

Minutes of the Meeting of the Architectural Committee of the Philadelphia Historical Commission

15 September 1976

Herbert W. Levy, A.I.A., Chairman

Present: Herbert W. Levy, A.I.A., Chairman, Architectural Advisor to the Commission
Theodore T. Bartley, Jr., A.I.A., Preservation Committee, American Institute of Architects, Philadelphia Chapter.
Erling H. Petersen, A.I.A., Old Philadelphia Development Corporation
Russell Milnor, A.I.A., Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority
Richard Tyler, Historian
Patricia Slomionkowsk, Executive Assistant to the Chairman

Also: Iyonne Ortiz de Webb, Washington Square West Project Area Committee
Vance Packard, State Archaeologist, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Mr. and Mrs. Greenberg, owners of 913 Spruce Street.
Owner of 1907 Spruce Street.

SUBMISSIONS

712 Addison Street, Irvin Maitin, Architect. The Committee recommends the approval of this plan as presented. The staff will supply the architect with door, window and shutter details.

Quadrangle Renovation, University of Pennsylvania, Davis, Brody and Associates, Architects. Approval of this plan calling for interior renovations is recommended.

606 Spruce Street, John H. Burris, Architect. The Committee reviewed the plans submitted by Mr. Burris for the restoration of 606 Spruce Street and recommends their approval. It is suggested that the paneling of the door match the paneling of the jamb casing and that a detail of the cornice, to match 608 Spruce Street, be submitted. Mr. Bartley, subsequent to the Committee meeting, visited the site and reported that similar buildings on the block had paneled shutters on all three floors as proposed by Mr. Burris for 606 Spruce Street. Paneled shutters, therefore, may be hung on all three floors.

229-35 Arch Street, BALLINGER. The Committee reviewed the drawing as presented and made several recommendations. The gash on the upper floors should be divided in half thereby duplicating the existing window pattern. The first floor window openings should be retained with the use of an opaque spandrel glass in these openings. Before a final approval to this project can be given, a resubmission incorporating the above recommendations must be submitted.

1907 Green Street, Andreas Sagaty, Architectural Designer. Approval of this proposal is recommended.

SUBMISSIONS (Cont'd)

524 Pine Street. The Committee reviewed the drawing showing the installation of the period frontispiece on this building, as proposed by the owner, and recommends its approval.

DEMOLITIONS

4601-03 Fishers Lane. The Friends' Hospital Administration again requested permission from the Historical Commission to proceed with the demolition of the buildings situate at 4601-03 Fishers Lane. In March of 1976 the Committee and the Commission reviewed the Hospital's first request and asked that the preservation and reuse of the buildings be given some consideration. Since that time the hospital has noted that the buildings have undergone continual abuse by vandals and deterioration by weather and that no other alternative, save demolition, now exists. Since the six month withholding period has elapsed and due to the deteriorating condition of the buildings, the Committee, with reluctance, suggests that the Commission grant permission to proceed with the demolition of these buildings.

REHABILITATION SPECIFICATIONS

219-20 South Eighth Street. The specifications were reviewed and the Committee recommends their approval. All restoration proposals, including measured drawings, however, must be reviewed by the Committee and the Commission before a final approval can be granted.

2116 Green Street. Dr. Tyler was directed to inspect the building and make a report to the Committee at its next meeting.

913 Spruce Street. Mr. and Mrs. Greenberg attended the Committee meeting to present their request for a Historical Commission plaque. After some discussion, the Committee unanimously agreed to recommend that the Commission deny this request on the basis that the door and shutters are stained and varnished rather than painted. It was agreed that the use of this type of exterior finish is inappropriate for a dwelling of this period. The Greenbergs advised the Committee that the doors at the Second Bank on Chestnut Street are stained and that the building is of the same period as 913 Spruce Street. It was pointed by the Committee that the comparison of a Classical Revival financial building and a residence of the same period was inappropriate.

Following the meeting, a member of the Committee, Russ Milnor of the Redevelopment Authority, examined the above mentioned bank and found the doors to be painted brown and not stained and varnished.

PLAQUES (Cont'd)

248 Catharine Street. The Committee noted that the rain water conductor box had not yet been installed in accordance with the approved drawing on file and also questioned the quality of the brickwork over the first floor windows. Dr. Tyler was asked to inspect the building and report his findings to the Committee at its next meeting.

2201-05 Green Street. The Committee agreed to recommend the approval of a plaque for the Bergdoll Mansion as soon as all window air conditioning units have been removed; a plaque for the carriage house was considered and the Committee recommends that it be refused until the structure is completely and accurately restored.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Siemiontkowski
Executive Assistant to the Chairman

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