

**Testimony of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society before the DC Historic Preservation  
Review Board February 23, 2017  
517 7th Street, SE HPA 17-181**

My name is Beth Purcell and I am testifying on behalf of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society's Historic Preservation Committee. We reviewed the plans for the project received in February 2017. Thank you for letting us share our views on this project.

517 7th Street, SE is a contributing building. The main block of building is a two-story, three-bay wood frame building with a full width porch, built in 1857 or earlier. The two northernmost bays, with a gable roof, appear to be the oldest part of the main block; the main block was later enlarged some time in the past, adding the third bay on the south (without a gable roof), enclosing a horse trot or earlier gap between buildings. This house reflects how owners often expanded their houses by adding a new section on the side of the original house. In the early to mid-nineteenth century Capitol Hill property owners regularly enlarged houses or built additions. The project proposes to add a roof infill to the southern bay, altering the house's historic form, and is not appropriate.

Several rear structures have also been added at the rear, which do not appear to be historic fabric. The applicant proposes to demolish these and rationalize the rear of the house with a new addition. We agree with the staff report on needed changes to the design and materials of the addition.

We believe that but for the roof infill, the project would be compatible with the Capitol Hill Historic District.

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