

**Testimony of the  
Historic Preservation Committee of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society before the DC  
Historic Preservation Review Board  
223 8<sup>th</sup> Street, NE  
HPA 22-329 September 29, 2022**

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 March 17, and Jun 22, 2022. This rowhouse is one of eight brick bayfront houses built by T. M. Carpenter for owner E.J. Carpenter in 1886. All eight rowhouses (223-243 8<sup>th</sup> Street, NE) are contributing buildings with intact doglegs.

**Preserving doglegs:** The applicant proposes to construct a rear third-story addition, and add a partial third story. The applicant proposes to infill the dogleg on the first story. Doglegs are character-defining features of Capitol Hill rowhouses and HPRB has protected intact rows of doglegs.<sup>1</sup> On December 16, 2021, the Board approved a dogleg infill in 1227 E Street, SE (HPA 22-030) on the consent calendar. As the staff report in this case indicates, the Board has approved one-story dogleg infills. For example, the staff report in 1227 E Street, SE stated:

The Board has often required that rear doglegs be retained on blocks where they are intact in Capitol Hill. Though this street frontage still retains a majority of doglegs, the rear of this building and its existing dogleg is not visible by the public. Additionally, the applicant has included a slight offset on the second story to emulate the rhythm of a dogleg, an approach employed in several past Board-approved projects.

Later, on March 24, 2022, the board approved the staff report in 1108 Constitution Avenue, NE (HPA 22-173) and found the project to be compatible with the Capitol Hill Historic District, pending ANC approval, and delegated final approval to staff. Vote:7-0. The staff report suggested tests for whether a dogleg should be preserved:

1. **Houses were built as part of a large single development.** 223 8<sup>th</sup> Street, NE is one of eight rowhouses built in a single development by one owner in 1886.
2. **Interior of the block is substantially intact (but HPRB does not always apply this test).** The interior of this block is substantially intact.
3. **Doglegs are unaltered.** The doglegs are unaltered and intact on all eight rowhouses (223-243 8<sup>th</sup> Street, NE). See map in our comments.
4. **Doglegs are visible from public space (typically from the alley).** All rear yards of the houses at 223-243 8<sup>th</sup> Street, NE have fences – there are no garages at the rear of any of these houses blocking the view from public space, and thus all these doglegs are visible from the alley.

As discussed above, the dogleg at 223 8<sup>th</sup> Street, NE satisfies the four-part test in 1108 Constitution Avenue, NE and therefore, under that test, the dogleg should be preserved.

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<sup>1</sup> 316 G Street, NE (HPA 17-227); 1355 A Street, NE (HPA 19-608); 626 Lexington Place, NE (HPA 21-555).

If the test for preserving doglegs is the one-story infill allowed in 1227 E Street, SE, then this project satisfies the infill test, and the project is compatible with the Capitol Hill Historic District.

Thank you for considering our comments.