

MINUTES OF THE 174th STATED MEETING OF THE PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

1 March 1973

Dr. F. Otto Haas, Chairman

Present: Dr. F. Otto Haas, Chairman
Mrs. James C. Cramlish, Jr.
Edward Pinkowski
William A. Costello, Commissioner of Public Property
Henry J. Magasiner, A.I.A., Architectural Advisor to the Commission
Barbara Liggett, Archaeological Consultant to the Commission
Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom, Historian
Patricia Slomontkowski, Executive Assistant to the Chairman
Alan S. Cappel, Assistant City Solicitor
Mrs. Joseph Segal, Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority

Also: Hobart Cawood, Superintendent of the Independence National Historical Park,
and Giovanni Petri, Supervisor of Architectural Design for the Water
Department, and R. Damon Childs, Executive Director of the Philadelphia
City Planning Commission.

Herman Tenenbaum and Alexander Rappaport, owners of the "Victory Building"
at 1001 Chestnut Street.

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

THE MINUTES of the Stated Meeting, 18 January 1973, were approved and directed to
be filed.

REPORTS

The Report of the Architectural Committee for 20 February 1973 was approved
and directed to be filed with the official copy of the Minutes.

Staff Recommendations for Certifying Buildings, Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom,
Historian. This report was tabled until the April 5th Stated Meeting
of the Commission.

Report on Historical Commission Activities, Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom,
Historian. Dr. Tinkcom's report will be circulated with the March
Minutes and acted upon at the Board's next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Cannon Ball Farm, Hobart Cawood, Superintendent of the Independence National
Historical Park, and Giovanni Petri, Supervisor of Architectural Design
for the Water Department, and R. Damon Childs, Executive Director of the
Philadelphia City Planning Commission. Mr. Petri explained to the

OLD BUSINESS (Cont'd)

Historical Commission the Water Department's proposal to request demolition of the Cannon Ball house if it cannot be moved before the date when construction of the new facilities is to begin (March 3, 1974). Mr. Caswood explained that the National Park Service was interested in the acquisition of Fort Mifflin but that no legislation has yet been introduced to bring the Fort into the federal government's hands. That being so, the previous proposal to move Cannon Ball house to the Corps of Engineers' property is not feasible. Mr. Childs agreed to seek money through the Capital Program for the moving of the house if funds are needed immediately. Since the Recreation Department is in charge of Fort Mifflin, Dr. Haas agreed to arrange a meeting with Commissioner Crawford to select an appropriate site for the house.

Request for Clerk-Stenographer II, Patricia Sieniontkowski, Executive Assistant to the Chairman. The Board was asked to approve the staff's request for a Clerk-Stenographer II to fill the void in the Commission's secretarial staff. A letter requesting such an appointment will be prepared for the Chairman's signature.

NEW BUSINESS

"Victory Building" - 1001 Chestnut Street, Herman Tanenbaum and Alexander Rappaport, Owners. The owners expressed to the Commission their wish to sell the "Victory Building" to a developer, who may or may not wish to demolish the structure, without any restriction of this Commission. The building is presently over 60% vacant and sits on a valuable piece of land. Since the owners have no capital to restore the structure, as Mr. Magaziner suggested, they have no alternative except to sell. It was suggested that a group, the Architects' Workshop, for example, be asked to undertake a study of the building. If as a result of this study, the building is sold and preserved, the group could be reimbursed a minimal amount for their efforts. The owners were agreeable to this suggestion. Commissioner Costello stated the Board's desire not to hinder the owners but to help them. The visitors were excused and in Executive Session the members voted not to de-certify the structure but to assist the owners in finding a developer interested in the building's preservation and restoration. It was suggested that Dorothy Byrd of the EVENING AND SUNDAY BULLETIN be contacted and asked to write a news story on this building.

Reading Terminal, Dr. F. Otto Haas, Chairman. The Commission's Chairman was asked by the Managing Director, Hillel Levinson, to check into the possibility of having the Reading Terminal removed from the National Register of Historic Places, since the commuter circuit, part of the Market East Project, could probably not be completed unless the train shed were taken down. Commissioner Costello noted that one solution to keeping the shed, by extending its foundation and under-pinning it, would add considerably to the cost of the project. No precedent has been established

NEW BUSINESS (Cont'd)

for the removal of a building from the National Register and Mr. Magasiner, therefore, suggested that the facts underlying the Commission's and the City's position be presented to the Advisory Council and that the Council be asked to consider the problem and rule on it promptly. The Historical Commission will write to R. Garvey, Executive Secretary of this Advisory Council. It was determined by the Board that the Historian consult with William Weaver regarding the best procedure to follow in this matter. The Commission members voted unanimously to help the city in every way possible.

5900-02 Germantown Avenue (request for demolition), Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom, Historian. The owner's request to demolish these two buildings was referred to the Architectural Committee for advice.

Request for cooperation from the Historic American Engineering Record, Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom, Historian. Because the Commission meeting was running late, this matter was tabled and will be discussed at the April meeting.

Bicentennial Booklet listing Philadelphia's colonial structures, Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom, Historian. This discussion was also tabled until the April meeting.

700-14 Spruce Street, Mr. Henry J. Magasiner, A.I.A. Mr. Magasiner reported on the meeting of the Advisory Council in Philadelphia concerning the preservation of these properties. It is Mr. Magasiner's feeling that the Hospital will be asked for an honest feasibility study - a study which the Hospital may not be willing to undertake. The Board was asked, by Mr. Magasiner, to act as treasurer to accept and disburse money to an architect who might prepare such a study, if funds for this can be made available. Since the Historical Commission has released these buildings for demolition and no longer can have any legal hold on them, it was agreed that the funds, if they become available, should be channeled through another agency. Dr. Haas offered to help Mr. Magasiner find a group willing to do this.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Sienientkowski
Executive Assistant to the Chairman