
**HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD
STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION**

Landmark/District: **Walter Reed Army Medical Center Historic District** (x) Consent
Address: **6900 Georgia Avenue NW**

Meeting Date: **January 26, 2017** (x) Alterations
Case Number: **16-641** (x) Additions

Staff Reviewer: **Tim Dennée** (x) Permit

The applicant, Help USA, the tenant (along with Wiencek + Associates, architects), seeks review of a permit application to make alterations to Building 14, Abrams Hall, the former enlisted quarters that was built in 1975. The non-contributing building is to be transitional housing for veterans. Most of the work would be on the interior. Some landscaping and structures are proposed within an internal courtyard that is inaccessible except through the building. There are also to be a new ramp, steps, walls, etc. outside the building.

The Board first reviewed the project in November. It supported the alterations as compatible with the character of the historic district for a non-contributing building, but requested that the project return with more detail on: 1) the storefront system; 2) the proposed memorial wall; 3) any insulation under the projecting floor slab; 4) the cladding system on the additions, including its joints and attachments (and the joints at the meeting of all new materials and systems); 5) the replacement garage door; 6) the potential cladding of the existing brick wall beneath the new corner bay projection; and 7) the metal coping atop the new corner bay projection.

The Board encouraged that alterations to this portion of the building not be inconsistent with the rest of the building, including that the new storefront system be consistent with the existing in profile and finish. The Board also requested that the new site walls, including the proposed block retaining wall, be concrete.

The drawings have been revised. The items above have been detailed, as discussed on in the cover letter attached to the drawings and in the drawings themselves. The signage has been further detailed as well.

The EIFS insulation has been eliminated entirely, even under the projecting floor slabs. The fiber-cement-panel cladding of the additions is to be a rain-screen application hung on metal framing with 3/8-inch joints and backing material in the color black. The frames of the storefront system shall match the profiles and color of the existing. The site walls would be concrete.

Recommendation

HPO recommends that the Board recommend clearance of the permit as compatible with the character of the historic district.