

June 14, 2022

Leslie Radcliffe, Chair
City Plan Commission
165 Church Street
New Haven, Connecticut 06510

Re: Item 1608-03, 37 Center Street

Dear Madam Chair:

I represent the Preservation Committee of the New Haven Preservation Trust, founded in 1961. Its mission is as follows: *To rally our diverse city to embrace and champion its historic places and spaces.* The Trust submits this testimony regarding Item 1608-03 on the Agenda for the City Plan Commission meeting of June 15, 2022.

The buildings at 37-39 Center Street are contributing structures in the Ninth Square National Historic District and are subject to the Secretary of the Interior's guidelines for renovation and rehabilitation. Members of the Preservation Committee reviewed the Site Plan Review Application and discussed the historic appropriateness of the proposed exterior materials and design with Jeff Jahnke, Architect.

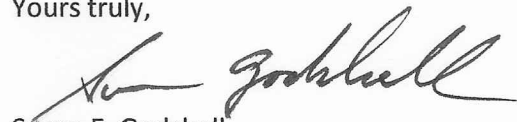
The Architect's letter to City Plan staff dated May 18, 2022 states that exterior work will consist of in-kind masonry repairs; awning repair and/or replacement (street facade); treatment to or replacement of faux stone veneer (street facade); replacement/repair of corrugated metal band above awning; and complete window replacement with black aluminum clad – historically appropriate (street facade).

In a cordial and productive discussion, the architect agreed to remove the faux stone veneer on columns at the street level and remove the metal band above the awning used for former business signs. Due to delivery issues, Mr. Jahnke and the owner are considering other options for window replacement, not resolved at this time. Mr. Jahnke agreed that white vinyl window inserts are not historically appropriate and is seeking alternatives which respect the character of this fine Romanesque Revival building.

The Preservation Committee strongly recommends a different model of Hardy Board, not the clapboards shown on the Site Plan submittal. Clapboards are not historically appropriate on a 19th century masonry commercial building. Mr. Jahnke agreed to look into alternative Hardy Board options.

Based on implementation of the items discussed above and subject to suitable choice of new windows and Hardy Board, the Preservation Trust supports this project and urges your approval.

Yours truly,



Susan E. Godshall

Chair, Preservation Committee

cc: Jeff Jahnke

Rona Johnston, President, NHPT