

Memorandum  
Department of Planning and Development  
Historic Preservation Office

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**To:** Jean Fraser, Planner

**From:** Deborah Andrews, Historic Preservation Program Manager DA

**Date:** November 7, 2013

**Re:** Proposed New Construction at 133 York Street - Compatibility with Adjacent West End Historic District

Sec. 14-526 (a), Standard 18 b requires that “when any part of a proposed development is within 100 feet of a designated ... historic district, such development shall be generally compatible with the major character-defining elements of the ... portion of the district in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development.” This review standard also requires that Historic Preservation staff provide comments to the Planning Board relative to this Standard.

In this instance, although the proposed development is located within 100 feet of the boundary line of the West End Historic District, the development does not *immediately* abut the district boundary. Other existing residential structures separate the proposed new construction from the historic district. Also, because the development is to be located within the interior of the block, existing buildings that front onto the surrounding streets obscure views of the new building. Indeed, the new development would only share a direct visual relationship with the rear or secondary facades of surrounding residential structures. Finally, the recently completed Harborview Terrace is now part of the proposed development’s context and has set a precedent for departing from the traditional architecture and development patterns that characterize this area. For all these reasons, compatibility with the West End Historic District is not a major issue in this case.