

**REPORT OF THE ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE
PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

**Vincent Rivera, AIA, Chair
Commission Offices, Room 576, City Hall
9 July 2002**

Present

Vincent Rivera, AIA, Chair
Rudy D'Alessandro
Daniel McCoubrey, AIA
Suzanne Pentz

Randal Baron, Assistant Historic Preservation Officer
Jon Farnham, Historic Preservation Planner
Diane M. Hughes, Executive Secretary
Richard Tyler, Historic Preservation Officer

Also

William Burke, Art Commission
Don Davidow, Knit Wit
Ann Gitter, Knit Wit

Vincent Rivera, AIA, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

201 South 18th Street, aka 1718 Walnut Street

D. Cameron Lacy III, Owner/Applicant
DATE: 1955; architect, Samuel O'Shiver
PROPOSAL: New storefront

This application proposes renovations to the commercial façade at 1718 Walnut Street, one of several storefronts in a larger building. The store is part of 201 South 18th Street, the Rittenhouse Claridge, a high rise International Style apartment building.

Staff recommendation: Approval, on the condition that the galvanized, corrugated metal headband is replaced with a smooth surface compatible with the sleek International Style building; that the horizontal line established by the neighboring storefront is maintained; if awnings are added in the future, that they match the treatment of the other storefronts in the building; per storefront guideline and Standard 9.

Mr. Farnham explained the proposal.

The meeting was attended by Don Davidow and Ann Gitter of the Knit Wit Corporation. Ms. Gitter asked for clarification of the horizontal line. Mr. Davidow noted that the bank next door has black granite and said that he proposes to replicate the granite to give consistency to the buildings. In addition, Mr. Davidow said that the same proposed corrugated metal would be incorporated into the interior. Ms. Gitter thought that the architect, who was unable to attend the meeting, could better answer questions posed by the Committee. She, therefore, telephoned the architect.

Committee members thought that the horizontal line should be retained; however, Mr. Baron said that the continuation of the horizontal line of the neighboring storefronts onto its storefront would require some demolition, which was not proposed by the applicant. Some members inquired about the type of lighting for the sign. It was noted that the signage would be pin-mounted with a halo lit background. Mr. Rivera conveyed to the architect that the Committee thought a flat metal more appropriate than the corrugated metal for a background. The architect inquired if the metal could be broken up into sections and Mr. Rivera and the Committee responded that flat-seamed panels would be acceptable. In addition, the architect asked if the radius of the sign could be corrugated and the Committee responded that it preferred a simplified design. It also noted that any awning consideration in the future should match the existing awnings on the building. The Committee concurred that the proposed metal should have a matte finish. Mr. D'Alessandro thought that a zinc colored metal would also be appropriate.

The Architectural Committee recommended approval of the proposal with a flat seamed paneled system with a matte-metal finish for the headband including the curved projecting section and the signage as submitted, with the staff to approve details.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Hughes
Executive Secretary