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MINUTES OF THE 206th STATED MEETING OF THE PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

2 September 1976

Present: Janet S. Klein, Vice Chairman
Edward Pinkowski
John Tatin
Val Magnusen, Assistant Director of Finance
Herbert W. Levy, A.I.A., Architectural Advisor to the Commission
David Rosenblum, Esq., Assistant City Solicitor, Law Department
Richard Tyler, Historian
Patricia Slomkowski, Executive Assistant to the Chairman

Guests: Hebert Greenwood, Superintendent, Independence National Historical Park

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

THE MINUTES of the Stated Meeting, 5 August 1976, were approved and directed to be filed.

REPORTS

The Report of the Architectural Committee for 18 August 1976 was approved and directed to be filed with the official copy of the Minutes.

Recommendations by the Staff for the Certification of Buildings, Richard Tyler, Historian.

The Commission reviewed the request of the owner for the certification of the building situate at 2307 Mardian Street. It was agreed that the building in itself did not merit individual certification but that as part of the entire streetscape it should be eligible. The Commission rejected the request for the single certification and recommended that the applicant endeavor to secure the interest of the owners of the remaining buildings in an effort to attain a block certification.

At the request of the Albert Einstein Medical Center the Historical Commission considered the certification of the United States Mint columns standing at the entrance to the hospital grounds. The columns are the only remaining components of the building designed by William Strickland which stood at Thirteenth and Chestnut Streets. The Commission, with the exception of Mr. Pinkowski, voted to certify the columns; a precedent for the certification of fabric, other than buildings, had already been established by the Commission

REPORTS (Cont'd)

in the certification of several horse watering troughs throughout the City, the Egyptian facade of the Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company, as well as a cast iron sidewalk on North Seventh Street.

The Commission ratified the certification of the following properties:

318 Bainbridge Street

Franklin Institute, 20th and the Parkway

Arch Street Methodist Church, Broad and Arch Streets

Heritage House (Edwin Forrest House), Broad and Market Streets - 1330 11. E. J.

Girard Trust Bank, Broad and Chestnut Streets. (The Historical Commission suggested asking Mr. Hyman Myers for copies of his documentation on the building as a Furness design.)

The deletion of the buildings situate at 2107 through to, and including, 2147 Bainbridge Street from the Commission's administrative list of certified buildings was unanimously approved.

Report on Historical Commission Staff Activities, Richard Tyler, Historian. Dr. Tyler's Report for the month of August was approved and directed to be filed with the official copy of the Minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

City Tavern, Robert Caswood, Superintendent, Independence National Historical Park. At the request of the Historical Commission Mr. Caswood spoke to the Commission members concerning plans for the Independence National Historical Park and, specifically, the City Tavern. The history of the acquisition of the site and the project's implementation as well as current problems with the operation of the tavern were discussed. The objections raised by Mr. Taxin to the building's inaccessibility to the non-customer public and to the opening of a hot dog stand on the street as part of the operation were addressed by Mr. Caswood who noted that the tavern was, indeed, accessible to the public and that the outdoor concession served only eighteenth century foods in an eighteenth century manner in accordance with the Park Service's standard priority. In any case, Mr. Caswood agreed to present Mr. Taxin's objection to the outdoor concession to his superiors and advisors. Mr. Caswood was also questioned concerning plans for the Front Street overpass at Walnut Street. The area, according to the Superintendent, will be landscaped in the near future. Following some discussion on

OLD BUSINESS (Cont'd)

the acquisition of properties in the area for a mall, as proposed by Mr. Taxin, and the pending demolition of the Keystone Building, Mr. Cawood was thanked for attending the meeting and providing the Commission members with the information requested.

The Plaques, Richard Tyler, Historian. In accordance with the Commission's directive, Mr. Tyler contacted a number of iron foundries to obtain price quotes for the manufacture of the Commission's plaques. At the suggestion of Mr. Tyler, the Commission voted to retain the Quint Company as manufacturer of the plaques. Mr. Tyler noted that the additional cost for the re-casting of the two plaques would be passed on to the consumer and would not be the Commission's responsibility.

Old City Committee. At the Commission's last meeting the discussion of certifications in the OldCity Area lead to the suggestion that a committee be formed to conduct an on-site survey of the area. Mrs. Klein asked for volunteers to serve on such a committee. The following persons offered to serve: Herbert Levy, Val Mogenssen, Edward Pinkowski, David R osenblum, and Janet Klein. Mr. Tyler who will accompany the committee on its survey of the area noted that the Chairman also expressed his desire to be a member of the committee. Mr. Pinkowski suggested scheduling the field trip either late in the morning or early in the afternoon. Mr. Tyler agreed to contact the committee members within two weeks concerning specific arrangements for the trip.

Assets of Philadelphia '76, Inc., Richard Tyler, Historian. With the dissolution of Philadelphia '76, Inc. at the end of the year, the Philadelphia Historical Commission will be offered the agency's library and its City Chronicle Series to include the copyright and permission to distribute the series. The Commission agreed to accept the library but recommended that the City Chronicle Series be given to the Office of the City Representative for storage and distribution. Mrs. Klein suggested checking on the location of the negatives or plates, probably in the hands of the printer, in case there is a need to reprint the series.

Fort Mifflin, Richard Tyler, Historian. The Commission authorized the payment of \$3000.00 for architectural services rendered by the firm of Day and Zimmerman in the rehabilitation of several buildings at Fort Mifflin. The \$3000.00, deposited in the fund, was allocated solely for this purpose.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:50 P. M .

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Siemientkowski
Executive Assistant to the Chairman

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