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THE 111th STATED MEETING OF THE PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

31 January, 1967

Present: Mr. Grant M. Simon, Chairman

Mr. Richmond P. Miller
Dr. Roy Franklin Nichols
Mr. George K. Trautwein
Mr. Charles R. Tyson
Councilman Mary A. Varallo
Mr. James L. Ferguson, Deputy Director of Finance
Mr. Oscar Goodstein, Administrative Assistant, Department of Public Property
Isador Kranzel, Esq., City Solicitor's Office
Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom, Historian
Mrs. Charles J. Maurer, Secretary

Unless otherwise noted, all actions taken herein are the result
of resolutions properly presented, seconded and carried.

THE MINUTES for the Stated Meeting held on 29 November 1966, were approved as circulated

The Stated Meeting, scheduled for 27 December and postponed to 3 January 1967,
was cancelled.

REPORTS

Historic Values Committee, Dr. Roy Franklin Nichols, Chairman
Dr. Nichols stated that he had no report to make to the Commission

The Chairman explained to Mr. Tyson, meeting with the Commission for the first
time, that most of the work of the Commission is done by the two com-
mittees and he explained their functions. The Chairman further said
that the day by day activities of the Commission are in the hands of
Dr. Tinkcom and Mrs. Maurer with the assistance of Mrs. Shannon.

The Architectural Committee, Mr. George K. Trautwein, Chairman. A synopsis of
the two meetings held since the last Stated Meeting were read. The
full reports for 20 December 1966 and 26 January 1967 were directed to
be filed with the official copies of these minutes. Mr. Trautwein's
reports were approved.

The Commission's Activities, Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom, Historian. This report
was approved and ordered to be filed.

The Chairman added that Pennsylvania Hospital received a plaque on 23 January,
officially designating it as Registered National Historical Landmark
No. 784. He reported having attended the ceremonial presentation made
by A. Clark Stratton, Deputy Director of the National Park Service.
The plaque was accepted by T. Truxtun Hare, Jr., President of the
Hospital and by George H. Brown, Jr., Chairman of the Preston Campaign.
January 23 was chosen because this was the date in 1751 that Benjamin
Franklin petitioned the Assembly for the founding of a hospital and
Pennsylvania Hospital is the result of his endeavor.

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REPORTS CONTINUED

The Chairman, &c....

It is one of the first one hundred historically significant buildings on the Commission's official list of buildings worthy of preservation. The national recognition of the Hospital's importance as a landmark as well as its stature as a community service gives further weight to the Commission's approval for the demolition of the houses on S. 8th Street for the expansion of these services.

Abe Rosen, in his official capacity, represented the City for the Mayor.

The Eleventh Annual Report of the Philadelphia Historical Commission. This was approved and it was directed that it be circulated, first to the Mayor and other City officials, then to the mailing list at large.

OLD BUSINESS

Extension of the Six Month Period for Withholding Demolition of Certified Buildings. Mr. Kranzel reported that the Law Department, as he has said before, has reservations about this proposal, but that if Council extended the Commission's ordinance, his opinion is that the Law Department would approve the change.

Mrs. Varallo repeated her willingness to sponsor a bill to that effect and asked that all pertinent material be sent to her as soon as possible.

NEW BUSINESS

The Chairman referred to his letter to Mrs. Bullock of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and to her reply in which the question is asked: What can be done to erase the confusion in the public's mind as to whether it is the Redevelopment Authority or the Historical Commission that is chiefly responsible for the preservation of historic buildings, particularly in Society Hill? Mr. Rafsky's speech before the National Trust at its 20th Annual Meeting, held in Philadelphia, was cited.

The Chairman asked Dr. Tinkcom to explain her suggestion to the Commission

Dr. Tinkcom remarked that at the recent Annual Meeting of the Society for Architectural Historians, held in Cleveland, a paper on "The Power of the Survey," relating to Charleston's program of historical preservation, clearly indicated the desirability of having a published survey clearly setting forth the aims and accomplishments of any group interested in historic preservation. It was Dr. Tinkcom's opinion that something published by the Historical Commission for wide circulation would be a good method of offsetting the above mentioned confusion. The publication could have small photographs, short text and area maps for each section of the City of Philadelphia studied by the Historical Commission.

The Chairman emphasized that the Commission is responsible for the whole city; that it has a file on every one of the three thousand or more buildings listed as certified and worthy of preservation and that this is the only iconography on buildings in Philadelphia or in the United States. He commended the suggestion of such a publication.

NEW BUSINESS continued

Dr. Nichols asked if the City Representative's Office would publish such a work.

Mr. Goodstein agreed that this is worth a discussion with Mr. Chase of The City Representative's Office, since such a publication would result in more people coming to the City and it would be a tie-in with the Visitors' Bureau. It was agreed that Dr. Tinkcom and Mr. Goodstein discuss the proposal with Mr. Chase and report to the Commission

SOUTHWARK

The Chairman asked Dr. Tinkcom to report on recent developments. Dr. Tinkcom spoke of the grant from the American Philosophical Society for architectural study and on the Historical Commission's part in this. She stated that the folio of photographs, taken to the meeting of the Society for Architectural Historians, was a pilot project pointing out the possibility of fruitful cooperation between public and private organizations. The Commission recommended that the Chairman write to Senator Hugh Scott, asking him to support the proposal to restudy the Expressway route through Southwark. The resolution was moved, seconded and carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Grant M. Simon, F.A.I.A.
Chairman for the Commission

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