

**Testimony of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society before the DC Historic Preservation  
Review Board June 23, 2016  
HPA 16-449 1237 C Street, SE (rear)**

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 Historic Preservation Committee of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society met with the applicant and project architect and reviewed the plans for the project dated May 27 and June 16, 2016.

The applicant plans to restore a one-story brick garage built during the period of significance, to create two units (originally three units) by constructing a new addition partially wrapping the existing building. The overall effect in the May plans was neither residential nor commercial. We understand that neighbors objected to size of the project, the metal panels on the addition, and encroachment onto the easement. The applicant met with neighbors and revised the plans. The project is now two units, each with a one-car garage; the units are pulled back four feet from the easement; this area will be landscaped and illuminated as neighbors requested.

The large windows are appropriate for a utilitarian building and are consistent with the large existing opening. The revised plans are an improvement. The design makes clearer the concept of the addition seeming to be a portion of the original garage pulled out to the side. The transparent and translucent glass walls of the north and south portions of the addition make a clear statement of the new addition, and are an improvement over the multi-colored aluminum panels in the earlier plans. And the new west wall of the addition, by using the same color brick and pattern as the original garage communicates the fact that the addition seems visually to have been pulled out of the side of the original garage. We suggest that the applicant study further differentiating between the old and new brick with a different color brick for the addition, and reducing the busyness of the glass panels.

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

Thank you for considering our comments.