

**Testimony of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society
before the DC Historic Preservation Review Board on July 11, 2019
rear 203 3rd Street, SE (HPA 19-326)**

My name is Beth Purcell and I am testifying on their behalf of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society's Historic Preservation Committee.

The Capitol Hill Restoration Society's Historic Preservation Committee reviewed the revised plans for this project dated June 17, 2019 at our July 1, 2019 meeting.

Square 762 has a large alley with entrances on 3rd and C streets, SE. This alley has many one- and two-story garages, including this contributing building. . The applicant proposes to create a two-story residence by renovating an existing one-story brick multi-bay garage and adding a second story above it. This is a contributing building.

CHRS supports re-animating alleys with residential units. We believe the proposed design revisions are taking a project in the right direction. We interpreted the elevations and renderings as follows. The new second story is clad in flat metal panels suggesting industrial type cladding, softened by band of alternating fixed and casement windows. A stripe of textured panels delineates the transition between the old first story garage and the second story addition. The existing garage door bays are filled with new assemblies that depending on location and desired function, are opaque or transparent, and function as walls, windows or doors. The original brick shell is being preserved. However, the proposed west elevation showing all doors of equal height introduces some doubt. Currently the overhead garage door is flanked by two lower head doors.

The design refers to the building's industrial past but softens it so that the building reads more residential, human scale. We support the staff's recommendation to continue to refine the elevations.

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

Thank you for considering our comments.