

**Testimony of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society
before the DC Preservation Review Board on February 22, 2018
214 A St NE (HPA 18-209)**

My name is Alison Ross and I am a member of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society's Historic Preservation Committee. I am testifying on their behalf. Thank you for letting us share our views on this project at 214 A Street, NE.

The Historic Preservation Committee of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society reviewed the concept plans for the project dated January 1, 2018 at our February 5th, 2018 meeting. We subsequently reviewed revised plans sent February 12, 2018. Our comments follow:

This property is a two-story, flat front, frame dwelling that pre-dates 1874. The dwelling is sited above grade on a berm atop a low brick wall bordering A St NE and the alley along the east property line. Side additions are not common in the Capitol Hill Historic District. CHRS is concerned with the proposed side addition eliminating the side yard and the visible impact an addition will have to the historic structure. CHRS believes the program can still be achieved without expanding to fill the side yard.

The proposed east elevation removes existing windows in the original house and reorganizes the fenestration pattern to reflect the interior plan. CHRS suggested the fenestration plan be further studied. The newest plans show more organization on the east elevation.

The series of frame garages in the rear of the property do not appear to have remaining historic integrity. CHRS believes the proposed two-story brick garage apartment will be an improvement and believes the fenestration, materials, and details are compatible with the Capitol Hill Historic District. CHRS agrees with Staff Report regarding height reduction to less than 20 feet in height.

Neighbors views are important and CHRS had yet to hear neighbors' views. We were pleased to hear from the ANC representative just now that neighbors are thankful that this property will remain residential. In addition, CHRS has asked for plans that clearly show the demolition involved in the project.

At this time, CHRS believes the side addition needs more study in order for this project to be compatible with the Capitol Hill Historic District.

Thank you for considering our views.

Alison Ross

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Member, Historic Preservation Committee
Capitol Hill Restoration Society