

**Testimony of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society before the DC Historic Preservation
Review Board May 5, 2016
HPA 16-199 518 6th Street, NE**

My name is Beth Purcell and I am testifying on behalf of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society's Historic Preservation Committee. We reviewed the revised plans for the project dated March 25, 2016 and April 18, 2016. Thank you for letting us share our views on this project. .

This is a three-story brick bay front, a contributing building.

The plans call for constructing a subordinate three-story rear addition, replacing an existing one-story addition. We have no objection to demolishing the existing addition. There will be no roof deck. It appears that the rear wall on the second floor has already been demolished. The plans call for a significant amount of demolition, including the rear exterior wall, an interior load-bearing wall, and floor assemblies, which conflict with 10 DCMR 305.1 (a), (b). We now understand that a significant amount of interior demolition has already taken place, which is not reflected in the plans. The project architect testified that it is possible to show past and planned demolition. We urge the Board to require the applicant to submit revised plans showing the demolition that has already occurred, and any additional demolition proposed.

The plans fail to indicate the adjoining property owners' rear additions. While these additions are visible in the photos, the plans indicate only the party walls, not the rear face-on-line additions for the properties on either side. It would be helpful to have a drawn rear elevation of the adjoining properties and of the applicant's property to better show the relationship between all three elevations. We believe that these steps are necessary in order for the staff and the Board to evaluate this case.

Although the plans have been clarified on certain points that we raised in our prior comment, the cornice on the rear addition needs additional definition, for example some simple detailing, to be compatible with nearby houses.

If the Board recommends concept approval, we agree with the staff report that the applicant must work with staff on the final selection of materials, main entry door, and the design of the rear addition balustrade. We urge that the applicant be required to work closely with HPO staff, ANC 6C, and the community throughout every stage of the project.

We believe that at this time the project is not compatible with the Capitol Hill Historic District.

Thank you for considering our comments.