

Historic Preservation Review Board
5 Walter Houp Court, NE HPA 23-507

Testimony November 2, 2023

My name is Beth Purcell and I am testifying on behalf of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society's Historic Preservation Committee. We reviewed the concept submission for the project dated August 10, 2022. This 1.5 story brick building was constructed in two stages:

(1) a section fronting on the alley, built between 1909 and 1919, and modified in the 1960s, 1970s or 1980s, with a garage opening, door and two windows on the ground floor, awning windows on the upper floor, and on the roof, a roof access structure, deck, and solar panels.

and (2) a rear section, a stable, designed by William B. Webster and built in 1907 by W. A. Greer for Cecila R. Greer.

Both sections are contributing. There is a public alley on three sides. The applicant plans to renovate the existing roof deck, relocate the roof stair access, add a stairwell enclosure, remove the spiral stairs, install new stairs and a dumbwaiter. The staff report notes that no permits could be found for the existing features, which are very visible and not compatible with the Capitol Hill Historic District. We did not find the staff report in HPO's "box"

We agree with the staff report that the project is not compatible due to visibility. .

Thank you for considering our comments.