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

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Property Address: **201 East Capitol Street, SE**  
Landmark/District: **Folger Shakespeare Library  
Capitol Hill Historic District**

Meeting Date: **August 1, 2019**  
H.P.A. Number: **19-385**

Agenda  
Consent Calendar

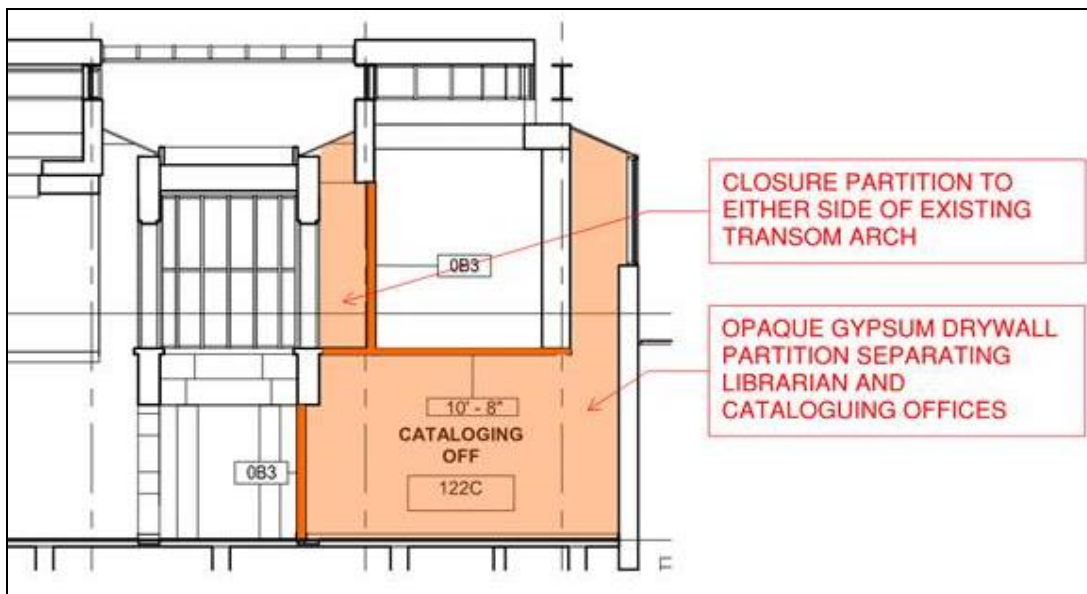
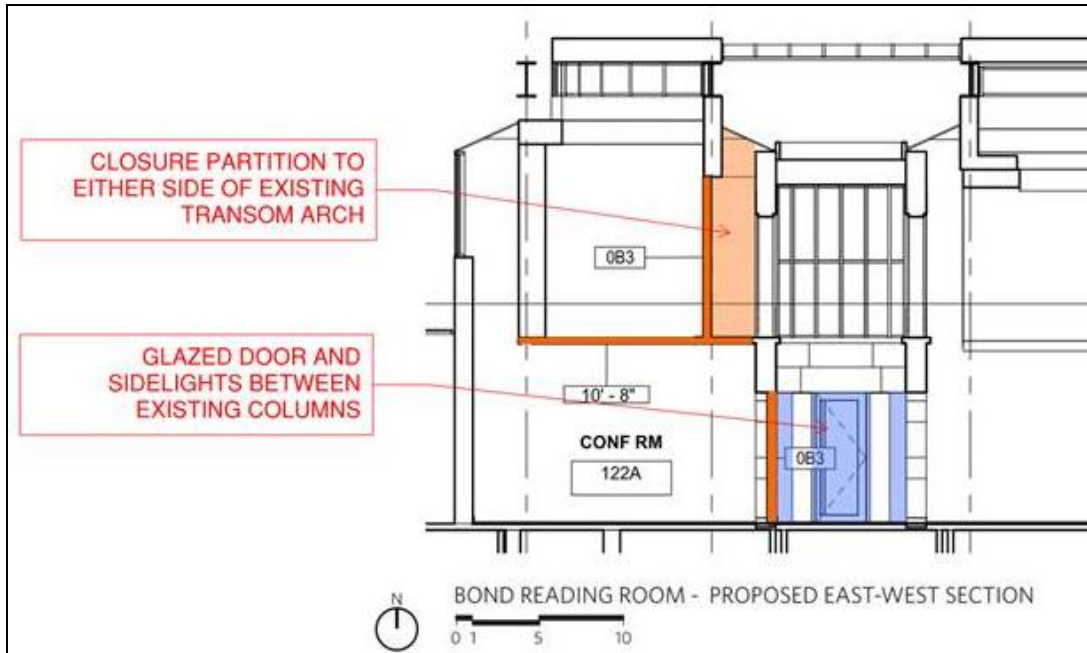
Concept Review  
 Alteration  
New Construction  
Demolition

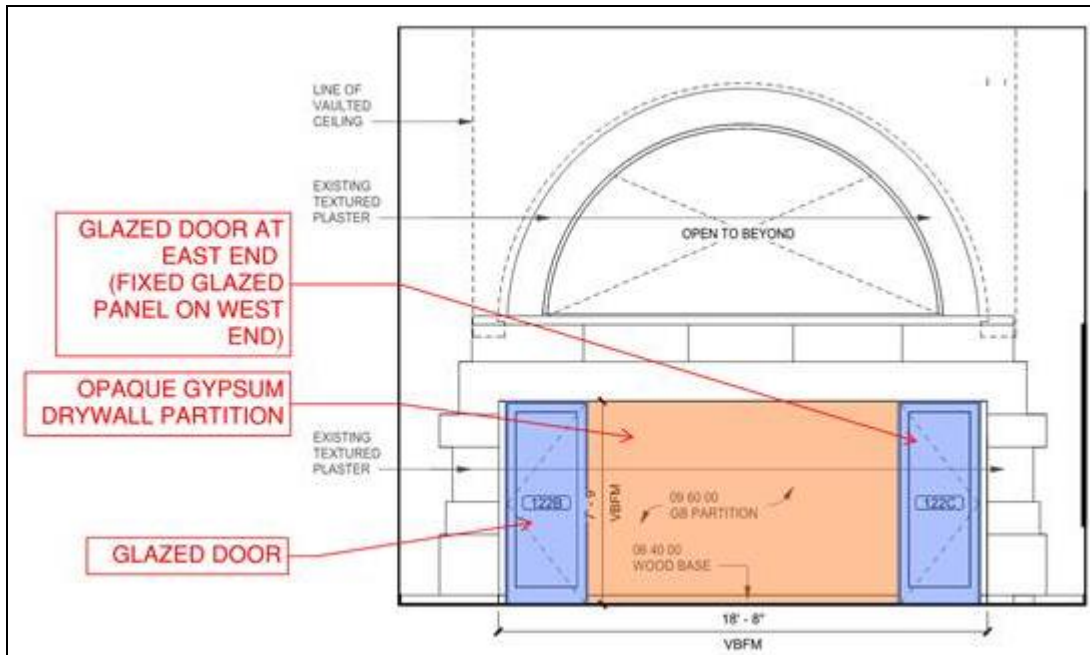
The Folger Shakespeare Library, represented by Kieran Timberlake architects, seeks conceptual design review for alterations to the 1983 Bond Reading Room. An amendment to the building's designation to expand the period of significance to 1983 to include the reading room is pending before the Board. This conceptual application would only be subject to the Board's review if the amended application is approved.



## Proposal

The project calls for the apse-like spaces at either end of the reading room to be enclosed for conference and office uses. Within each end room, partitions with glass doors would be constructed within the first-floor openings. On the second floor, in the semi-circular arched openings above, partitions would be recessed behind the openings. Within each enclosed space, ceilings would be dropped for installation of mechanical venting above. The dropped ceilings would be pulled away from the outside walls to retain natural light from the perimeter skylights. The long, barrel-vaulted central space would remain unaltered, with the exception of the insertion of new door opening and removal of the low bookcases.





### Evaluation

The alterations would result in some loss of volume to the space, and most notably, the drum skylights would no longer be visible. Pulling the ceiling in from the outside walls and maintaining the perimeter skylights will somewhat compensate for these alterations, as it will retain at least a sense of the original volume while also allowing some natural light to continue to illuminate the rooms. The alterations are reversible, without demolition of significant features, should restoration of the space be desired in the future.

### Recommendation

*The HPO recommends that the Review Board find the alterations reasonably compatible, approve the concept as consistent with the purposes of the act, and that final approval be delegated to staff.*

*HPO Contact: Steve Callcott*