

**Testimony of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society
before the DC Historic Preservation Review Board on September 30, 2021
114 12th Street, NE HPA 21-442**

My name is Beth Purcell and I am testifying on behalf of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society's Historic Preservation Committee. We reviewed the plans for the project dated July 19, 2021.

The applicant proposes to add a second story to an existing one-story garage (brick on the alley elevation and masonry on the garden elevation). The addition would have fiber cement siding on both elevations, with brick added on the alley elevation, two clerestory windows (an improvement over the earlier design) on the alley elevation and a triple window on the garden elevation. The openings on the first story would remain.

Contrary to the applicant, alleys are public spaces, like streets, and the Board has valued alleys and alley buildings. The applicant proposes a cut-out on the alley elevation, (i.e., the second story would not extend across the full width of the garage (but there is a false wall on the garden elevation). Typically, garages extend across the entire width of the lot, creating a uniform edge on the alley and a uniform massing of the alley buildings. This application, if approved, would set a bad precedent, allowing unsightly gaps in uniform rows. We support the staff's recommendation that the alley windows be revised and that the second story alley elevation span the full width of the garage.

At 20 feet tall, the project satisfies HPRB rules on height.

Thank you for considering our comments.