

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HISTORIC DESIGNATION
PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

**MONDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2012, 9:00 A.M.
ROOM 578, CITY HALL
RICHARD DILWORTH, PH.D., CHAIR**

PRESENT

Richardson Dilworth III, Ph.D., chair
Jeffrey Cohen, Ph.D.
Bruce Laverty
David Schaaf, R.A., Philadelphia City Planning Commission
Douglas Mooney
Janet Klein

Jonathan Farnham, Executive Director
Erin Coté, Historic Preservation Planner II
Jorge Danta, Historic Preservation Planner II

ALSO PRESENT

Tully Speaker
Tom Malone
Frank Leitner
Russell Meddin
Nancy S. Weinberg
C. Donald Weinberg
Gayle Ruggert
Christine Brisson
Drew Murray, Friends of Coxie Park (FOCP)
Kristen Moses-Murray
Brian Robbins
Marisa Piccareto, FOCP
Sam R. Little, Logan Square Neighborhood Association
Edward S. Pauer
Meredith Krain, FOCP
Annette Mattei
Collette Kinane
John Gallery, Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia
Ben Leech, Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia
Barbara Morehead
Carol Dacks
Theresa Stuhlman, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation
Ken Milano, PTP Museum
Tom Potts, New Kensington CDC
Sandy Salzman, New Kensington CDC
Ariel Diliberto, New Kensington CDC
Heather Young, FOCP

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Dilworth called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Ms. Klein and Messrs. Cohen, Lavery, Mooney, and Schaaf joined him.

2132-34 CHERRY ST. DANIEL MICHAUX COXE PARK

Owner: City of Philadelphia, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation

Nominator: Thomas E. Malone and Tully Speaker

Proposal: Nomination for individual designation

OVERVIEW: This nomination proposes the individual designation of Daniel Michaux Coxe Park at 2132-34 Cherry Street. Architect Norman Rice designed the park in the early 1970s. The nomination contends that the property satisfies Criteria for Designation A, B, D, E, F, G, H, and J. The nomination does not explicitly address the satisfaction of Criterion J. The nomination lacks footnotes.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: The staff recommends that the property at 2132-34 Cherry Street does not merit designation as historic and listing on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Coté presented the nomination to the Committee on Historic Designation.

Tully Speaker, the co-nominator, stated that Coxe Park had served as the catalyst that turned the Logan Square neighborhood around. He stated that the creation of the park changed the sentiment of the residents at that time and encouraged revitalization. He described the condition of the neighborhood in the 1960s and 1970s as having vacant properties with open windows and animal infestation. He stated that Daniel Coxe and others worked to revive the neighborhood and encouraged a few intrepid developers. He stated that Logan Square is prosperous and well populated and that the creation of Coxe Park was the seminal event that brought this about.

C. Donald Weinberg, a resident of Logan Square, stated that Coxe Park demonstrates how people can coexist in an urban environment. He claimed that the park is an unusual place and the central focus of the neighborhood. It brought and brings all ages together in one place and has knitted the community together. He stated that the park represents how the community coalesced and should be preserved. He stated that it should be duplicated. He suggested that something cannot be duplicated if the original does not exist.

Drew Murray, co-president of the Friends of Coxe Park, stated that he is the parent of two young daughters. He stated the Coxe Park holds sentimental value for himself and for the community. However, he contended that sentimental value does not make it historic; it makes for memories. Mr. Murray stated that the Friends of Coxe Park does not want to change the function of the park, but wants to make it safe for the children. He opined that the park is not safe and does not meet any current safety standards. He asked the Committee to not tie the hands of the community regarding new designs to make the park safer. He objected to a designation

Russell Meddin, a resident of Logan Square, stated that he has worked to maintain the park in the past. He stated that the current play equipment is as safe as it was when it was installed in the 1970s. He observed that we still use airplanes, trains, and infrastructure that were built in the 1970s. He stated that can be used as long as it is maintained. Mr. Meddin stated that there

have been no major problems with safety in the park in the last 40 years and that Philadelphia Parks & Recreation has deemed the equipment usable.

John Gallery of the Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia stated that the staff did not explain in its recommendation how the Park does not meet the Criteria for Designation. He opined that an explanation should have been included. He stated that it is self evident that the park meets at least two Criteria as the work of a designer and as a landmark in the neighborhood. He stated that, in addition, the nomination explains that the park tells of the social and cultural history of a generation in this neighborhood. He stated that he found this information fascinating. Mr. Gallery gave the example of Society Hill and stated that we know that parks and greenways were vital for the rejuvenation of a neighborhood during the 1960s and early 1970s. He stated that the park is a remnant of that history. He stated that the Park deserves recognition for its role in the social and cultural history of the city. He stated that Coxe Park does meet the Criteria for Designation.

Mr. Gallery stated that the issue of the equipment should be looked at in a larger context. Designation does not preclude alteration in the future. When alterations are proposed, the Commission weighs the effect of the alteration on the historic integrity of the site and approves those alterations that meet preservation standards. A discussion of potential applications is not pertinent to the designation question. This Committee's purview is limited to assessing the technical merits of the nomination. He stated that he thought that historic designation would not preclude updating the equipment.

Mr. Gallery urged the Committee to recommend that the Commission designate the park because it meets the Criteria for Designation. Mr. Dilworth questioned the historical and architectural significance of the small park and asked Mr. Gallery if he could identify any features of the park that uniquely represent Norman Rice's architectural style. Mr. Gallery responded that he is not an expert on Norman Rice. Mr. Gallery then asked the same question of Mr. Dilworth of the park at 16th and Chestnut Streets, which was designed by landscape architect John Collins. Mr. Gallery stated that he was very familiar with the designs of Collins, yet was unable to identify the features of that park that are representative of his style. He stated that parks are different from buildings. It is difficult to identify architectural styles and features in parks that are unique to a designer.

Kristen Moses-Murray, a parent and a resident of Logan Square, stated she lived in the historic Trump House in Society Hill as a child and is familiar with historic preservation. She asserted that safety is more important than historic preservation. She stated that she frequented Three Bears Park as a child. She stated that even though that park has subsequently been altered, her sentimental feelings about the park have not diminished. She objected to the designation and asked the Commission not to stand in the way of updating this park.

Tom Malone, the co-nominator, stated that he has lived across from Coxe Park for the last 20 years. He stated that, on any given day, he can look out at the park and see about 10 to 30 children enjoying themselves. He stated that he wants the park preserved so that future generations can enjoy it. He stated that the equipment has lasted for 40 years and will last 40 more if it is maintained.

Nancy Weinberg, a resident of Logan Square, stated that she has lived in the area since 1970 and that there has never been an injury resulting from the playground equipment in Coxe Park.

Christine Brisson, a resident of Logan Square, stated that everyone loves Coxe Park. Ms. Brisson has observed parents cringe when their children use the playground equipment. She stated that she is opposed to the designation because the equipment will not last and the designation would create an impediment to altering the park and installing safe equipment.

Marisa Piccareto, a resident of Logan Square and co-president of the FOCP, stated that she works as an advocate for child safety and that the current layout of the park is not safe. She stated that the inherent design of the park is a hindrance to making it safe. She stated that the FOCP represents 86 people and three institutions in the neighborhood. She submitted a membership list. She urged the Committee to consider opposing the nomination in the interest of public safety.

Sheri-Ann Cowie, a resident of Logan Square, stated that she is a mother that is in favor of preserving Coxe Park. She stated that she serves on the board of a preschool and the solution they have developed for a concrete playground is to monitor the children. She stated that Philadelphia Parks & Recreation has asserted that preserving and altering Coxe Park are not mutually exclusive. She opined that the park does not need to be leveled to it make safe. She stated that children need speed, height, and challenge to develop. She admitted that she too was worried about her daughter on that slide, but then she saw the look of sheer delight on her daughter's face as she slid down it. She stated that the City will never be able to make Coxe Park meet current safety codes because of its size, but it is safe enough.

Mr. Dilworth stated that it appears that the Coxe Park has been an asset to the neighborhood for over 30 years. Mr. Dilworth informed the audience that he was a playground inspector for the City of New York's Parks Department. He stated that it is clear to him that some of the play equipment has already been replaced. He asked why the park had been nominated at this point in time. Mr. Speaker, one of the nominators, stated that it not occurred to him until recently that the park would be altered. He stated that he nominated the park upon learning that there was an effort to alter it to make the play equipment safer. He stated that the current emphasis on safety would require a complete restructuring of the park. He stated the steps in the park would be removed and noted that they are original to Rice's design. If ramps were installed for ADA compliance the aesthetic of Rice's design would be destroyed. Mr. Dilworth stated that nomination attributed a large part of the park's significance to its role in revitalizing the neighborhood. He asked how the social history was reflected in the steps at the park. Mr. Gallery pointed out that the social history is not the only significant aspect of the park. He stated that the nominator also cited architecture as a reason for its significance. Mr. Gallery asked why 240 W. Tulpehocken Street, another property on the agenda, is being nominated at this point in time. He asserted that the reason for nomination is unrelated to its historic potential. Mr. Dilworth responded that he is asking the question because it appears that the nomination was submitted by one faction in a neighborhood dispute to gain leverage over another. He contended that, if the park is not historically significant, then its nomination as a tactic in a neighborhood dispute is an abuse of the historic preservation ordinance and burdensome to the Historical Commission. Mr. Dilworth compared the situation to that surrounding the nomination of Overbrook Farms. He stated that everyone agreed that Overbrook Farms was historically significant. The nomination of Overbrook Farms as an historic district led to a controversy in the neighborhood over the appropriateness of designation. In this case, the opposite is true. The neighborhood controversy regarding the future of Coxe Park resulted in a nomination. In the case of Coxe Park, the argument for historical significance and designation grew out the dispute and therefore should be questioned. Mr. Gallery disagreed, contending that the park was nominated because neighbors believe that it has historical significance to the community.

Mr. Weinberg stated that Rice smartly architecturally linked urban environments and recreational spaces. He stated that the planting beds serve as a transition between the city and the park. He stated that the park is a work of art.

Ms. Piccareto stated the FOCP submitted a timeline of events to demonstrate that the nomination was submitted to stop the FOCP's effort to rehabilitate the park to make it safe. She stated that the FOCP conducted a survey and gathered oral histories of the park. In July 2011, the FOCP applied for a grant from the Community Design Collaborative to consider conceptual designs to make the park safer. She stated that the nomination was submitted in August to hinder the redesign process. She reported that the FOCP lost the grant as a result of the nomination. Ms. Cowie stated that she is member of FOCP and assisted in the writing of the grant proposal. She stated that she is now in favor of the preservation of the park.

Gayle Ruggeri, a Logan Square neighbor, stated that tourists recognize the special nature of the park.

Jeffrey Altman, a Logan Square neighbor, stated that he is a FEMA adjuster and that he has not seen another park like this one. He stated that it is an important and beautiful place that cannot be recreated. He stated that the park currently has areas for all ages. He objected to any changes to the park. He asked the Committee to recognize the value of its history.

Ed Panek stated that he was asked to help resolve two competing goals of the community for the park. He asked that the Committee table the nomination until the community has had a chance to meet, discuss and clear up its issues.

Sam Little, the president of the Logan Square Neighborhood Association, asked the committee to make a decision that protects any historic resources but does not hinder future alterations to make the park safe.

Ms. Klein thanked all those who spoke. She stated that she had two concerns when reading the nomination. First, she observed that there are no footnotes in the nomination. She stated that many of the claims could not be substantiated in sources. Second, she stated that she is concerned that the park may not be safe. She stated that, putting the safety issue aside, she believes that the park may satisfy four Criteria for Designation, Criteria A, E, H, and J.

Mr. Lavery asked if there were any individually listed playgrounds on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. Mr. Farnham replied that Smith Playground in Fairmount Park is listed individually on the Register. He stated that it occupies an important place in the history of parks and recreation in the United States. Mr. Lavery asked if the Commission had reviewed any applications for Smith Playground recently. Mr. Farnham replied that the Commission had reviewed several in the last few years as the park was completely rehabilitated. He stated that the Commission did not prevent the replacement of the playground equipment. He stated that the Commission reviewed and approved the reconstruction of the 110-year-old slide to make it safe. He noted that the slide is a structure, not simply a piece of playground equipment. He noted that other parks are designated as parts of districts including Three Bears Park, which was recently rehabilitated.

Mr. Dilworth stated he is convinced that the nomination was submitted as a result of a neighborhood dispute, not because of its historical significance. He stated that the nomination makes two claims for significance. First, it claims that the park is symbolic of the social and cultural history of the neighborhood in the 1970s, when it underwent redevelopment. He

suggested that, if the nominators believe that that was an important event, then the Logan Square neighborhood should be nominated for designation as a historic district. An unidentified woman in the audience stated that she wants the park designated, but not her house. Mr. Dilworth then noted that the nomination also makes the case that the playground equipment itself should be designated and preserved. He contended that the argument for such a designation is flawed and should be rejected. He concluded that the nomination does not make a sound argument for the overall historical significance of the park and should be rejected.

Mr. Cohen disagreed. He stated that, if the park served as a catalyst for neighborhood revitalization, then it is significant. He stated that he was more concerned with the implications of a designation. He suggested that there may be compromises between safety and preservation.

Mr. Farnham stated that the safety and ADA issues are not relevant. He stated that Committee is charged with determining whether the park satisfies one or more of the Criteria for Designation. He stated that he is convinced that the park does not meet any of the Criteria. He stated that Rice is not a highly significant architect. He stated that one of Rice's residential designs is listed on the Register. He noted that Rice's office and home are within the Rittenhouse Fidler Residential Historic District, but are classified as non-contributing to the district. He stated that those buildings are better representations of Rice's work than this park. He stated that the park was not innovative, but was typical.

Mr. Dilworth stated that he had concerns about a nomination that asks the Commission to disregard the Americans with Disabilities Act and Consumer Product Safety Commission guidelines. Mr. Schaaf stated that that falls outside the purview of the Committee and the Committee must determine whether the property meets one or more of the Criteria for Designation. He agreed that it satisfies the four Criteria cited by Ms. Klein. Ms. Klein reasserted the Criteria H and J apply and that her comment on safety was personal and should not be a determining factor in the Committee's recommendation.

Mr. Cohen stated that Norman Rice was a devout Modernist since the 1920s. He asserted that the park is good Modern design. He conceded that it may not be innovative, but it is good design and therefore is a significant work. He stated that this park is not designed with glass and steel but with brick, giving it a more intimate feel and an architectural quality worthy of designation. He stated that the park also embodies a moment in the 1970s when there was a catalyst for redevelopment. He suggested that the nomination be revised to omit the discussion of the safety guidelines.

Mr. Dilworth moved to recommend that the property at 2132-34 Cherry Street does not merit designation as historic and listing on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. No one seconded the motion.

Ms. Klein suggested adding footnotes or endnotes to the nomination. Mr. Cohen suggested correcting the Statement of Significance regarding Criterion J.

COMMITTEE ON HISTORIC DESIGNATION RECOMMENDATION: Mr. Schaaf moved to recommend that the Coxe Park at 2132-34 Cherry Street satisfies Criteria for Designation A, E, H, and J and should be designated as historic and listed individually on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. Mr. Cohen seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 4 to 2. Messrs. Lavery and Dilworth dissented.

1301 BEACH ST, PENN TREATY PARK

Owner: City of Philadelphia, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation

Nominator: Barbara Morehead

Proposal: Nomination for individual designation

OVERVIEW: This nomination proposes the individual designation of the Penn Treaty Park at 1301 Beach Street. The park was constructed in three phases in 1827, 1893, and 1987. The nomination contends that the property satisfies Criteria for Designation A, B, G, H, I, and J. This property is located within the Fishtown National Register-eligible Historic District.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: The staff recommends that the property at 1301 Beach Street satisfies Criteria for Designation A, B, G, H, I, and J and should be designated as historic and listed individually on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Coté presented the nomination to the Committee on Historic Designation.

Barbara Morehead, the nominator, stated that she has been going to Penn Treaty Park since the age of five. She stated that she felt that it was important to preserve the park because of its important role in Pennsylvania's early history.

Ben Leech of the Preservation Alliance stated the Alliance provided assistance to the nominator and is in full support of the nomination.

Sandy Salzman of the New Kensington CDC stated that although there is no physical record of Penn's Treaty with the Indians, which allegedly occurred at this location, the legend itself is historically significant and makes the park worth of preservation.

Theresa Stuhlman of Philadelphia Parks & Recreation read a letter from Mark A. Focht, the First Deputy Commissioner of Parks and Facilities, which expressed support for the nomination and acknowledged the nominator and the assistance of the Preservation Alliance.

The Committee members discussed the nomination and agreed that the site merits designation.

COMMITTEE ON HISTORIC DESIGNATION RECOMMENDATION: Ms. Klein moved to recommend that Penn Treaty Park at 1301 Beach Street satisfies Criteria for Designation A, B, G, H, I, and J and should be designated as historic and listed on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. Mr. Cohen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

1219 SPRUCE ST, THEODORE M. ETTING RESIDENCE

Owner: James R. Davis Jr.

Nominator: Staff

Proposal: Nomination for individual designation

OVERVIEW: This nomination proposes the individual designation of the Theodore M. Etting Residence at 1219 Spruce Street. Renowned architect Frank Miles Day designed the building, which was constructed in 1890. The nomination contends that the property satisfies Criteria for Designation A, D, and E. This property is located within the Washington Square West National Register Historic District.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: The staff recommends that the property at 1219 Spruce Street satisfies Criteria for Designation A, D, and E and should be designated as historic and listed on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Danta presented the nomination to the Committee on Historic Designation.

Mr. Cohen commended Mr. Danta for the excellent nomination. Mr. Lavery stated that it was a great nomination for a great building. The Committee members discussed the nomination and agreed that the property merits designation.

The Committee suggested correcting grammatical errors in the nomination.

COMMITTEE ON HISTORIC DESIGNATION RECOMMENDATION: Mr. Cohen moved to recommend that the property at 1219 Spruce Street satisfies Criteria for Designation A, D, and E and should be designated as historic and listed on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. Mr. Lavery seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

1036-38 CREASE ST, KENSINGTON SOUP KITCHEN

Owner: Lawrence Thomson

Nominator: Tom Potts, director, Kensington Area Neighborhood Advisory Committee

Proposal: Nomination for individual designation

OVERVIEW: This nomination proposes the individual designation of the Kensington Soup Kitchen at 1036-38 Crease Street. Thomas S. Levy designed the building, which was constructed in 1870. It housed the Kensington Soup Kitchen, an early and important social services agency. The nomination contends that the property satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, I, and J. This property is located within the Fishtown National Register-eligible Historic District.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: The staff recommends that the property at 1036-38 Crease Street satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, I, and J and should be designated as historic and listed on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Coté presented the nomination to the Committee on Historic Designation.

Mr. Schaaf suggested that the Soup Kitchen could also meet Criterion for Designation H because it is a unique feature in the neighborhood.

Nominator Tom Potts of the New Kensington CDC stated that the building housed a social service organization that helped many people. He asserted that this is a very significant building

in the neighborhood. Sandy Salzman of the New Kensington CDC added that it was the oldest soup kitchen in Philadelphia. It provided soup, bread, and coal. She informed the Committee that the building is currently vacant.

Ben Leech of the Preservation Alliance stated that one year ago the Alliance conducted a workshop on preparing nominations. He stated that this nomination is an example of a community group working to preserve its historic resources.

Mr. Cohen applauded the effort. He suggested that the Alliance provide some assistance with architectural vocabulary in the future.

John Gallery of the Preservation Alliance commended the nomination. He stated that this building is one of those rare examples in which the cultural historical value is equal to the architectural value. That combination makes this nomination distinct.

COMMITTEE ON HISTORIC DESIGNATION RECOMMENDATION: Mr. Lavery moved to recommend that the property at 1036-38 Crease Street satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, I, and J, as well as H and should be designated as historic and listed on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. Ms. Klein seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

4008-26 WALNUT ST, FIRST CHURCH OF THE CHRIST SCIENTIST, THE ROTUNDA

Owner: Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania

Nominator: Colette Kinane

Proposal: Nomination for individual designation

OVERVIEW: This nomination proposes the individual designation of the First Church of the Christ Scientist, the Rotunda, at 4008-26 Walnut Street. Renowned New York architectural firm Carrerre & Hastings designed the building, which was constructed in 1909. The nomination contends that the property satisfies Criteria for Designation A, D, E, and J. This property is located within the West Philadelphia Streetcar Suburb National Register Historic District.

Please note that although this nomination describes the interior of the building, the nomination does not propose the designation of any interior spaces.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: The staff recommends that the property at 4008-26 Walnut Street satisfies Criteria for Designation A, D, E, and J and should be designated as historic and listed on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Coté presented the nomination to the Committee on Historic Designation.

Mr. Cohen commended Colette Kinane, the nominator, and stated that this building merits designation.

Mr. Lavery suggested omitting the interior description because the interior is not being nominated. Ms. Klein asked if Ms. Kinane wanted to nominate the interior. Ms. Kinane stated that she would have liked to pursue an interior nomination but her current studies at the University of Pennsylvania are her priority. Mr. Cohen suggested that a separate nomination for the interior should be prepared.

Mr. Lavery stated that there are only two Carerre & Hastings buildings in the Philadelphia area. The other is the Cairnwood Estate in Bryn Athyn.

COMMITTEE ON HISTORIC DESIGNATION RECOMMENDATION: Mr. Cohen moved to recommend that the property at 4008-26 Walnut Street satisfies Criteria for Designation A, D, E, and J and should be designated as historic and listed on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. Ms. Klein seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

240 W TULPEHOCKEN ST, HARRY K. CUMMINGS RESIDENCE

Owner: O I C INC

Nominator: Staff

Proposal: Nomination for individual designation

OVERVIEW: This nomination proposes the individual designation of the Harry K. Cummings Residence at 240 W. Tulpehocken Street. Renowned architect Frank Miles Day designed the building, which was constructed in 1893. The nomination contends that the property satisfies Criteria for Designation C, D, and E. This property is located within the Tulpehocken Station National Register Historic District.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: The staff recommends that the property at 240 W. Tulpehocken Street satisfies Criteria for Designation C, D, and E and should be designated as historic and listed on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Danta presented the nomination to the Committee on Historic Designation.

Mr. Cohen noted that the nomination mentions the Prairie Style and implies that this building was related to that style, which was practiced by Frank Lloyd Wright and others in Chicago at the turn of the twentieth century. He stated that there is a substantial difference between architecture of the Prairie School and this building. He stated that Frank Miles Day was influenced by the Romanesque Revival architecture of H.H. Richardson as well as various Mediterranean strains of architecture. He suggested removing the word “Prairie” from the nomination. Mr. Schaaf pointed out design features on the building in question that can be found on some Frank Lloyd Wright buildings.

The Committee suggested correcting grammatical errors in the nomination.

Mr. Lavery commended the nomination and stated that was pleased to see the inclusion of documents from the Hexamer Survey, a nineteenth-century survey of Philadelphia industrial sites. He asked how the staff discovered the relationships of the building in question to those documented in the nomination in East Oak Lane and Elkins Park. Mr. Danta replied that he was aware of one and Mr. Farnham knew of the other. The Committee members suggested that the house in East Oak Lane should be nominated for designation. Ms. Klein suggested that Mr. Danta contact the Old York Road Historical Society for more information on it.

John Gallery of the Preservation Alliance stated that he has admired Cummings residence for some time. He noted that he has included it in all editions of his guidebook to Philadelphia architecture. Disagreeing with Mr. Cohen, he opined that there is a relation between this building and the early work of Frank Lloyd Wright. He stated that “Prairie” may not be the right word to describe the style of this building, but some associations exist between the designs of Wright and Day. He stated that this was a “modern” house in 1893.

COMMITTEE ON HISTORIC DESIGNATION RECOMMENDATION: Mr. Cohen moved to recommend that the property at 240 W. Tulpehocken Street satisfies Criteria for Designation C, D, and E and should be designated as historic and listed on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. Mr. Schaaf seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

CAST IRON SIDEWALK AT 1903-07 N 07TH ST

Owner: Clifton Ellis Boggs

Applicant: Staff

History: c. 1861, Charles Carnell, machinist and iron founder

Proposal: Rescind designation

OVERVIEW: This application proposes the rescission of the designation of a sidewalk comprised of cast iron tiles, once located at 1903-07 N 07th Street, from the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. The Historical Commission designated this unique sidewalk on 29 November 1966. In 1972, the sidewalk was documented by Historic American Building Survey. The iron tiles were removed at some point during the 1970s.

Please note that Section 5.14.b.1 of the Commission's Rules & Regulations states that the Commission may rescind a designation and remove an entry from the Register if:

- a) the resource has ceased to satisfy any Criteria for Designation because the qualities that caused its original entry have been lost or destroyed;
- b) additional information shows that the resource does not satisfy one or more Criteria for Designation; or,
- c) the Commission committed an error in professional judgment when it determined that the resource satisfied one or more Criteria for Designation.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: The staff recommends that the Commission rescind the designation of cast iron sidewalk at 1903-07 N 07th Street from the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, pursuant to Section 5.14.b.1.a of the Commission's Rules & Regulations, as the resource has ceased to meet the criteria for listing on the Register because the qualities that caused its original entry have been lost or destroyed.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Coté presented the rescission request to the Committee on Historic Designation.

Ms. Coté stated that there is a note in the Commission's file on the property indicating that the iron tiles were relocated to the Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion. She stated that she contacted the executive director at the house museum, who has provided photographs of the iron tile floor of the laundry porch at the museum. Ms. Coté stated that they appear to be the same iron tiles.

Mr. Cohen asked if the manufacturer of the iron tile is known. Ms. Coté stated that it is believed to be the first owner of the property, Charles Carnell, who was an iron founder.

Mr. Lavery asked if this is the only example of cast iron sidewalks found in Philadelphia. Mr. Farnham stated there are several cast iron sidewalks with bullet glass in the Old City Historic District, but this appears to have been the only sidewalk of its kind in the city.

Mr. Lavery stated that, since we now know that the tiles still exist, they should not be removed from the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. He stated that it would be a shame for these

tiles to be lost again. Ms. Coté stated that, technically, the address of the property in North Philadelphia was designated as a means to designate the tiles before the Commission had the legal authority to designate objects. Therefore, the address remains on Register and the designation does not protect the tiles. She suggested that a separate objects nomination could be prepared for the tiles, but the tiles are not currently protected, even with the inclusion of the 1903-07 N 07th Street on the Register. Mr. Dilworth acknowledged that these tiles are no longer associated with this address. Mr. Lavery stated that these tiles were nominated before the current historic preservation ordinance was enacted. He stated that this property was designated because of a unique feature and the feature survives, albeit in another location. Mr. Dilworth stated that, if historic windows were removed from a designated property and relocated, the Commission could not continue to assert jurisdiction over the windows, but could still assert jurisdiction over the property from which they were taken.

Mr. Farnham stated that, because this address is still listed on the Register, the property owner is obliged to obtain approval from the Historical Commission for exterior alterations to the building, even though the building has no historical significance. He stated informed the Committee that the property is in very poor condition. He stated that, because the resource that caused its designation has been removed, maintaining the address on the Register places an unnecessary burden of the property owner and the Historical Commission. Mr. Farnham suggested that the staff could work with the executive director of the Maxwell Mansion on an object nomination for the relocated tiles.

Ben Leech of the Preservation Alliance asked about the Commission's jurisdiction over the Violet Oakley windows that were removed from St. Peter's and purchased by the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts (PAFA). Mr. Farnham replied that the Historical Commission did not retain any jurisdiction over those windows, but PAFA and the City entered into a legal agreement stipulating that the windows would remain at PAFA in perpetuity.

Mr. Cohen stated that, if the resource does not exist at the address, then the address should be removed from the Register. He stated that an object nomination could be pursued if desired.

COMMITTEE ON HISTORIC DESIGNATION RECOMMENDATION: Mr. Cohen moved to recommend that the Commission rescind the designation of cast iron sidewalk at 1903-07 N 07th Street from the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, pursuant to Section 5.14.b.1.a of the Commission's Rules & Regulations, as the resource has ceased to meet the criteria for listing on the Register because the qualities that caused its original entry have been lost or destroyed. Mr. Dilworth seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Dilworth moved to adjourn at 12:30 p.m. Mr. Cohen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.