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MINUTES OF THE 193rd STATED MEETING OF THE PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

1 May 1975

Dr. F. Otto Haas, Chairman

Present: F. Otto Haas, Chairman
Mrs. James C. Grumlish, Jr.
Edward Pinkowski
John Taxin
Joseph W. Hickey, Deputy Director of Finance
Henry J. Magaziner, A.I.A., Architectural Advisor to the Commission
Barbara Liggett, Archaeological Consultant to the Commission
David Rosenblum, Assistant City Solicitor
Richard Tyler, Historian
Patricia Sieniontkowski, Executive Assistant to the Chairman

Unless otherwise noted, all action taken herein is the result of motions correctly made, seconded and carried.

THE MINUTES of the Stated Meeting, 3 April 1975, were approved and directed to be filed.

REPORTS

The Report of the Architectural Committee for 15 April 1975 was approved by the Commission and directed to be filed with the official copy of the Minutes.

Nominations for the Certification of Buildings, Dr. Richard Tyler, Historian.

The following buildings were approved for certification pending acquiescence by the owners:

\$301 Algon Avenue
2000 block of Green Street excluding 2300 Green Street;
2002-14 Green Street; 2019-29 Green Street
2000 block of Brandywine Street
2000 block of Spring Garden Street
2000 block of Mt. Vernon Street

Mr. Pinkowski asked to be put on record as having opposed the certification of the buildings in the 2000 block of Green Street.

COMMISSION ACTIVITIES, Report on, Dr. Richard Tyler, Historian.
Dr. Tyler's report was approved and directed to be filed with the official copy of the Minutes.

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OLD BUSINESS

Cannonball Farm, Dr. Richard Tyler, Historian. Dr. Tyler informed the Board of the receipt of several reports that the specifications, provided by the Water Department, for the relocating of the Cannonball house were reportedly not being followed. In addition to improper pointing of the structure, presenting the possibility of damage to the brick in the moving of the house, the foundation laid by the contractor was insufficient to support the building. Mr. Tyler reported that he and Mr. Petri, Architect for the Water Department, were planning to inspect the site to verify the reports.

Mr. Tyler suggested recommending to the Water Department the retention of a supervising historical architect to oversee the project. It was agreed that the matter would be left in the hands of the staff.

NEW BUSINESS

Report on the Society of Architectural Historians Meeting in Boston, Patricia Siemiontkowski, Executive Assistant to the Chairman. An outline of the programs attended and the Commission's participation in the session was related to the Board. Miss Siemiontkowski's report was accepted and approved.

Proposal of George Culver for the Musical Fund Hall, Dr. Richard Tyler, Historian. The Commission reviewed Mr. Culver's proposal for the renovation of the Musical Fund Hall at 808 Locust Street and agreed to endorse it in concept. The plan calls for the rehabilitation of the ground floor with the introduction of shops, restaurants, etc. with all commercial proceeds being appropriated for the restoration of the remainder of the building.

Mr. Tyler was directed to prepare a general letter of support noting the Commission's concern for the preservation of the existing building and noting that all drawings and specifications would, of course, be subject to Commission review and approval.

Victory Building, Henry J. Magaziner, A.I.A., Architectural Advisor to the Commission. At the request of Mr. Magaziner, the staff agreed to have a National Register nomination form prepared for the Victory Building, 1001 Chestnut Street. The building, the only important example of a Second Empire commercial structure in Philadelphia, was certified by the Commission several years ago. Mr. Magaziner noted that a bill presently in Congress would require the General Services Administration to consider vacant buildings on the Register for government use before an approval for new construction could be obtained. The Victory Building would be suitable to such a use. Also, national registration would make the building eligible for federal funds for restoration.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Siemionkowski
Executive Assistant to the Chairman