

FINAL APPROVAL

Oct 25 1960

PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE FORTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Tuesday, September 27, 1960

Present were: Mr. Harry A. Batten  
Mrs. Richardson Dilworth  
Dr. Roy Franklin Nichols  
Mr. Charles E. Peterson  
Mr. George K. Trautwein  
Mr. R. Norris Williams, II.

Mr. Grant M. Simon, Chairman

Also present: Mr. Philip Carroll, representing Commissioner Gennetti  
Mr. Harry G. McDowell, Deputy Director of Finance  
Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom, Historian  
Mrs. Charles J. Maurer, Executive Secretary  
Miss Constance F. Smith, Clerk

Unless otherwise stated, all actions reported herein are taken after motions properly presented, seconded and carried.

THE MINUTES of July 26th Meeting, with corrections noted, were approved.

REPORTS

Dr. Nichols' Report was approved, except the recommendation of his committee that concerned the certification of the Wilson Eyre house at the NE corner of Juniper & Locust Streets. This recommendation was tabled, pending further data. Dr. Nichols' report is attached.

Mr. Trautwein's Report was read and approved, except that Mr. Peterson asked that he be recorded as voting "No" on the question of permitting windows to be cut in the north facade of Bell's Court. Mr. Trautwein's report is appended.

Dr. Tinkcom's Report was approved as read. It is appended to the Minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

Unit II., Washington Square East. Mr. Peterson reported on the hearing before City Council, with particular mention of the certified buildings Nos. 325, 327 and 329 Lombard, and Nos. 406-416 Addison Street. He also mentioned the proposed shopping center on Fifth Street. It was recommended that the staff present pictures and data on the Fifth Street buildings at the next meeting. The Chairman was asked to send to Councilman Moore a letter similar to the one the Commission presented at the Councilmanic Hearings of September 13 and 14. This letter should include all the addresses of all the buildings which the Commission believes should be preserved. The Chairman was further asked to request Councilman Moore, as a member of this Commission, to represent the Commission's point of view as strongly as possible to the Council.

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Architectural Drawings by Mr. G. A. Robbins. Mr. Williams reported that Mr. Robbins has been asked to revise the drawings so far submitted for approval, documenting each architectural detail presented and omitting any which cannot be documented.

Qualified Contractors. Mr. McDowell reported that he and Mr. Carroll had met with Mr. Michael H. Sura, Commissioner of the Procurement Department, to discuss the problem of securing properly qualified contractors when work is to be done on a city-owned historic house. Mr. McDowell's report is attached. The Chairman complimented Messers McDowell and Carroll for their efforts in obtaining sympathetic understanding on the part of the Procurement Department of the need of competent contractors to restore certified buildings, and of obtaining an approved list.

Mr. McDowell asked the Historical Commission to prepare a set of standard qualifications which acceptable bidders will be expected to fulfill. Mr. Trautwein was asked to prepare notes on such a form and to confer with Mr. McDowell on legal aspects. It will be filed with the Procurement Department.

## NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Harold Eberlein. The Chairman asked if the Commission wished to recognize the action of City Council, which cited Mr. Eberlein for his book PORTRAIT OF A COLONIAL CITY. It was agreed that a letter of felicitation should be sent to Mr. Eberlein.

Kensington and Fishtown. The Chairman referred to a letter just received from Dr. J. Hampton Hoch, asking whether any buildings in Kensington, particularly those in danger of demolition because of the proposed route of the Delaware Expressway had been certified. The Historian reported that although field surveys have been made and photographs taken, no buildings have yet been certified in this part of the City.

The Chairman stated that this area has great historical importance. Mr. Williams moved that a list of Kensington churches and of the interesting old houses be presented at the October meeting. This was seconded by Mr. Batten.

An official guidebook. The Chairman suggested that a guide book be prepared listing the certified buildings and emphasizing those bearing the authorized plaque and describing them with a sentence or two of historical data. Mr. Williams thought that this would be a difficult job to do with the present small staff. Mr. Batten stated that it is too soon for this Commission to undertake such a project. It was moved and seconded that preparation of a guide book be deferred.

217 Spruce Street. Mr. Batten reported that the owner, Mr. C. Jared Ingersoll, had experienced unusual difficulty in connection with the restoration of this house and suggested that a letter, complimenting him on his accomplishment be sent by the Commission. Mr. Williams moved that the letter of commendation be deferred until Mr. Simon had an opportunity to look at the work being done, since it is rumored that the architect has changed the plans, originally submitted to the Commission, and that the result may not be what had been expected. Mr. Simon agreed to look at 217 Spruce and to report at the next meeting.

THE MINUTES

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Plaques. Mr. Williams moved that the list of plaques applied for as appended be approved.

The Meeting was adjourned at 5:10 P. M.

Respectfully submitted.....

Charles E. Peterson,  
Secretary