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

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Landmark/District:	<b>Capitol Hill Historic District</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Agenda
Address:	<b>515 East Capitol Street SE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent
ANC:	<b>6B</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concept
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alteration
Meeting Date:	<b>June 25, 2020</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> New Construction
Case Number:	<b>20-342</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition
		<input type="checkbox"/> Subdivision

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The William Penn House seeks concept review for installation of a wheelchair lift and modifications to the front entry stairs of a property located in the Capitol Hill Historic District.

### **Property Description**

The four-story brick rowhouse was designed by W.S. Plager and built in 1916. On the front elevation, there is a prominent dormer projecting from the mansard roof. A curved oriel spans the second and third stories. At the first story there is a large picture window and a recessed entrance. There are masonry stairs with a masonry balustrade and piers leading up to the entrance.

### **Proposal**

The wheelchair lift would be located immediately east of the main entrance where there is currently a basement stair and entrance. A portion of the masonry balustrade would be removed for access from the lift to the landing. An additional slab will be added to the landing to give the appearance of an additional stair and to bring the landing level with the threshold of the recessed entrance. Additional metal handrails will be added along both sides of the masonry stairs. A planting bed will be created in front of the lift to provide some screening front street view and to enhance the public space front yard.

### **Evaluation**

The applicant has proposed a sensitive modification that balances accessibility and the retention of historic fabric. There will be some visual obstruction of the large picture window, but it will be minimal.

### **Recommendation**

*The HPO recommends the Board find the concept plans to be compatible with the Capitol Hill historic district, and delegate final approval to staff.*

*Staff contact: Moira Nadal*