


151 7. A property commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition~~((;))~~ or symbolic  
152 value has invested it with its own historical significance; or

153           8. A property achieving significance within the past forty years if it is of  
154 exceptional importance.  
155


Ordinance 17635 was introduced on 4/8/2013 and passed by the Metropolitan King  
County Council on 8/19/2013, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague,  
Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn, Mr. McDermott and Mr.  
Dembowski  
No: 0  
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

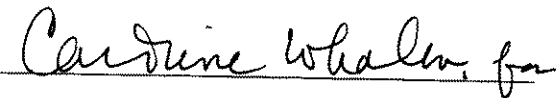
  
Larry Gossett, Chair

ATTEST:

  
Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

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2013 AUG 30 PM 3:51  
CLERK  
KING COUNTY COUNCIL

APPROVED this 30 day of August, 2013.

  
Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: None