

CASE 19086
SLATER

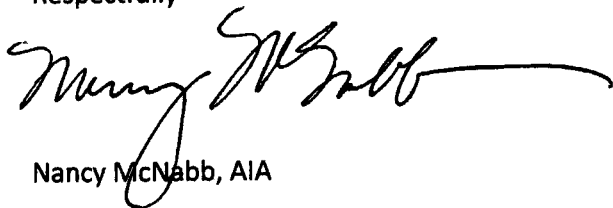
To whom it may addition concern

This is in response to the proposal for a three story addition to the property located at 215 A Street NE

I am an architect, licensed in NY and PA, currently residing at 6 Terrace Ct NE, a stone's throw away from the proposed addition. While I do not oppose square footage increases in general, adding an additional story of height to this single family residence is not in keeping with the historic character of the neighborhood. It is insulting to me that a mansard roof has been applied to the third level in a feeble attempt to disguise the addition's height and mass from the A Street side. The mansard construction is inappropriate and historically inaccurate, it hides nothing, indeed, the rear view from my home on Terrace Court will be of a row house rear elevation on hormones that is out of character with the fabric of the community.

Years ago, when I served on my local zoning board in upstate New York, we routinely turned down similar proposals to increase the size of existing structures or build large new homes in established neighborhoods because of the damaging effect that such construction would have on the neighboring structures' property values and function as a community. The proposed addition at 215 A Street NE is not in keeping with the surrounding neighborhood, nor is it warranted by the claim that it is for family use. Larger homes are available at much less cost elsewhere in the city and property transfers to less desirable owners and transient occupants are increasingly common. I urge you to deny the request for a building variance and preserve the historic character of Terrace Court and the A Street block.

Respectfully



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