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

Property Address:	4101 Nebraska Avenue, NW	Agenda
Landmark/District:	National Presbyterian Church	X Consent Calendar
		X Concept Review
Meeting Date:	September 26, 2019	X Alteration
H.P.A. Number:	19-548	New Construction
		Demolition

Architectural historian Andi Adams, representing the National Presbyterian Church, seeks concept review for a front and rear addition to the church. Plans have been prepared by Beyer Blinder Belle Architects.

Property Description

The National Presbyterian Church (NPC) is the centerpiece of a campus of buildings originally developed in the 1920s as the Hillcrest Children’s Center and later purchased and repurposed to become the home of NPC in the early 1960s. The church was constructed in 1969 in a modern Gothic Revival style; it was designed by Harold Wagoner, a prolific and noteworthy architect of Protestant ecclesiastical architecture in the mid-20th century.

Proposal

The project calls for adding a three-story addition on the rear to house a vestibule and elevators, and a one-story addition on the front mezzanine level to house meeting rooms and to open to the front garden. The existing front terrace would be extended atop the new garden meeting room addition and enclosed with a glass railing. The smooth limestone panels that would be impacted by the additions would be salvaged and reused to clad the additions; the limestone panels containing carved scripture in the location of the front addition would be salvaged and stored on site for a future reuse still to be determined. The project would also include minor regrading and new walkways at the rear to improve pedestrian access from the parking lot.

Evaluation

The proposed additions are compatible in massing, materials and architectural character with the church. The one-story front addition will correct a deficiency in the current design by providing a more deliberate and direct connection between the church and the sunken garden; by extending the plinth of the building, it will not fundamentally change the building’s distinctive composition or design.

Recommendation

HPO recommends the Board find the concept compatible with the landmark and consistent with the preservation act, and that final approval be delegated to staff.

HPO Staff Contact: Steve Callcott