

**Testimony of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society before the DC Historic Preservation  
Review Board July 30, 2015  
HPA 15-482 1220 D Street, SE**

My name is Beth Purcell and I am testifying on behalf of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society's Historic Preservation Committee. Thank you for letting us share our views on this project.

This contributing building was designed by W.S. Plager and constructed in 1917. In 1918, Plager designed additional flat front brick buildings at 1216 and 1218 D Street, SE, for the same owner.<sup>1</sup> All three buildings have the same front elevation and fenestration. The project would remedy several inappropriate changes made to this building and landscaping. We understand the issues in the project are replacing the front door and canopy.

The applicants propose to replace the nonhistoric front door with new door stile/rail, frame, and transom frame appropriate to the period of the building. We believe that a new double door in painted steel, recreating the original double door would be an appropriate replacement.

The existing aluminum canopy over the front door was added after construction and is inappropriate. Historic preservation rules do not require removal of this existing canopy. The applicants propose replacing the existing canopy with a new canopy. The flat front buildings at 1212 and 1218 D Street, designed by the same architect who designed 1220 D Street, have no canopy. We believe that any new canopy would not be compatible with the Capitol Hill Historic District because these flat-front buildings never had canopies. For the same reason, CHRS has objected to constructing new entry porches on historic buildings which never had them. See for example, 640 Lexington Place, NE, HPA 15-353.

We believe that the proposed replacement door is compatible with the Capitol Hill Historic District, but that the new canopy is not compatible.

Thank you for considering our comments.

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<sup>1</sup> DC building permits # 2272 (19 Nov. 1917), 2262 (19 Nov. 1918).