

THE TWENTY-FOURTH MEETING OF THE PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

June 24, 1958

Present were: Mr. Harry A. Batten,
Mr. R. Norris Williams, II
Mr. Charles E. Peterson
Mr. William T. Gannetti, Commissioner of Public Property
Mr. Grant M. Simon, Chairman

Also present were: Mr. C. Preston Andrade, Architect
Mr. John Gane (both of Wright, Andrade & Amenta)
Mr. James D. Murphy, Planning Director, Old Philadelphia Corp.
Mr. William Bohan, Assistant Historian
Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom, Historian

Mrs. Charles J. Maurer, Executive Secretary

The Minutes of the previous meeting, May 27, 1958, were approved.

The Meeting was called to order at 3:30 by Mr. Batten, the Chairman being detained.

THE HEAD HOUSE, SECOND STREET MARKET

Mr. Batten reviewed his conversation regarding occupancy of the Head House by the Insurance Company of North America. Since the insurance company is not ready to make a decision, Mr. Batten recommended that the Commission try to find another tenant for the Head House. Mr. Murphy said that the Redevelopment Authority would like to take a lease on the building, using it as a field office while the Dock Street area is being redeveloped. Mr. Batten offered to get in touch with Mr. Lammer to learn what his agency has in mind. Mr. Peterson reported that he had heard that the Landmark Society is ready to negotiate with the City for a lease on the building. Mr. Batten said he would also speak to Mr. Frederick Levis, president of the Society for the Preservation of Landmarks and report at the next meeting.

PLAQUES FOR HISTORIC BUILDINGS

The design of the plaque, its price (\$10.00) the cost of the die (\$250) and the conditions under which it will be sold to owners of certified houses, have been agreed upon by the Commission at previous meetings. The legality of selling these plaques to householders has to be explored and arrangements made to handle the mechanics of the sales. Mr. Gannetti agreed to look into the business end of supplying the public upon demand.

KIRKBRIDE'S

No progress has been made regarding the Commission's proposal that the City make Kirkbride's a repository for the City Archives. Mr. Gannetti offered to speak to Commissioner Baker about this and Mr. Batten will talk to Mr. Wagner, Managing Director.

PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL NURSES' HOME

The Hospital's latest plan requires the demolition of the whole block of houses on the south side of Spruce Street (700 to 730). This area will be surrounded with a wall like that of St. Peter's and the Nurses' Home built in the middle. Plans will be presented to the Commission within thirty days. The officers of the Hospital have agreed to salvage everything possible. The cost of storage for this material, which is valued at a minimum of \$30,000, is very high. Mr. Gennetti offered to try to find storage space for it in one of the City's vacant buildings. Mr. Simon stressed the point that at least two of the rooms were worth placing in a museum.

OLD PHILADELPHIA REDEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Mr. James D. Murphy, Planning Director of the Old Philadelphia Redevelopment Corp. introduced Mr. Preston Andrade of Wright, Andrade and Amenta, who explained to the Commission the Redevelopment Authority's proposals for Washington Square East Unit #1. The Commission was concerned chiefly by the proposal to place an eighteen story apartment house between Third and Fourth Streets, immediately south of Willing's Alley; and by the free hand the developer will be given with all of the houses now standing along Third and Fourth Streets from Willing's Alley to Spruce, including a large number of houses which the Commission has certified as being historically significant. After an extended discussion of the whole problem, it was agreed that the Commission go on record as follows:

"The Philadelphia Historical Commission, at its meeting on June 24, 1958 unanimously and without qualification reaffirmed its belief that the historic area extending from Second to Fifth and from Pine to a point about two hundred feet south of Walnut Street, should be restricted to residential uses, and that the height of buildings should not exceed sixty-five feet at any point within this district.

It was the Commission's considered opinion that the admission of high-rise buildings in this area will result in a development of little distinction and of little historic value. The Commission is not opposed to the construction of high-rise buildings on the perimeter of the area, however, and recommends that the eighteen-story apartment house, which has been proposed for the plot south of St. Joseph's, Willing's Alley and west of St. Paul's, be removed from that position to a more suitable one west of Fifth Street. This will preserve the integrity of a district of major historical importance to the nation, a distinguished supplement to the Independence National Historic Park."

A copy of this Official Minute will be sent to Dean G. Holmes Perkins, Chairman of the City Planning Commission and to Mr. Andrade, for transmittal to the Redevelopment Authority.

REORGANIZATION OF THE CERTIFIED BUILDINGS LIST

All the lists of certified buildings have been combined into one list, arranged geographically, and this is now ready for the printer. Mrs. Tinkcom requested permission to add the Clinton Street houses to the list. This addition was approved.

SOUTHWARK

The list of Southwark buildings, circulated among the Commission members, was approved for certification. Incidentally to the certification of the Southwark houses, photographs of similar small houses on Fawn, Jessup, Panama, Iseminger and Camac Streets, which have been rehabilitated by their owners, were exhibited to show what can be done with this kind of house.

BENJAMIN RUSH HOUSE

At Red Lion and Academy Roads in Byberry. The property will be sold to a redeveloper unless it can be acquired for preservation as a public park. Judge Saylor requested that the Commission put the house on its certified list to assist him in his efforts to secure necessary funds to purchase the property. This was done.

CANNON BALL FARM

Mr. Gennetti proposed that a letter be written to Mr. Baxter, asking whether the house might not be assigned to the Department of Public Property, if the Water Department cannot restore Cannon Ball Farm.

Permission was requested to purchase an additional chair for the Commission's office. This was granted.

The need for a deputy chairman was discussed in view of the absence of Mr. Simon during July and August. Mr. Batten was appointed; Mr. Gennetti will approve the bills.

Mrs. Tinkcom outlined her plans for the student historians summer work as follows:

The field surveys of the area between Market and Vine, Delaware Avenue and Eighth Street, and of Fishtown will be completed by the Assistant Historian and reports prepared for presentation to the Commission in the Fall.

Research will continue into the history of Society Hill and Southwark. Briefs of title are now being prepared for all of the certified houses on Spruce, Pine and DeLancey Streets. The records of the Contributionship and of the Mutual Assurance Company are being combed for surveys of certified houses in both areas, and tax records, newspaper advertisements &c, are being examined to discover what is known about the houses in these areas.

The historical material for the ten houses to be recorded with the HABS has been prepared. The Commission is waiting for photographs to be taken by the National Park Service, so that the forms may be completed. Work sheets for about one hundred houses, chiefly in Germantown and Southwark, have been filled out. This work will be continued as opportunity offers during the year.

SUBMISSIONS

Mr. Robert Trump's house which he proposes to build on an empty lot on South Philip Street. The executive secretary was directed to write to Mr. Trump thanking him for his courtesy in showing the Commission his plans.

FORT MIFFLIN

Mr. Louis Inwood, Director of Aeronautics, will undertake the complete restoration of the Fort if it can be added to the Airport property. Mr. Batten agreed to talk to Mr. Donald C. Wagner, Managing Director about this.

SCHUYLKILL ARSENAL

The Commission's photographs are to be made available to Mr. Peterson

CITY OWNED BUILDINGS

The Historian reported that Mrs. Kirkbride will eventually report on these; it is possible that some interesting later 19th Century buildings will be found but, in all probability, all of the early structures owned by the City have already been certified by the Commission. A list of City-owned buildings which the Commission considered historically significant, with the name of the department administering them, was prepared last summer and forwarded as requested to Mr. Gannetti.

It was moved and seconded that there be no further meetings until September unless called by the Chair in an emergency.

The Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 P. M.

Respectfully submitted

Charles E. Peterson, Secretary

SUBMISSIONS FOR FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1958

- February 4 110 Elfreth's Alley. Mr. -- Nash, Owner
Minor change, position of bath and powder rooms
- 25 108 Elfreth's Alley. Mr. Hilborn Harbridge, owner
Complete restoration, inside and out, replacing dem-
olished backbuilding; replacing penteave, using the
Brognaud Okie design used in Betsy Ross house
(this later approval given June 16 and July 24)
- March 25 236 DeLancey. Mr. Arnold Nicholson, owner
Installing a bathroom.
- 25 708 Pine Street. Mr. -- Matthews, owner
Three apartments. No exterior work to be done
- 25 210 Spruce Stree. Mr. Frank P. Graham, owner
Interior and exterior restoration to be complete.
Door removed, on Spruce Street, window substituted
Removal of fire escape.
- April 3 317 Spruce Street. Dr. -- Scheiden, owner
Install cabinet type air conditioner in side window.
- 16 217 DeLancey Street. Robert T. Trump, owner
New roof, interior partitions, masonry wall in rear,
Restoration of entire house, including front steps,
cellar way and penteave. Henderson, architect
- May 16 308 DeLancey Street. Mr. -- Kas, owner.
- 19 Cornice replaced, small-paned windows, new door, same
design as 306, which still in its original state.
Paint bricks, &c. Morris, carpenter & building
Ralph Ottaviano "expediter", (Several visits to the
office, 4.5.68, 4.28, 5.12, 5.19)
- 19 220, 222 Spruce. Mr. Charles Lewis, owner
Substitute a window for door, 222; double hung windows,
9/9; penteave and westernmost back buildings to be
demolished. other changes interiorily to make the
two buildings into one dwelling.
- 20 139 Elfreth's alley. Rep Mrs. F. F. Fletcher, owner
Repairs to first floor joists and rear of building.
(original penteave is in backyard, waiting to be attached)
- June 3 234 DeLancey Street. Mr. Leo Riordan, owner.
No exterior changes, other than sandblasting brick and re-
pointing, also replacing doors and shutters, original design.
Many interior alterations. Edwin L. Fugate, 3d, architect
329 Hansberry street, Phila. 44

SUBMISSIONS FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1958, continued

- June 20 319 S. Philip. Mr. Robert T. Trump, owner
A new two story house to be built on a vacant lot.
Courtesy submission only
- 26 722, 724, 726, 728, 730 Spruce Street. Pennsylvania Hospital, owner
Houses to be demolished to make way for a new nurses' home.
Design to be submitted to the Commission for its Approval.

*Historical
Comm. note*

SOUTHWARK HOUSES RECOMMENDED FOR CERTIFICATION

SOUTH WATER STREET

West side

508 (part of lot 509 South Front)

516

518

520

522

524

526

532 Note brickwork and cornice

929

956

958

SOUTH FRONT STREET

East side

505 1828

507

509

521

523

525

527

West side

510

518

520

524

Hancock Court

5 houses on the west side

5 " " " east side

SOUTH FRONT STREET

East side

601

603

605

607

609

West side

602

606

608

616

618

620

622

626

NW cor Front & Bainbridge

SOUTH FRONT STREET

East side

Bainbridge to Kenilworth Streets, - Merchants' Warehouses

West side

700 SW cor Front & Bainbridge

702

704

706

708

710

712

722

724

730

734

736

740

Workman Place 744, 746, 748

3 large houses on Front Street,

3 small $2\frac{1}{2}$ story houses on west side of
court, facing these; 2 George Mifflin

750

houses (1748) on Pemberton Street, face ~~in~~ the court

752

754

SOUTH FRONT STREET T (continuing the 700 Block

East side from Fitzwater to Clymer to St. Alban's to Catherine

757 ^{SE} ~~ES~~ cor Fitzwater
759
761 c 1816
769 1813. Original owner Otto James
771 1813 " " " "
773 NE cor Clymer St. 1813 " "
779
783
785

West side

758
760 permastone face
762 c 1761 (altered)
764 old house, altered
768
770
772
774
776
788 altered
790 " β c 1804
792 "
794 } " now one building with 796
796 } "

SOUTH FRONT STREET Catherine to Queen

East side

- 801 S. E. cor Catherine + Front (old structure, mutilated)
803
805
807 altered
809
811 outside altered
813 Federal house, interiors well preserved on upper floors,
first floor now part of abbatoir
829
831 permastone face
849
851
857 NE cor Christian

West side

- 800 mutilated
802 "
804 old structure, much altered
806
808
810
812
814
816 to 822 NW cor Queen, see 105 Queen
824 SW cor Queen; old structure, much altered
826
828

SOUTH FRONT STREET

West side continued

830

832

834

836 NW cor Beck Street

852

854

856

858 NW cor Christian

SOUTH FRONT STREET Christian to Kimball to League to Washington

<u>East side</u>	<u>West side</u>
901	900 permastone face
903	902
905 1815	908
907 1815	910 c 1850
911 (old house moved here from 5th & Poplar)	Sparks Shot Tower
915 permastone face	938
919 c 1804	940 permastone face; 4 court houses in rear, see 110-116 Carpenter St.)
921 same as 919, except for alterations	944
923-929 Bethel Christian Center, now First Polish Baptist Church	946
931	948
933	950 (original woodwork inside)
939	954
941	956
947 mid 19th Century	964 SW cor League St. - neglected walled yard to NW cor Washington Ave
949 NE cor Kimball. - Similar to 947	
951 SE cor " " 947, 949	
953	
955 NE cor League St. One of a row built between Front & Water Sts. c 1850	
979	

FIFEWATER STREET Swanson to Front (formerly Mead Alley) 700 South

North side

11

13

15

17 much altered

19

21

23

South side

24

26

28

30

32

FITZWATER STREET Front to Second

North side

103 NW cor Front (756 S. Front)
WORKMAN PLACE

105

—— Court entrance to Workman Place

115 Probably built by John Workman
c 1810. Also 115-124

117

123

125

131

133

135

139

141

143 exterior similar to 141, much interior woodwork remaining

South side

102 attached rear of 758 S. Front

122

104-106

124

108

126

110 originally same as 108, now altered

128

112 " " " " " "

130

114

116

CATHERINE STREET . Swanson to Front

800 South

North side

- 19 altered at roof line
- 21 permastone face
- 23
- 25
- 27
- 29
- 31
- 33
- 35
- 37 old, altered at roof line

South side

- 24
- 26
- 28
- 36 old, altered at roof line
- 38
- 40
- 42
- 44
- 46
- 48

CATHERINE STREET Front to Second

North side

105

107

109

111

113 probably mid-19th Cent., altered

South side

108

114

116 probably mid-19th Cent., altered

122

124

126

128

130 SE cor Hancock, probably mid-19th Cent., altered

QUEEN STREET Swanson to Front

North side

9

11 permastone face

13 " "

15

17 - 29 early 19th Cent warehouse

31

33

35 c 1806 permastone face

37

South side

2 vacant, next to slaughterhouse

12 permastone face

14

16

26 old, altered at roof line

28

30

32

34

36

38

QUEEN STREET Front to S. Hancock to Second

North side

105 NW cor Front & Queen. See 816-822 S. Front

109

~~121~~ 117-121 Fire House, Southwark Engine No. 3. (Weccacoe Fire Co)

123 Frame structure, asbestos shingle covered

125 old structure, altered at roof line

127 NE cor Hancock

133

135 old structure, altered

South side

110 SW cor Howard St.

112

114

116

118

120

122

124 permastone front

126

128 SE cor Hancock

130 SW cor "

132

SE cor Second St. See 827 S. Second.

BECK STREET Swanson to Front to Howard to Hancock to Second to 214, 215

North side

South side

111	116 row of 10 dwellings (116-134) similar to Nos. 115- 133
113	
115 row of 10 dwellings (nos 115 - 133) built as a unit possibly early 19th Cent.	118
117 refaced	120
119	122
121	124
123	126
125	128
127	130
129	132
131	134
133	
	202
	204
201	206
203	028 208
205	210
207	212
209	214
211	
213	
215	

NORFOLK STREET Swanson Street to Front

North side

39

41 some interior detail

43

45 vacant, tumbling down

CHRISTIAN STREET Swanson to Front

North side

19

23

25

27

29

35

37

South side

2 c 1830 (Nos 2-12 built as a row)

4 "

6 "

8 "

10 "

12 SE cor alley ending dead at Old Swede's Churchyard c_1830

14 permastone face

18

20

22

32 c 1804 permastone face

34

36

old structure, altered

38

40

CHRISTIAN STREET Front to Howard to Hancock to Second

North side

105

121 perma stone face

123

225 NE cor Hancock

South side

108

110

120 old structure, mutilated

124

126

132 in poor condition

CARPENTER STREET (formerly John Street) Front to Second

North side

NW cor Front & Carpenter. Shot Tower playground administration Bldg.

141

South side

110 { and row of 3 dwellings facing alley E. of No. 112
These back against a similar row W. of No. 116

112

114

116 and row of 3 dwellings facing alley W of No. 116

132

134) possibly early 19th Century, altered

136)

138

140

142

LEAGUE STREET formerly Mary Street Front to Second

North side

South side

NW cor Water St. See 956 S. Water

SW cor Water St. See 958 S. Water

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

126

15

128

17

130

19

140

21

142

23

144 cor Second St. See 1019-1021
South Second

25

27

29

NE cor Front St. 955 S. Front

North side continued

109 possibly early 19th Cent, altered

125

111 " " " " "

127

113 " " " " "

129

115 rear court, 2 dwellings

131

117 permastone face, early 19th Century?

133

119

135

121

137

123

139

141

Nos 127 - 139 are a row,
possibly early 19th Century
altered

BAINBRIDGE STREET Front to Second

North side

NW cor Front & Bainbridge listed as 626 South Front St.

107 permastone face

109

119

121 NE cor Hancock

125

127

129

131 old, but much altered

South side

SW cor Front & Bainbridge.

This was the Widow Mallabie's Tavern.

It is frequently mentioned in newspapers of the 1770's as place where Sheriff held his sales.

106

112

124 old but much altered

128

136 " " " "

138 " " " "

BAINBRIDGE STREET Second to Third

North side

233

235 old house, new front

241

South side

208 SE cor Philip

220 SE cor S. American

222 SW cor S. American

224

Kenilworth Street Delaware to Front to Second

<u>North side</u>	<u>South side</u>
105 old, much altered, poor condition	104
107 " " "	106
109	108
111	110
113	112
115 " " "	114
117	116
119	118
121	120
123 " " "	122 c 1850
125	130 permastone face
127 Garage, formerly stable, early 19th Cent.	134
129 old, much altered	136
	138
	140
	142 old, but altered

MONROE STREET Front to Second to S. American

North side

111

113 permastone face, and altered

223

225

227

229 NE cor S. American

South side

110

112

114

228 abandoned

SOUTH HANCOCK STREET.

East side

613

615 Old houses, much altered

617

" " " "

619

" " " "

621

" " " "

623

West side

600

604

606

608

616 4th Story added, house gutted

620 early 19th Cent. ?

622

" " " " ?

SOUTH HANCOCK STREET - Catherine to Queen

East side

805

807

809

811

813

815

817

819

833 original owner, Southwark Soup Society

837

839

841

West side

800 - 802

806 (poor condition) c 1850

808

810

812

816

SOUTH SECOND STREET South to Catherine

East side

701 SE cor Bainbridge altered & neglected

715 NE cor Kenilworth

739 SE cor Pemberton

747

769

771

783 (1831, built by Joseph Elkinton as combination store & dwelling. Now the Phila. Quartz Co.)

West side

716

718

724 permastone face

760

790

792

SOUTH SECOND STREET Catherine to Washington Ave.

East side only -

801 915

827 SE cor Queen 917

831 923

835 945

837 947

949

1019

1021

SOUTH AMERICAN South to Bainbridge to Monroe

East side

621 old structure, much altered

623 " " " "

725 " " " "

West side

604

624

626

628

630

632

634

726

728

730

732

CLYMER STREET

No. 25 early 19th Century frame house

KINGBALL STREET

2 row of 9 dwellings, built as a unit, early 19th Century

4

6

8

10

12

14

16

18

A

ST. ALBAN'S STREET (between 781 and 783 S. Front)

South side

10

12

16 abandoned

18 neglected, some interior woodwork