

## Liars Bench Brewery at 459 Islington Street Application for Mural Approval

This application is for the approval of 6'x 9' mural to be mounted on a portion the west side of the brewery. The building wall faces the parking lot and the access drive of the abutting bank.

The building is a concrete block building with blue vinyl siding. The Mural will be a polyvinyl graphic adhered to a thin sheet of ¼" metal with a pipe frame and mounted through the vinyl siding and secured to the concrete block. It will be nearly out of street view as it will 100' from Islington Street.

This mural has the following benefits to the community:

- This mural will enhance the entrance experience of the site users.
- This mural will provide an education opportunity for the public.
- The mural honors author Sara Orne Jewett, a person of literary distinction in the history to the Seacoast community.
- This mural promotes the concept of *History Through Art*.
- This mural will call attention to the many women in the history of the Seacoast who contributed to the quality of life of the area.
- The mural will be "consistent with the special and defining character of the surrounding properties."



# LIARS BENCH BREWERY

459 ISLINGTON STREET  
PORTSMOUTH, NH

AERIAL VIEW



*terra firma*  
landscape architecture

163.a court street · portsmouth, nh 03801  
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EXISTING SITE

# LIARS BENCH BREWERY

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**NEOKRAFT**  
SIGNS

**Neokraft Signs, Inc.**  
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Lewiston, Maine 04240  
207.782.9654 | neokraft.com

Custom Sign Fabrication

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**PRESENTATION**

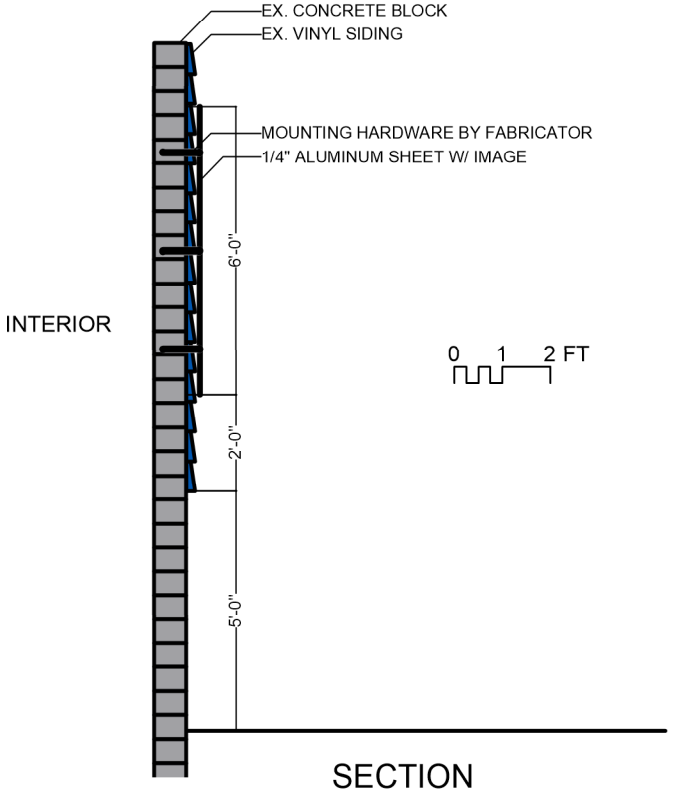
**LIAR'S BENCH**  
@12479

ACCT ID:	013447
LOCATION:	459 ISLINGTON STREET PORTSMOUTH, NH
DRAWING NO:	1 OF
DRAWN BY:	AB REP: AB
DATE:	08.08.2023
QUOTE:	@12479
GEN REF:	



MURAL

.100 ALUMINUM PANEL WITH FULL COLOR PRINTED VINYL  
2" LEG OUT ANGLES FOR WALL MOUNT  
**NOT-LIT WALL MURAL PANEL**  
(1) REQUIRED



**LIARS BENCH BREWERY**  
459 ISLINGTON STREET  
PORTSMOUTH, NH

**Sarah Orne Jewett (1849 1909)**  
*Prolific Writer of Short Stories, Novels, Children's Books & Poetry*  
Sarah Orne Jewett was born in South Berwick, Maine where she attended Berwick Academy. Her first story was published by *The Atlantic* when she was 19. An abiding love of the natural world, so evident in her writings, was nurtured by her physician father, who is featured in her short story, *A Country Doctor* (1884).  
A noted Realist and Regional writer, Sarah placed her stories on the southern coast of Maine. Her stories presented distinct, often kindly characters, that included natural surroundings. The most popular of her many published works include the short story collection *A White Heron* (1886), *The Country of the Pointed Firs* (1896) and the historic novel, *The Tory Lover* (1901).  
She was a mentor to a host of younger writers, including Willa Cather, and an associate of contemporary writers Celia Thaxter, Thomas Bailey Aldrich, and John Greenleaf Whittier. Sarah's writing career ended in 1902 after a debilitating carriage accident. Sarah was the partner of Annie Adams Fields of Boston for more than two decades, who was with her when she died at age 59. Her South Berwick home is a museum, open to the public. Her papers are kept at Harvard Library.

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## **The Mural at Liars Bench Brewery: BOA Application**

### **Variance Criteria**

1. The variance is not contrary to the public interest.
2. The spirit of the ordinance is observed.
  - Eclectic mixed-use neighborhood surrounded by office, retail, municipal and residential uses
  - Variety of signage, graphics, statues, and memorials in the immediate commercial area
  - Enhances the character of the region by promoting its rich history
  - Location not on street frontage does not create a hazard or distraction
  - Size of mural does not create a hazard or distraction as the design is subdued in its color scheme and content
3. Substantial justice is done.
  - There is no obvious harm to the public that would be created by the installation of this mural (see above comments for 1. and 2.)
  - There would be a benefit to the public due to the educational components of the mural and its tasteful design
4. The values of surrounding properties are not diminished.
  - This is a mixed-use neighborhood with an abundance of signage, colorful graphics, statues, memorials, etc.
  - The addition of this mural into the neighborhood context would not alter or diminish the property values within the surrounding neighborhood
5. Literal enforcement of the ordinance would result in unnecessary hardship. Unnecessary hardship means:  
Because of special conditions of the property that distinguish it from other properties in the area:

- a. There is no fair and substantial relationship between the general public purpose of the ordinance provision and the specific application of that provision to the property;  
and
- b. The proposed use is a reasonable one.

Alternatively, unnecessary hardship means that, owing to special conditions of the property that distinguish it from other properties in the area, the property cannot be reasonably used in strict conformance with the ordinance.

- Building location is on a main public thoroughfare having wall frontage facing a bank driveway and parking lot - to the observer/passersby that would be experiencing this mural, the driveway feels and acts as a third street, but the building does not get the benefit of the additional frontage with its sign area tabulations
- The purpose of the mural is to be viewed and be comprehensible from the public way – due to the southwest wall's proximity to Islington Street the proposed mural exceeds the required sign area with the implicit goal of achieving that purpose
- Rate of travel on Islington Street is moderate, and the mural is well off the roadway and tasteful in design and color selection – this creates a situation where a sign that is larger than allowed does not create a hazardous or distracting experience to those that are passing by
- The proposed use is reasonable and fits harmoniously with the surrounding context