

**Testimony of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society before the DC Historic Preservation  
Review Board July 28, 2016  
300 8th Street, NE HPA 16-443**

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. The project would demolish a non-contributing building, to be replaced by a residential building.

The applicant has met with neighbors and listened to their concerns, and also responded favorably to suggestions to study earlier apartment buildings on Capitol Hill. We believe that the design has continued to improve and move toward traditional apartment buildings. The massing, rhythm and fenestration of both sections are appropriate for Capitol Hill. The red brick is an excellent choice for the rowhouse section. However, the design of this section is very historicized, with an oxeye window, quoins and Italianate window hoods; we suggest additional study to signal that this is a new building. In addition, the modern penthouse, combined with this historicized building, looks discordant. We agree with the applicant's offer to restudy the penthouse.

We suggest that the brick on the larger section remain unpainted. Historically, brick buildings on Capitol Hill were not painted. Builders and owners used Washington's well-known red brick, as shown in several of the applicant's photographs, and in later periods, brown/beige brick, as in Stanton Manor, 644 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Painted white brick has the further disadvantage of appearing institutional, like some buildings in the Navy Yard facing M Street, SE.

While the main roof deck appears to be set back from the street, the private roof decks are closer to the street.

We believe that this project is compatible with the Capitol Hill Historic District.

Thank you for considering our comments.