Dear Members of the staff, Architectural Committee and Commission,

I am writing in support of the staff's recommendation of denial for the project at 511 S 4th Street. I think that the removal of the gable roof and rear wall constitute a demolition and removal of character defining features. In addition I am very concerned about the proposed changes to the front facade. In addition to the removal of cornice and painting that the staff notes, the drawing shows the removal of the character defining 6/6 windows. The striped brick facade and the fact that the windows are shown all the same size implies a new brick facade perhaps as a veneer, even if this is not stated. The storefront could be restored to its original residential state, however care should be taken to make sure that the brick matches and the design is a plausible restoration. A building like this would almost certainly have had marble stairs. Real efforts should be made to locate a photo.

Randal Baron