

**Testimony of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society
before the DC Historic Preservation Review Board on July 27, 2017
818 Potomac Avenue, SE HPA 17-426**

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 is to construct a new 44-unit apartment building wrapping the intersection of 9th Street and Potomac Avenue, SE. The site, opposite the Washington Navy Yard, is currently vacant. The building would be four stories, plus cellar level and a parking garage on level 2 to accommodate 49 autos in stackable parking. The main lobby will be on the corner in a cylindrical tower with a precast cornice and a marquee over the entrance. The primary elevations will have square bays, two on Potomac Avenue and three on 9th Street. The first story will be smooth large dark brick, and the upper stories white brick (a reference to the Navy Yard gate and buildings). The windows on the bays on the east elevation will be Chicago windows, set in fiber cement panels. The other windows will complement the operable sections of the Chicago windows. At the rear will be two square bays; the penthouse and balconies will have black metal railings. The penthouse will have a green roof and green walls. The area in front of the building will be landscaped. The new building is within the 8th Street Overlay Zone, and satisfies the 45-foot maximum height limit.

The applicant also plans to restore the two-bay brick rowhouse at 819 L Street, SE, constructed in 1857 or earlier.¹

The building is modern and attractive; the bays reference traditional Capitol Hill designs for rowhouses and apartment buildings, and the Chicago windows are an innovative way to maximize glazing. We agree with the staff report's recommendation on studying brick color and the public space design.

We support the subdivision request.

We believe that this project is compatible with the Capitol Hill Historic District. Thank you for considering our comments.

¹ This rowhouse appears on the Boschke map (1857).