

HPRB Presentation July 25, 2019
Montessori at Logan, 215 G Street NE HPA 19-271

My name is Joanna Kendig and I am testifying on behalf of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society. We were introduced to the project in May of this year. On July 1 CHRS Historic Preservation Committee again met with the project architect and Mr. Olmstead, who went over revised drawings, focusing on refinements to the design of elevations of the additions.

The concept plan has not changed. Historic brick, H plan, school building is being preserved. Two additions to the South extend original East and West wings. New gymnasium wing placed on parking lot to the West, along 2nd Street, relates in scale to taller contemporary buildings across the street.

New building elements are clearly differentiated from the original 1930's and 1940's school. Building volumes are deferential to the original with cornice lines of new flat roofs aligning with eave lines of the original sloped roofs. Exteriors are clad in range of clearly contemporary materials: synthetic wood panels and screens, modern scaled windows and masonry. Glassed in bridges connect new and old wings. Masonry, presumed brick, of the ground floor base is dark, charcoal rather than traditional brick red. Synthetic wood elements appear to be colored to echo limestone of the existing building. The additions are clearly of 21st century, in dialogue with original building but not dominating the conversation.

Volumes of the new wings are enriched by second floor gardens, balcony like extensions of the classrooms. We were also impressed with proposed use of new roofs which include play area over gymnasium and several green roofs, and with landscaping of the grounds, all creative and environment friendly approaches.

CHRS Historic Preservation committee supports this project and believes it is compatible with Capitol Hill historic district.