

MINUTES OF THE 201st STATED MEETING OF THE PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

F. Otto Haas, Chairman

5 February 1976

Present: F. Otto Haas, Chairman
Janet S. Klein
Edward Pinkowski
Herbert W. Levy, A.I.A., Architectural Advisor to the Commission
Barbara Liggett, Archaeological Consultant to the Commission
David Rosenblum, Esq., Assistant City Solicitor, Law Department
Richard Tyler, Historian
Patricia Siemiatkowski, Executive Assistant to the Chairman

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

THE MINUTES of the Stated Meeting, 8 January 1976, were approved and directed to be filed.

REPORTS

The Report of the Architectural Committee for 20 January 1976 was approved and directed to be filed with the official copy of the Minutes.

Recommendations by the Staff for the Certification of Buildings. The following buildings were reviewed and approved for certification unless an objection is made by the owner:

241 Montrose Street
Old York Road and Lycoming Avenue

The request for the certification of the Bethany A.M.E. Church was tabled. The Board requested a full chain-of-title.

Certification of the building situate at 2221 South Seventh Street was reviewed and denied by the Board. The Commission agreed that as an individual structure, the building does not merit certification. However, if considered in context with other buildings as part of a streetscape, it might be eligible for local registration. It was noted that the historical association attached to the building as the home of the applicant, Abraham Charles Sisman, founder of "Peace Officers' Memorial Day", also was not sufficient to warrant the certification of the building.

Finally, the Board was asked to consider for certification a number of buildings within the Old City Historic District. The Old City District, an historic area, was reviewed and approved for certification by the Board in September of 1972. The district certification,

REPORTS (Cont'd)

however, cannot be considered a legal registration of all the buildings within the area. For this reason, individual buildings will be presented to the Board on a continuing basis for review and approval.

After some discussion and examination of the photographs, the Board asked the staff to reconsider its request and to eliminate from its recommendation all those buildings which have been drastically altered over the years.

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

OLD BUSINESS

There were no matters to be taken up under Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

Schedule of Meetings, Richard Tyler, Historian. After some discussion, the Board agreed to change its monthly meeting day to Wednesday. Since both City Council and the City Planning Commission meet on Thursday, a change of the meeting day was necessary in order to obtain a quorum regularly.

Archaeological Findings at 8 South Front Street. Barbara Liggett reported to the Board the finding of a number of artifacts at the site. Van Arkel and Moss will be asked by Dr. Liggett to set aside some exhibit space in the Harper House, 101 South Second Street, for the display of some of these artifacts. The Board, at the request of Dr. Liggett, also agreed to give recognition to the owner of the building at 8 South Front Street who notified the Commission of his findings and allowed the archaeologists entrance into the building to conduct their "dig."

Fort Mifflin. Mr. Levy notified the Board that he had been informed of archaeological digging underway at Fort Mifflin. These excavations were being undertaken without proper supervision by the Shackamaxon Society. At the request of the Chairman, Dr. Tyler was directed to write to Mr. Alotta concerning this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Sienientkowiak
Executive Assistant to the Chairman

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