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## Permit the Bancroft demolition

Resolved, that the proposed modernization of Bancroft Elementary School, including the demolition of the gymnasium/auditorium, is consistent with the Historic District Protection Act, and should be permitted, without requiring a "project of special merit" determination.

**Why:** Historic Mount Pleasant has observed that the gymnasium/auditorium does not "hold any significant historic value to either the property or the community". That building is not mentioned in the filing for the National Register of Historic Places, which refers to the Newton Street frontage -- the triple arch, classical columns, and red tiled roof -- but makes no mention of the gymnasium/auditorium, added to the building in 1938. That building is in fact entirely concealed by the Newton Street frontage, and thus does not contribute to the historic style of the structure. It is inaccurate to describe this portion of Bancroft as "historic", as Historic Mount Pleasant has observed.

Because this particular portion of the school is of neither historic nor architectural significance, its demolition is not a violation of Section 2(b)(1) of the Historic District Protection Act, and so is not inconsistent with that Act.

ANC1D is confident that the case for a "project of special merit" can be made, given the compelling need of Mount Pleasant for a thorough redesign of this 90-year-old school. Nonetheless, the demolition of the gymnasium/auditorium need not, and should not, depend on such a determination.

*Passed by 4 to 0 vote at the legally noticed, public meeting of ANC1D on June 23, 2015, with a quorum present. Voting "yes": Commissioners Hoey, Rivas, Agbro, McKay. A quorum for this commission is three; four commissioners were present.*