

**Testimony of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society before the DC  
Historic Preservation Review Board  
HPA 14-536 325 D Street, SE  
September 18, 2014**

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 has several excellent aspects, including removing the formstone and nonhistoric siding and replacing with wood siding, and replacing the front porch, changes that will be more historically accurate. The recessed addition in front preserves an element of the side court.

Initially we were concerned whether the plans to demolish two additions, and in particular, structure B, would result in the destruction of historic fabric that retained its historic and structural integrity. However, because the staff report notes that structure B is greatly deteriorated, we are no longer concerned about demolition of structure B.

We agree with the staff report that a lumber mockup is needed to test whether the addition will be visible.

The applicants state that they plan to create a basement living space for a disabled relative. To do this, the plans call for cutting an opening in the front retaining wall, creating a new basement entrance, and altering the topography of the front yard, which will damage these three character-defining features of Capitol Hill rowhouses, contrary to HPRB guidelines.<sup>1</sup> For these reasons we believe that this damage to character-defining features is not compatible with the Capitol Hill Historic District.

We agree with the recommendations in the staff report. Thank you for considering our views.

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<sup>1</sup> "Landscaping, Landscape Features and Secondary Buildings in Historic Districts," HPO, p. 5; "Walls and Foundations of Historic Buildings," HPO, p. 7; "Preservation and Design Guidelines for Basement Entrances and Windows," HPO, section 3, p. 4.