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

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Property Address:	<b>2033 G Street NW and 725 21<sup>st</sup> NW</b>	<b>X</b>	Agenda
Landmark/District:	<b>Landmark Buildings: Maxwell Woodhull House, Corcoran Hall</b>		Consent Calendar
	<b>Historic District pending: GW/West End HD</b>	<b>X</b>	Concept Review Alteration
Meeting Date:	<b>February 23, 2012</b>	<b>X</b>	New Construction
H.P.A. Number:	<b>12-030</b>		Demolition
Staff Reviewer:	<b>Kim Elliott / Steve Callcott</b>		Subdivision

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Hartman-Cox Architects, representing George Washington University, requests on-going conceptual design review for construction of a six-story museum at 725 21<sup>st</sup> Street NW. The museum will connect to the landmark Maxwell Woodhull House to the south, and abut the landmark Corcoran Hall to the north. When the Board reviewed the project in November 2011, it approved the general concept but asked the applicants to continue working on the façade articulation and materiality, the design and connection of the new building to Woodhull House, and increasing the size of the open passage way from 21<sup>st</sup> Street to University Yard.

### **Property History and Description**

The new building will be constructed between the Italian villa style landmark Maxwell Woodhull House, built in 1855, and the Georgian Revival Corcoran Hall, built in 1924. The campus includes a variety of historic building types including 19<sup>th</sup> century townhouses, late Victorian rowhouses, multi-storied apartment buildings, and university-related educational and religious buildings. George Washington/West End is a pending historic district.

### **Project Description**

The applicants have continued to work closely with HPO and the project has been revised in response to the Board's comments and suggestions. Building on the previous design for the 21<sup>st</sup> Street elevation, the other elevations have been made more sculptural in form, with subtly curving walls. The limestone façade has been further articulated through refined coursing along with the definition of a base that have also been coordinated with the bridge, main entry, yard entry, and loading area. Permanent hardware for vertical banners has been added to the front elevation allowing colorful signage to activate the street, announcing the museum to the pedestrian and vehicular traffic. The bridge has been redesigned to a more integrated extension of the building, now curved and narrower in shape, 4' lower in profile, and clad in stone.

The passageway under the bridge has been widened and reshaped to a more flowing form increasing the views as well as making the passage more inviting. In addition, glazing has been added at the passageway to open up the view into the museum lobby. The service space north of Woodhull House has been reduced and the loading and egress doors of the new museum have been developed.

### **Archaeology**

GWU has retained the local firm, Archaeological Testing & Consulting to conduct the study. Documentary research to support the archaeological investigations of the project area have commenced, and the field investigations are expected to occur in the second half of March.

### **Evaluation**

The revisions improve the architectural quality of the design and its compatibility with the Woodhull House. The design development clearly and successfully responds to the Board's November suggestions with a cohesive and sculptural form that is both exciting and appropriate for its building typology, a more comfortable bridge connection to Woodhull House, and a larger and inviting passage from 21<sup>st</sup> Street to University Yard.

The new museum building respectfully adds to a precedent established on the George Washington University campus by Lisner Auditorium and the Hall of Government buildings. These simply massed, monolithic limestone clad structures represent some of the most important buildings on the campus, which is an appropriate inspirational prototype for a public museum. The new design breaks down the scale and creates a dialogue with 21<sup>st</sup> Street through the refined limestone articulation, the developed sculptural form, and with the addition of colorful banners at the main facade.

### **Recommendation**

The HPO recommends that the Review Board determine the revised concept to be consistent with the purposes of the preservation act, and to delegate final approval to staff.