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## Town of Orange Historical Commission

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It is our pleasure to provide this letter expressing our wholehearted support for the Orange Wheeler Memorial Library's renovation project.

The Wheeler Memorial Library has significant historical value to the Town of Orange. The Wheeler Memorial Library was a gift to the town from Almira Wheeler Thompson in honor of her late husband, John W. Wheeler, a life-long resident of Orange and president of the New Home Sewing Machine Company. Construction began in the fall of 1912, and the building was officially dedicated and opened to the public on April 17, 1914. Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler's portraits still hang above the fireplaces of the library's two reading rooms. The Wheelers were big proponents of education and learning so she felt the library was a fitting memorial for him. The architect was H.M. Francis of Fitchburg and the building style is an adaptation of the French Renaissance. Today the Wheeler remains at the heart of the community and continues its tradition of service to the town.

Due to the historical and current value of the Orange Wheeler Memorial Library, the Orange Historical Commission strongly supports the library in its goal to renovate and update the library building to make it accessible to all and capable of meeting all of the needs of the community for decades to come.

If you have any follow-up questions regarding this letter or would like further information, please use the contact information provided above. The Historical Commission is happy to provide this letter and continue to support the Orange Wheeler Memorial Library in providing valuable historical and community-building benefits for the town.

On behalf of the Orange Historical Commission,

Walker Powell  
*Planning Technician*