

**Testimony of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society  
before the DC Historic Preservation Review Board on February 27, 2020  
710 E Street, SE HPA 20-134**

My name is Beth Purcell and I am testifying on behalf of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society's Historic Preservation Committee. The committee reviewed the plans for the project received in February 2020.

This two-story brick building is a contributing building. It was built in 1886 and listed as a dwelling. Currently the building consists of two-story brick front with one-story brick rear. A drive on the west side leads to a parking lot filling remainder of the lot. This project came before the Board in October 2018 as HPA 18-612. At that time, the applicant proposed a new cellar level, a three-story rear addition and penthouse and a two-story stair between the existing and new buildings. We suggested eliminating the penthouse to satisfy visibility concerns. See HPRB, *Additions to Historic Buildings*, 13. We also suggested adding a glass-enclosed staircase linking the new and old buildings, and redesigning the windows. HPO staff recommended refining the fenestration, removing the penthouse, and delegating further review to the staff. The Board found:

... the general concept to be compatible with the historic district, with the exception of the fourth-floor penthouse, and asked that the applicant respond to the HPO report and Board comments and return to the Board to present revisions.

The new design is much improved. The penthouse has been removed. The old and new buildings are linked by a glass hyphen, a modern separation. (However, the elevation and plans show slightly different images of the hyphen.) The windows are a more generous size, and read like an apartment building. We agree with the staff's recommendation to change the remaining triple-hung windows to double-hung. It would be helpful to see the color and materials on the new building.

We believe that while there are still some outstanding questions, the project is now compatible with Capitol Hill Historic District.

Thank you for considering our comments.