

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Historic Preservation Review Board



Public Roundtable on
PR23-0165, the “Historic Preservation Review Board
Outerbridge Horsey Confirmation Resolution of 2019”

Testimony of
Outerbridge Horsey
Nominee for reappointment to the Historic Preservation Review
Board

Before the
Committee of the Whole
Council of the District of Columbia
The Honorable Phil Mendelson, Chairperson

John A. Wilson Building
Room 120
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Good morning Chairman Mendelson and Councilmembers:

My name is Outerbridge Horsey and I am here this morning to testify and to answer any questions regarding my nomination. I would like to thank you Chairman Mendelson and other members of the Committee for taking the time out to allow me to sit before you all today. I would also like to thank Mayor Bowser for re-nominating me as a public member on the Historic Preservation Review Board.

I was born in Washington, DC, at the Colombia Hospital for Women, a building that has since been repurposed as multi-family condominium building. Though DC was always home and my family maintained a house here, I grew up overseas as the child of a US Foreign Service Officer, living in Japan, Italy and Czechoslovakia. This background no doubt contributed to my later interest in architecture and also gave me an appreciation for different cultures and historical styles. I attended the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia and received a B.A. in the Design of the Environment and minor in Classics and Archaeology. After graduation I returned to DC to work for a year as a gardener, as a draftsman in a solar energy firm, and I also took classes at the Corcoran School of Art. A year later, I returned to Penn and earned a Master of Architecture degree from the Graduate School of Fine Arts. After working for a year in Philadelphia I returned to DC where I worked for two firms, Metcalf and Associates and Hartman Cox Architects before becoming licensed as an architect and starting my own firm in 1988. My wife Georgina Owen and I were married in 1992 and have lived in the Georgetown Historic District for many years.

I am the principal of Outerbridge Horsey Associates, PLLC, a design firm providing architectural services to residential, institutional and commercial clients. The firm is a DC Certified Business Enterprise as a Small Business, a Resident Owned Business, and a Local Business. Many of the firm's projects have been directly associated with historic buildings and contexts including the Georgetown University Alumni House, the Volta Bureau, the DuPont Renaissance Condominiums, and Dumbarton House Museum, as well as award winning residential projects, Myrtle Grove, in Talbot County, Maryland

and 40 Division Street in Newport, Rhode Island. Together with two other partners in 1992, I produced the Map of Georgetown, a 4-color offset-lithograph, limited edition print, which was hand drawn using aerial photographs and which highlights the eleven National Historic Landmarks in Georgetown.

In addition to my career as an architect in DC, I have made numerous contributions in public service as the first President of the Board of Directors of the Georgetown Ministry Center, a non-profit group dedicated to serving the homeless in and around Georgetown. The GMC has gone on to become a very successful organization and serves as a model for other neighborhoods. I also served on the Hurt Home Advisory Board for emotionally disturbed DC youths for several years in the early 1990's. I was a co-founder of Trees for Georgetown, a very successful volunteer group which planted street trees at a time when there were no government funds available for planting trees (unlike now). At an earlier time in my life during a summer as a college student I served as a supervisor in the Washington, DC Mayor's Youth Garden Program. I have been active for many years in the Citizens Association of Georgetown serving on the Board and as a member of its Historic Preservation and Zoning Committee. For the past 5 years I have been a trustee of the Foundation for the Preservation of Historic Georgetown, which holds over 100 open space conservation and historic façade easements. I currently also serve as the first vice-president of the Washington National Monument Association

With regards to the Historic Preservation Review Board, it has been my honor and pleasure to serve on the HPRB since December 2016. As stated in my resume, I meet the Secretary of the Interior's Historic Preservation Professional Qualification Standards for Historic Architecture.

I am familiar with the DC historic preservation law and believe that it provides a detailed and well-reasoned approach to preserving the historic architecture of Washington DC for enjoyment and enrichment of its citizens and visitors while sensibly allowing for an increase in economic development and expansion of construction to allow for services, and more housing to attract and to provide for a growing population. I believe it also

sensibly provides for financial assistance where justified by economic hardship to those properties and the owners thereof who are in the need of receiving it.

Over my career as an architect, I have worked in numerous DC historic districts and have interacted with many of the staff members of the Historic Preservation Office. I have always been impressed by the depth of their knowledge of the historic districts in DC, and their commitment to ensuring thoughtful planning and intelligent development of buildings and historic sites in those districts.

I believe the HPRB with its nine members, representing qualified professionals in history, architectural history, archaeology and architecture, and citizen members, comprises an exceptionally well-balanced yet diverse group that can work together to achieve a consensus with respect determining that a project is consistent with the Act and serves the public interest. I have enjoyed working with the Chairman and my colleagues on the Board to achieve these goals and I look forward to continuing to do so.

I have visited all of the historic districts in DC. I believe I know them sufficiently to realize that they represent a broad range of architectural styles and with their social and demographic diversity they make a tremendous contribution to the richness and beauty of DC.

Thank you again for allowing me to testify and I will be happy to answer any questions that you may have.