

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

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| Property Address: | 913 U Street NW | Agenda |
| Landmark/District: | U Street Historic District | X Consent Calendar |
| Meeting Date: | April 25th, 2019 | X Concept Review |
| H.P.A. Number: | 19-268 | X Alteration Subdivision |

Restaurant operator Dirty Goose, represented by applicant Justin Parker, seeks conceptual design review for construction of a rooftop trellis structure with retractable awning at 913 U Street NW.

Property Description

Built in 1885, 913 U Street NW is located across the street from the African American Civil War Memorial. Architect D.B. Groff constructed this building as a two-story brick structure in a row of similar styled two-story buildings. The building proposes to combine its rooftop with 911 U Street NW. The building has been substantially altered. The original storefront door and windows have been removed and the exterior has been covered with stucco. The proposal calls for construction of a roof-top deck, access structure and rail, all of which would be visible.

Evaluation

Although the Board has generally discouraged visible rooftop decks to historic buildings, this case represents one of the few contexts where some limited visibility could be considered acceptable. This building has been substantially altered over time, such that few original features remain, and the overall integrity of the structure will not be adversely affected by the introduction of modern rooftop elements. Likewise, the commercial context of U Street has seen numerous changes over time, with many of the nearby commercial buildings evidencing altered window and door openings, modern storefronts, and visible roof decks. In discussions with the applicants, the HPO has encouraged reducing the visibility of the rooftop railing by setting it back from the historic building façade and reducing the weight of the material used.

Recommendation

The HPO recommends that the Review Board approve the conceptual design for roof trellis as compatible with the character of the historic district, and delegate final approval to staff.

Staff Contact: Imania Price