

**Public comment received by the  
Historical Commission regarding the  
Review In Concept application for  
122 S. 19th St and 1902 Sansom St**

## 122 S 19th St & 1902 Sansom St at July 27 Arch Comm meeting

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Mon 7/26/2021 9:00 AM

To: Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@Phila.gov>

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Allyson Mehley, Staff  
Philadelphia Historical Commission

Re: 122 S. 19th St & 1902 Sansom St, Proposal: Construct addition "Review in Concept" at Architectural Committee, July 27, 2021 meeting

Hi, Allyson,

Jay Farrell and I, historic preservationists who each reside and work in Philadelphia, wish to jointly comment on the "review in concept" proposal to construct addition for 122 S. 19th St (Sophy Curson) & 1902 Sansom St, as follows:

(1) **We object to the Historical Commission considering an overbuild proposal prior to consideration of the actual nomination** of 122 S. 19th St which was received almost two years ago, in August, 2019. The Architectural Committee would be poking around in the dark, unsure what is important to keep and whether and how much overbuild would be appropriate to the site. First, there should be a proper adjudication of the nomination on its own merits and contemplation of the character defining features and merits of the property. The Historical Commission does not exist to consider what would be best for developers; rather its mission is to protect historic properties, so consider first the historic nature of the property and only afterwards, then consider an overbuild request.

(2) If the proposal is to be considered anyway, we object to plans that only depict a **vague, nebulous seven story blob**, rather than a specific, detailed proposal that can properly be evaluated.

(3) Adding seven stories would seem to be adding **too many stories**. All three adjoining townhouses are only four stories tall.

(4) **Adding any stories misses the point**. There is tremendous character to the existing, lovely, one story Sophy Curson building, which we have each admired for many years. It stands out. And, it stands out even more in a proximity that has recently been sprouting several skyscraper residential buildings nearby which include the two basically next door on the western side of 19th St (the Harper and Laurel) and two not yet named buildings to rise across the street on the eastern side of 19th St (one south of the Aldine aka CVS and one that would arise on top of the Aldine aka CVS).

We appreciate the Architectural Committee's consideration of our comment.

Allyson- I'd much appreciate hearing today that you received this note, thanks.

Sincerely,

Howard B. Haas, Esq  
Jay Farrell

cc: Oscar Beisert at the Keeping Society of Philadelphia, the nominator of 122 S. 19th St.  
Patrick Grossi at the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia