

**Testimony of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society  
before the DC Preservation Review Board on June 28, 2018  
526 8th St SE (HPA 18-433)**

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 526 8<sup>th</sup> St SE.

The Historic Preservation Committee of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society reviewed plans for a new commercial project on Barracks Row dated May 17 and June 13, 2018.

The proposed project is an in-fill development on a surface parking area that has been vacant for many years. A project on this site is very welcome and we look forward to elimination of this hole in the Barracks Row streetscape.

We thought that the architect's May 17 concept proposal was a commendable, contextual design. The scale, fenestration, and solid/void relationship is very reminiscent of nearby properties and that it was a very "safe" design that will blend in with the streetscape. However, we also sensed that this vacant lot also presents a rare opportunity to bring something more contemporary to Barracks Row. We believe new buildings should reflect the period in which they were built; that contemporary design can be compatible with traditional architectural styles, and even improve our appreciation of the built environment. The applicant's June 13 plans present a more contemporary design, an improvement over the earlier plans.

However, we would like additional information on the roof deck and the garden area in the front:

- What sort of vegetation is planned? For instance will pedestrians see trees up there?
- The roof deck will likely have furniture on it but the sight line study makes it hard to tell how far down the roof is below the parapet.

We believe that the project is 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