

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE OF THE PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

21 November 1979

Herbert W. Levy, A.I.A., Chairman

Present: Herbert W. Levy, A.I.A., Chairman, Architectural Advisor to the Commission.
Theodore T. Bartley, Jr., A.I.A., Preservation Committee, American Institute
of Architects, Philadelphia Chapter.
Erling H. Pedersen, A.I.A., Old Philadelphia Development Corporation.
Russell Milner, A.I.A., Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority.
Richard Tyler, Historian.
Patricia Siemiontkowski, Executive Assistant to the Chairman.
Marion M. Carroll, Architectural Historian.
Jefferson Meak, Historical Research Technician.

Also: Kevin Mellonkauph, Architect, to present plans for the rehabilitation of
the building situate at 324 South 11th Street.
Edward J. Parnum, Architect, to present his proposal for the reconstruction
of the frame addition at the rear of the Gloria Dei Rectory.
Della Bentivoglio, Project Coordinator, to present the University's proposal
for the introduction of a door into the Furness Wing of the Furness Library.
Mr. Orrinio, Builder, to discuss his proposal for the rehabilitation of 2172
Green Street.

SUBMISSIONS FOR ALTERATIONS

✓ 324 South 11th Street, Kevin Mellonkauph, Architect. Mr. Mellonkauph presented
his plans for the rehabilitation of 324 South 11th Street to the Architectural
Committee for review. Following a discussion of the architect's proposal
for alterations to both the front and side elevations, the Committee agreed
to recommend the approval of the plans with the requirements that the entrance
door to be installed on the front facade be similar to that at 322 South 11th
Street. In addition, the Committee asked that the metal letters on the
side elevation be painted out with an appropriate color.

Since the alterations to be undertaken at 324 South 11th Street do not
constitute a complete and accurate restoration of the building, as the north elevation
(a former party wall), a completely sympathetic rehabilitation, the building
will not be eligible for either of the University's two plaques.

✓ Gloria Dei Rectory, Edward J. Parnum, Architect. Mr. Parnum reported to the
Committee members that the frame addition at the rear of the Rectory had
pulled away from the building significantly and needed to be replaced.
Although it had been originally a porch, the architect requested permission
to rebuild the addition as it exists today, only the side of the clapboard
to conform with those shown in an early photograph of the building. In
addition, wood shingles will be placed on the outside roof shingles as approved
by the Department of Licenses and Inspections.

SUBMISSIONS (Cont'd)

The Committee recommended the approval of Mr. Parnum's plans, as presented, but requested that he carefully examine the physical condition of the wall after removing the shed. If evidence indicates a different treatment of the frame addition, revised drawings should be resubmitted for the Committee's review.

Duhring Wing, Furness Library. Delia Bentivoglio, Project Coordinator, University of Pennsylvania. Ms. Bentivoglio presented to the Committee the University's request for permission to introduce a new entrance into the facade of the Duhring Wing of the Furness Library to provide access for the handicapped. The Committee recommended the approval of this request and asked that drawings showing the position of the new doorway entrance in the facade be submitted to the Historical Commission for file.

2102 Green Street, Mr. Orivivo, Builder. Mr. Orivivo explained to the Committee his proposal to restucco the front facade of the house situate at 2102 Green Street and install a new entrance door. The Committee directed Mr. Orivivo to use 2104 Green Street as a model for his work. It was pointed out that the stucco should be scored to simulate stone coursing and that an entrance door similar to that at 2104 should be installed.

DEMOLITIONS

900-902-904 Rodman Street, Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority. At the request of the Redevelopment Authority, the Committee considered the proposal for demolition of the Rodman Street buildings to allow for new development on the site. Because of the deteriorated condition of the buildings and their marginal architectural and historical character, the Committee recommended that demolition be permitted.

PLAQUES

2037 Delancey Street. The Committee reviewed the owner's request for a plaque for 2037 Delancey Street and asked the Committee's Chairman to inspect the building. Subsequent to the meeting, Mr. Levy reported that aluminum sash had been installed in the dormer windows and that the fronts of the dormers had been faced with sheet metal. In view of these unsympathetic alterations to the building front, the Committee recommends that a plaque not be granted to 2037 Delancey Street.

1923 Mt. Vernon Street. The Committee reviewed the owner's request for a plaque for 1923 Mt. Vernon Street and questioned the appropriateness of

PLAQUES (Cont'd)

the entrance door and the lighting fixtures on the door frame. It was agreed that this request be tabled at this time. The Committee directed the staff to inspect the building and report its findings to the Committee at its next meeting.

108 Catharine Street. The Committee recommended that a plaque not be issued to 108 Catharine Street. It was determined that the design of the frontispiece and the ground floor window sash did not conform with the approved drawing on file in the Commission office. In addition, the meeting rail of the shutters on the upper floor was not appropriately placed.

3619 Locust Walk. Following the Committee's meeting, Mr. Levy inspected the building situate at 3619 Locust Street, as requested by the Committee, and reported, subsequently, that the building, indeed, merits a plaque. The Committee recommends that a Certified Restored plaque be granted to 3619 Locust Walk.

129 to 139 North 4th Street. The staff reported to the Committee on its inspection of the six buildings owned by the Orianna Development Corporation. In the opinion of the staff none of the buildings merit the receipt of a Historical Commission plaque. The major problem with each of the six buildings was reported to be the poor quality of brickwork which did not match the existing in color or texture. Moreover, the mortar and the size of the joint proved to be inconsistent with the original fabric.

Although the buildings clearly do not merit the receipt of a plaque, it was agreed that the work undertaken on the N. 4th Street buildings was an ambitious project and that the buildings did, indeed, merit the Historical Commission's Award of Merit.

419 Fulton Street. The staff reported that the owner had used old brick from the rear of the building to restore the front facade and that this work had been done fairly well. In view of this report, the Committee recommended that a Certified Restored plaque be granted to 419 Fulton Street as soon as the downspout had been painted an appropriate color.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Siemiontkowski
Executive Assistant to the Chairman

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