

October 29, 1956

A meeting of the Advisory Commission on Historic Buildings was held on September 25, 1956 at 3:30 p.m. in Room 813, City Hall Annex. The following members were present:

Mr. Grant M. Simon, Chairman
Mr. R. Norris Williams, 2nd
Mr. Charles E. Peterson

Also present were:

Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom, Research Historian
Mr. George I. Lovatt, Jr., City Architect

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Appropriation for Expenses: It was reported that Mr. Gennetti has applied for operating funds to the extent of \$6,000. \$22,000 has been requested for the Second Street Market building - making a total of \$28,000.

Historic Bldg. Markers: A watercolor sketch (2/3 full size) submitted by Mr. Batten for a building marker was approved in general. Further consideration of the exact wording was suggested.

Inventory Forms: It was recommended and adopted that the descriptive inventory form prepared by the National Trust, the American Institute of Architects and the National Park Service be used by the Commission and that 200 blanks be ordered for a beginning.

Criteria: It was agreed to use the National Trust printed pamphlet on criteria as a guide.

Categories of Importance: It was pointed out that the Ordinance calls for a list of historic buildings "in convenient classifications based upon their historic significance". Mrs. Tinkcom is to make her recommendation divided into two categories of importance.

Morrell Estate Property: Mr. Lovatt reported that the old stone building on Red Lion Road near Frankford stands in a 360 acre tract owned by Joseph Culhane and William Kelly. He has requested of the owners that it not be demolished.

5901 Woodland Avenue: Prints of the four Historic American Buildings Survey drawings of this small frame house were shown. Mr. Lovatt is to do some further checking.

Shoomac Park: It was reported that Judge Saylor is promoting gifts of money towards restoration from descendants of the original owners.

Fort Mifflin: It was reported that the special committee appointed by the Mayor has not yet met. The State is said to be giving the Fort back to the City.

Society Hill: An inventory of this district has been started by Mrs. Tinkcom.

Germantown Avenue: Judge Saylor has requested special attention to the houses at the following street numbers:

5208 Baynton
5218 Howell
5222 Theobold Endt
5226 John Bechtel

The intention is to further develop the architectural neighborhood of the Germantown Historical Society headquarters.

The "Colonial Compound": A letter from Dr. Harry Tinkcom discussed this project of Mr. Steifel's. Suggestions were called for as to how the State could aid the course of preservation in Germantown.

Eberlein Project: Mr. Harold Donaldson Eberlein's project of listing the early inhabitants of Society Hill was mentioned. It was generally agreed that a study of this area is urgent because of the various large-scale construction and reconstruction projects planned for an early date.

Delaware Expressway: Mr. Simon requested the Edwards, Kelcey and Beck report which locates the Expressway in the Old City area on Delaware Avenue. City planning alternate is on Front Street.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Charles E. Peterson,
Secretary