

**Testimony of the
Historic Preservation Committee of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society before
the DC Historic Preservation Review Board
236 11th Street, NE
HPA 22-439 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 August 17, 2022. This bayfront brick house is one of three built by S. Carr in 1894 for Mrs. M.A. Darnall. It is a contributing building. Capitol Hill rowhouses were sometimes built with a three-story front section together with a two-story rear section. Philadelphia Row, 124-154 11th Street, SE, is an example. This rowhouse, 236 11th Street, NE, is another. Applicant's photograph on sheet A4.2 shows the rear elevations of the three-story front section and the two-story rear section. Front and rear sections share the same construction and fenestration and are clearly the result of a single building campaign. The rear section appears to be in good condition. This photograph also shows the dogleg.

No changes are proposed to the front elevation. The applicant proposes to demolish the rear section, excavate a basement, and build a three-story rear addition.

Proposed demolition of the house's historic rear section

In an email sent to our committee on September 2, 2022 the applicant refers to the rear section as an "addition." The rear section is original historic fabric, not an addition. While the Board has approved demolition of "rear additions," the cases we are familiar with concerned true rear additions, constructed after the period of significance (ending in 1945) and often poorly designed and/or in poor condition.¹

Infill of dogleg

The applicant proposes to infill the dogleg, leaving a four-foot inset on the third story of the proposed new addition. Doglegs are character-defining features

¹ We could find no building permit for an addition at 236 11th Street, NE during the period 1877 to 1950. A garage was built at 236 11th Street under permit # 11253 issued June 1, 1923. Repairs to 236 11th Street, NE were authorized under permit # 170, issued July 6, 1923. [Roll 08, Index Cards by Square \(950-1089\)... \(dclibrary.org\)](#)

of Capitol Hill rowhouses and HPRB has protected intact rows of doglegs.² We urge the Board to apply the dogleg preservation test announced earlier today in 223 8th Street, NE (HPA 22-329).

We believe that with the changes the Board requires this project will be compatible with the Capitol Hill Historic District

Thank you for considering our comments.

Beth Purcell, Chair

² 316 G Street, NE (HPA 17-227); 1355 A Street, NE (HPA 19-608); 626 Lexington Place, NE (HPA 21-555).