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

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Property Address:	<b>2111 Florida Avenue, NW</b>	Agenda
Landmark/District:	<b>Friends Meeting House/ Sheridan-Kalorama Historic District</b>	<b>X</b> Consent Calendar
Meeting Date:	<b>July 27, 2017</b>	<b>X</b> Concept Review
H.P.A. Number:	<b>14-490</b>	<b>X</b> Alteration
Staff Reviewer:	<b>Steve Callcott</b>	New Construction
		Demolition
		Subdivision

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Neil Froemming, representing the Friends Meeting of Washington, seeks conceptual design review for roof replacement and installation of solar panels.

### **Property History and Description**

The Friends Meeting House is a two-story, gable-roofed Colonial Revival building clad in Pennsylvania Foxcroft stone and capped with an asphalt shingle roof. The original portion of the building was constructed in 1930 and designed by architect Walter Ferris Price; a seamless addition was added in 1950 designed by Washington architect Leon Chatelain, Jr.

The Washington Friends Meeting House, a landmark listed the National Register, is significant for its architecture and history. The primary motivation for constructing the building was to provide services for President and Mrs. Herbert Hoover, the first Quaker elected president and who lived nearby in the Sheridan-Kalorama neighborhood. The building is also a fine representation of a traditional American Quaker meeting house design by Price, a prolific Philadelphia architect who was recognized as an authority on Quaker architecture.

### **Proposal**

The project calls for replacing the existing roof with a new architectural asphalt shingle to match the general color and character of the slate used on the 1950 addition. Solar panels would be installed on the rear (west facing) roof slope. The monocrystalline panels would be fabricated by Silfab, have black frames to reduce contrast with the roof, and would be mounted on a low-profile frame system that would extend 4 inches above the roof (which would include the thickness of the panels).

### **Evaluation**

The Board's primary considerations in evaluating solar installations has been on their visibility from street view, and their impact on the distinctive features and finishes of the roof. In this instance, the proposed installation would have very limited visibility from street view, with only one vantage point from Phelps Place where it descends to Florida Avenue from which the panels would be visible. The visibility from Decatur would be negligible and will be invisible once the Friends complete an addition that has been approved by the Board and for which a building permit application is currently pending. The roof's current asphalt shingle roof is not

original or distinctive, and the installation will not be seen over top or immediately adjacent to the roof ridge. The panels should be pulled in sufficiently from the outside edges of the roof to ensure that they don't compete with the side profile (especially as seen from Phelps Place) or appear to float above the roof surface; this would be best confirmed by doing a mock up on the roof to arrive at the appropriate offset.

**Recommendation**

*The HPO recommends that the Board approve the concept as compatible with the character of the landmark and the Sheridan Kalorama Historic District contingent on the selection of the roof replacement material and the offset of the solar panels from the roof edges being coordinated in the field with HPO.*