

Testimony of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society
Before the DC Historic Preservation Review Board on January 27, 2022
308 11th Street, NE HPA 20-390

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 December 13, 2021.

This contributing rowhouse is one of seven built in 1917 by owner F. M. Johnson and architect W. E. Howser. All seven rowhouses have one-story brick garages at the alley. This project does not include any alterations to the façade or the existing rear addition. Applicant plans to build a third story and roof deck over existing house. The third-story frame addition, clad in hardie plank, will be over the existing rear addition and will open up to a roof deck over the front/main portion of the house. The roof deck will have a metal guardrail 12 feet back from the front of the house. The addition will be minimally visible from public space.

The applicant also plans to demolish the east and west elevations of the one-story garage and build a new two-story garage in its place, 20 feet tall. The one-story brick garage appears to be historic and the garden/east facing elevation still retains historic integrity with two-over-two double-hung windows flanking a wooden door. The alley-facing/west elevation, clad in painted plywood with a modern garage door, no longer does retain historic integrity. The new two-story brick garage will feature a simple symmetrical alley façade with two one-over-one double-hung windows on the second floor. There is another two-story garage on this alley.

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

Thank you for considering our comments.