


**PUBLIC COMMENT ON
700-02 AND 704 CHESTNUT STREET
APPLICATION**

FW: 700-704 Chestnut Street

preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

Mon 1/30/2023 10:25 AM

To: Jon Farnham <Jon.Farnham@phila.gov>

 5 attachments (1 MB)

IMG_9010.jpg; IMG_9012.jpg; IMG_9013.jpg; IMG_9015.jpg; IMG_9016.jpg;

From: Eve Gentieu <gentieu55@att.net>**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2023 7:00 PM**To:** preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>**Subject:** 700-704 Chestnut Street

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To the attention of the Architectural Committee,

Good day,

The Philadelphia Inquirer article from this past Monday, January 23 piqued my interest because it mentioned Hightop Development as the builders for the newly proposed plan.

Hightop is presently erecting an apartment building in our neighborhood, and I think it is worth looking at the photos to get an idea of their aesthetic. They are building by right, so did not need any neighborhood approvals, but they did informally agree to use brick as a siding material to help the building blend in with the historic neighborhood. We are in the Tulpehocken Station Historic District (National Register) in Germantown.

While the view from the corner looks ok, the massive expanse of the monocolor extensions on its Germantown Avenue side are ghastly, and the siding material visible on the Tulpehocken Street side is unfortunate, to say the least. The aforementioned brick will be minimal at best, and is planned for a part of the ground floor facade on Germantown Avenue.

This is directly across the street from the Queen's House, and adjacent to the Queen's Ladies in Waiting House.

I would ask you to consider their future proposals very carefully. Even though they talk the good talk, is there any way to hold them to using materials that will insure the aesthetic they seem to be proposing? I am skeptical that they have any sensitivities at all to the historic nature of the original building or neighborhood.

I watched the recording of the meeting, and am unsure why demolition was approved, if that is indeed what the final motion was for. If demolition is contingent on approval of plans not yet submitted, what is the value of approving demolition?

Thank you!

Eve Gentieu



