
**HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD
STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION**

Landmark/District:	Bancroft Elementary School/Mt. Pleasant	<input type="checkbox"/> Agenda
Address:	1755 Newton Street, NW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent Calendar
Meeting Date:	June 25, 2015	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alteration
H.P.A. Number:	15-439	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Demolition
Staff Reviewer:	Andrew Lewis	<input type="checkbox"/> Conceptual Design

The District of Columbia Department of General Services (DGS) and Department of Public Schools (DCPS) have requested a permit to demolish the 1938 auditorium/gymnasium wing of Bancroft Elementary School. The earliest portions of Bancroft School were designed by Municipal Architect Albert Harris and constructed in 1923 and 1932. In 1938, a relatively simple auditorium/gymnasium wing was constructed behind the school, directly north of the central entrance. All three of these early components of the Bancroft School were constructed within Mt. Pleasant Historic District's period of significance of 1870-1949 and are considered contributing elements of the district.

On June 4, 2015, the Historic Preservation Review Board (Board) reviewed a concept for modernization of the Bancroft Elementary School. The concept included demolition of the 1938 auditorium/gymnasium in order to establish a new, north-south corridor that would connect the main entry lobby to new additions proposed to the north. The feasibility of retaining varying degrees of the historic auditorium/gymnasium was thoroughly evaluated in the development of the concept, but these studies established that very substantial alteration would be required in order to adapt the auditorium/gymnasium to meet accessibility standards and other program requirements. Some structural deficiencies would also have to be addressed. HPO and the Board ultimately agreed that razing the auditorium/gymnasium was the most logical course of action. The ANC and Historic Mt. Pleasant also supported demolition.

HPO recommends that the Board:

- Find that the demolition is not consistent with the DC Historic Landmark and Historic District Protection Act.