



Kadesha
District of Columbia Government
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
Box 75115
Washington, DC 20013



November 20, 2008

Mr. Lennox Douglas
Chief, Building and Land Regulation Administration
DCRA
941 North Capitol Street NE, Second Floor
Washington, DC 20002

RE: 1311, 1309 H Street NE

Dear Mr. Douglas,

The owners of the properties at 1309-1311 H Street NE have applied for raze permits to demolish these structures. The ANC sent a letter to the owners offering to help in taking advantage of zoning and tax incentives that are available. The Commission has subsequently learned that we can object to raze permits without filing a nomination for historic landmark.

Please be informed that at a properly noticed public meeting with a quorum (five Commissioners) present, ANC 6A unanimously adopted a motion to send a letter of opposition to the raze permit, if the owner of 1311 H Street NE proceeds with plans to demolish the building.

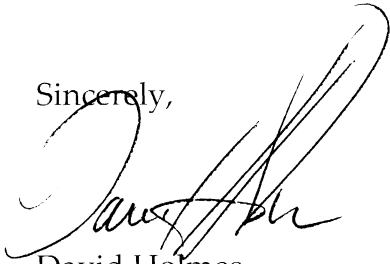
1311 is an important structure in the history of H Street. Built by Charles C. Meads in 1892, it served as, first, a barber shop and, second, as a grocery. About the time the Atlas opened, 1311 became a musical instrument store. The Atlas, a national historic landmark, featured live entertainment as well as movies. The shop supplied the local entertainers with the necessary musical equipment and sheets of music. 1311 continued as a music shop into the 1950s.

The architect/builder/initial owner of 1311 and 1309 was an important developer on Capitol Hill. He also served as a City assessor. His father James Meads, a carpenter,

assisted in the raising and reconstruction of the Merrimack, making it into the ironclad which fought the Monitor near the Hampton Roads. Mr. Charles Meads served on the ship, rechristened the CSS Virginia, during its battles with the Union ships as a yeoman/carpenter. Mr. Meads had other ties to the neighborhood; he ran a hardware store at 1301 H Street.

ANC 6A asserts its great weight in opposition to the destruction of this building. Its external features are attractive, and link to two matching, still standing, structures built as part of the same block – 1305 and 1307. This building should be preserved and, at least, the façade retained.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Holmes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "D" and "H".

David Holmes
Vice Chair