

**Testimony of the
Historic Preservation Committee of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society before the DC Historic
Preservation Review Board
203 3rd Street, NE
HPA 22-322 July 28, 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 June 17, 2022.

The Capitol Hill Restoration Society's Historic Preservation Committee reviewed the plans for the project dated June 3, 2021 and the plans emailed from the project architect on June 23, 2022.

Hillsdale College owns seven buildings on Massachusetts Avenue, NE: 227, 229 and 231 (three story brick bay fronts built in 1892), 233-235 (1857), 237 (1915), and 239 (1887). These are contributing buildings. To further its mission, the college proposes changes to the plaza, facades, entrances, a new brick wall at the street front. An earlier version of the project was filed in HPA 21-423, which was eventually referred to staff. Current submission focuses on changes to 1892 brick bay fronts (currently labeled 227 Massachusetts Ave) and the plaza design.

At the hearing on June 2, 2022, we testified that we believe that at that time, the project was not compatible with the Capitol Hill Historic District, based on:

- 1) the removal of the stairs to the second story entrances, and
- 2) the institutional brick wall at the plazas.

At the June 2 hearing the Board found:

227-239 Massachusetts Avenue NE, HPA 22-281, concept/fourth floor roof addition to 227, façade and site alterations. The Board approved the proposed addition in concept, but asked that the site work be revised to express the individual character of each building, taking into consideration the input of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission and the Capitol Hill Restoration Society, and that the original doors at 227 Massachusetts Avenue remain entry doors, each with compatible exterior stairs. Vote: 5 -1.

The revised plans show new exterior perforated metal stairs and balusters leading to the second story entrances at 227 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. The plaza renovation plans are also improved.

For these reasons we believe that the June 17 plans are compatible with the Capitol Hill Historic District.

For these reasons we agree with the staff report and believe that the June 17 plans are compatible with the Capitol Hill Historic District.

Thank you for considering our comments.