

# RECOMMENDATION TO THE ZONING BOARD OF REVIEW

JUNE 3, 2026

*Application Type*

Dimensional Variance

*Neighborhood*

West End

*Applicant*

Providence Public Library,  
Applicant and Owner

*Parcel*

AP 44 Lot 403

*Address*

275 Elmwood Ave

*Parcel Size*

± 45,798 SF

*Zoning District*

C-2; HD overlay

*Variance Requested*

- Dimensional variance for accessory structure in front yard

## 275 ELMWOOD AVE



Location Map



Proposed plan

### SUMMARY

#### Project Description

The applicant is seeking relief from Table 13-1 of the City of Providence Zoning Ordinance. The applicant proposes installing three accessory structures (gazebos) in the front yard of the existing library, where structures of this type are prohibited.

#### Discussion

The subject property is a unique historic library building, which maintains a deep front setback. Relief is required to install three gazebos in the front yard where they are not permitted. Based on the site's layout, the front yard is the appropriate location for the accessory structures as they cannot be located in the side and rear yards which are narrow relative to the front yard. The gazebos would serve the building's function as a library by providing gathering space for patrons. The additions have been reviewed by Historic District Commission staff who have determined they are exempt from review.

A negative effect on neighborhood character is not expected as the gazebos would enhance the library's public function and activate unused space.

#### Recommendation

Based on the foregoing discussion, the DPD recommends that the requested relief be granted.

