

**Testimony of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society before the DC Historic Preservation  
Review Board July 28, 2016  
411 New Jersey Avenue, SE HPA 16-521**

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 National Democratic Club proposes to construct a new office building on a vacant lot at the end of a row of early 20<sup>th</sup> century row houses on New Jersey Avenue, adjacent to the railroad right of way. To the west the view is towards monumental-scaled Capitol office buildings. The new building is three-story brick, marking the end of the row and a transition from residential to institutional scale. The building's front elevation treatment wraps around the corner, acknowledging importance of the building as a gateway to this part of New Jersey Avenue. The revised plans center the main entry, giving the building a quietly formal air and creating great hall inside.

The proposed building is similar in scale and exterior treatment to many smaller-scale office buildings on Capitol Hill. The elevation treatment, in particular the window design and spacing, introduces interesting balance between residential and institutional scales. The windows relate in size, proportion and position to those of nearby rowhouses. Recessed casement type, pronounced surrounds, precast stone base and third floor cornice all give the elevation a gently monumental scale.

We believe that recent design revisions are an improvement to previous, already interesting, design. This building will be a positive addition to the area and we believe that the project is compatible with the Capitol Hill Historic District.

Thank you for considering our comments.