

**Testimony of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society
before the DC Historic Preservation Review Board on December 19, 2019
19 rear 4th Street, NE HPA 20-096**

My name is Beth Purcell and I am testifying on behalf of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society's Historic Preservation Committee. We reviewed the project plans dated November 21, and December 10, 2019.

The applicant plans to demolish a two-story brick alley carriage house which appears to date from the period of significance and build a new two-story brick and frame alley dwelling. Sanborn Maps show a two-story brick building on this lot as early as 1904 and it is likely this existing one. The existing building has had several alterations to its doors and windows and now has a variety of window styles including six-over-six double hung windows, two-light hopper windows, and multi-light casement windows. The building is 23 feet four inches tall.

The applicant has submitted a structural engineer's report which represents that the existing building has deteriorated to the point that it is unsafe and cannot be preserved. In addition, staff has visited the site and agrees that the building cannot be salvaged. It is very reassuring to have the staff's assessment. The new building will be 23 feet four inches tall, use similar massing, reclaimed brick in the east elevation, and new window styles; six-over-nine double hung sash as well as four-light casement windows. Large glazed doors with a steel lintel give a nod to the former carriage house use of the lot.

CHRS understands that the new building refers to historic details of the original building and creates an alley residence. We appreciate the responses to our questions through the revised plans and the engineer's report. We agree that in reconstructing a historic building, it is appropriate to exceed the 20-foot limit.

CHRS believes that this project is compatible with the Capitol Hill Historic District.

Thank you for considering our comments.