



City of Hartford
Historic Preservation Commission
c/o Planning Division
260 Constitution Plaza
Hartford, CT 06103

RE: 35 Lafayette Street
Proposed new construction of two-story building

Dear Chair Jahnke and commissioners:

On behalf of the Hartford Preservation Alliance, I am respectfully requesting that the above referenced application be denied.

The *Hartford Preservation Guidelines* clearly states that “new buildings which are a product of their own time, which are in character with the style, detail, and massing of the existing neighborhood” is recommended, and “buildings design in conflict with the character, size, setbacks, forms or materials of the neighborhood” is not recommended. The proposed design for the Root Center at 35 Lafayette Street is in conflict with both of these guidelines.

The use of contemporary materials is not prohibited under accepted preservation standards and, when used in a manner sympathetic to the historic architecture of an existing district, provides for resources that will, in the future, themselves be considered landmark and historic buildings. The predominant building material for non-residential buildings in the Frog Hollow neighborhood, both historic and later infill construction, is brick and masonry. This is true for the two examples of nearby architecture that the architect cites in his narrative on the proposed design. The design and plans submitted to this commission contains none of this material and would, in our opinion, have an adverse effect upon the Frog Hollow National Historic District. Examples of newer, infill construction that respect the existing materials and massing of their historic districts are attached.

We would also like to express our disappointment that the applicant chose not to meet with the Frog Hollow Neighborhood Revitalization Zone to advise them of their proposed plans for their neighborhood.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary A. Falvey
Executive Director
encl.



10/22/2020

RisCassi & Davis Building 131 Oak Street 1982



12/09/2020

Immacare Apartments 168 Hungerford Street 2010



Hartford Hospital Community Health Center 134 Jefferson Street (Jefferson-Seymour Historic District) 2015



Good Samaritan Non-Profit Senior Housing 8 Francis Court (Parkville Historic District) under construction