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

Landmark/District: **Barry Farm Dwellings** (pending designation) (x) Agenda
Address: 1100-1371 Stevens Road, 2677-2687 Wade Road and
2652 Firth Sterling Avenue SE

Meeting Date: **September 26, 2019** (x) Raze
Case Number: **HPA 19-482** (x) Permit

The applicant, property owner District of Columbia Housing Authority, seeks review of permit applications to raze 31 residential buildings.

The applicant has circulated raze clearance letters to the necessary review agencies. HPO received a landmark nomination for the property prior to its clearance and DCRA's issuance of the raze permits. The applicant requested a postponement of the designation and raze hearings to this date.

A pending landmark nomination protects a property until a decision on designation settles whether the property is to be subject to the preservation law. The law requires that, prior to issuance of a permit to raze a historic property, the raze application must first be referred to the Board.

If the property is not designated a landmark, the buildings will not be subject to preservation review, and they may be razed once DCRA has issued the permits.

If the property is designated a landmark, razing the buildings would fail to retain and enhance the historic property and would fail to encourage its restoration, contrary to the purposes of the preservation law (D.C. Official Code § 6-1101(b)(2)). The Board would therefore have to recommend against demolition.

Recommendation

If the subject property is designated a historic landmark, it is recommended that the Board advise the Mayor's Agent that the proposed raze is inconsistent with the purposes of the preservation law, because it does not enhance, restore or retain the character of the landmark.

If the property is not designated a landmark, there is no action for the Board to take; HPO would clear the applications as beyond its jurisdiction, and DCRA may proceed to permit the razes as appropriate.