

**Testimony of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society before the DC Historic Preservation  
Review Board  
April 2, 2015  
HPA 15-127 146 13th Street, SE**

My name is Beth Purcell and I am testifying on behalf of the Historic Preservation Committee of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society. The committee reviewed the plans for this project received in February 2015 and offers the following comments:

This project preserves the existing building footprint, and has very commendable aspects, including improvements to the design of the rear addition, and a new roof deck. We nevertheless have some concerns about the project.

The plans call for applying stucco on several exterior walls, including an original brick wall in the rear that appears to be in good condition. The HPRB guidelines on walls state that altering walls facing major public streets, must be carefully considered so as not to detract from character-defining features, and that changes to secondary walls, (typically on the side and rear of a building) should also be carefully considered. HPRB, "Walls and Foundations of Historic Buildings," 2. While the result should be very attractive and we appreciate the applicants' desire to apply stucco to create a uniform appearance, applying stucco to historic brick fabric on a rear wall may not be appropriate.

We agree with the staff report that a flag test is necessary to determine visibility from the intersection of Kentucky and Independence Avenues. The rear addition will be visible from Independence Avenue and the public alley, especially when there are no leaves on the trees. The applicants have tried to minimize the visibility of the addition by cladding it in the lighter blue-grey rheinzink, reducing the height by one foot, and eliminating the solar panels. While the addition is very attractive, it has a significant amount of glazing, and rheinzink cladding which are not historical materials.

However, we believe that the project may be compatible with the Capitol Hill Historic District based on the unique configuration of the building and this square.

Thank you for considering our views.

Beth Purcell, Chair Historic Preservation Committee  
Capitol Hill Restoration Society