

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE OF THE PHILADELPHIA
HISTORICAL COMMISSION

16 February 1983

Herbert W. Levy, A.I.A., Chairman

resent: Herbert W. Levy, A.I.A., Chairman, Architectural Advisor to the
Commission
Theodore T. Bartley, Jr., A.I.A., Preservation Committee, American
Institute of Architects, Philadelphia Chapter
John Dickey, F.A.I.A.
Janet S. Klein, Vice Chairman of the Commission
Richard Tyler, Historian
Patricia Siemiontkowski, Architectural Historian

Also: Paul Calvert, Architect, and John Bennett, to present plans
for the rehabilitation of 2000 Mt. Vernon Street, 2101
Green Street and 2103 Green Street.
Gary Smalls, Architect, to present his proposal for the install-
ation of a passive solar system at 1522 North 16th Street.
Eric Timber, Architect, to present plans for the construction
of a new glass enclosure along the Chestnut Street and 10th
Street elevations of the Victory Building.
Hyman Myers, Architect, to present plans for interior altera-
tions to the Furness Library at the University of Pennsylvania.
Neil Schlosser, Architect, to present plans for the rehabilita-
tion of 3402 Sansom Street.
Zvi Barzilay of Toll Brothers to request permission to demolish
Laning Hall and other miscellaneous structures at the U.S.
Naval Home, 24th and Gray's Ferry Avenue.

SUBMISSIONS FOR ALTERATIONS

1522 North 16th Street, Gary Smalls, Architect. Mr. Smalls
presented for the Committee's consideration his proposal for
the installation of a passive solar system at 1522 North 16th
Street, a three-story, late-nineteenth century house.

Mr. Smalls explained to the Architectural Committee his client's
wish to preserve the original character of the building
while at the same time meeting the structure's energy require-
ments with a passive solar system. The plan, as presented to
the Committee, called for the introduction of solar collector
panels along a stepped back area on the side elevation of
1522 North 16th Street. It was the opinion of the owner and
the architect that placement of the solar wall within this
recessed well would cause the least amount of visual disturbance
to the building design.

Following Mr. Smalls' presentation, the Committee raised several questions concerning the placement of the solar wall as proposed by the architect. Since the wall to be used as the heat retainer contains a series of windows, the Committee members expressed some concern for the blocking of access from the building, the circulation of air and the efficiency of a punctured wall as a heat retainer. They suggested strongly that the architect consider hanging the solar system on the solid masonry wall of the main, front building. It was the opinion of the Committee that a solid masonry wall would be a more efficient receptor than one containing a series of window openings. It was agreed also that the bay window on this wall should be retained and incorporated, in a sensitive manner, into the design of the solar wall.

The Committee members asked the architect to study this alternative, revise his design and resubmit it for another review. The members further agreed that the house could possibly be eligible for an Altered Plaque if the final installation of the solar system is judged sympathetic with the original character of the building.

2000 Mt. Vernon Street, Paul Calvert, Architect, and John Bennett, Owner. Mr. Calvert presented his proposal for the rehabilitation of the property situate at the southwest corner of 20th and Mt. Vernon Streets. The house, constructed c. 1860, stands three stories high and contains a two-story, twentieth century addition to the rear.

Following some discussion of the plans, the Committee agreed to recommend their approval subject to a revision of the elevation drawing to include the shutter panel arrangement and shutter details. Furthermore, the Committee recommended that the Commission allow the owner the option of installing either a flat roof or a greenhouse-type roof over the new one-story addition proposed along the side (20th Street) elevation.

2101 Green Street and 2103 Green Street, Paul Calvert, Architect. The Committee reviewed the plans for the rehabilitation of 2101 and 2103 Green Street, two, three-story, Victorian row-houses. Miss Siemiontkowski read for the Committee members letters from the developer outlining the proposed work on the front facades of these buildings and stating his intention to restore the exteriors correctly.

Since the plans did not include front elevation drawings, the Committee voted to table action on these two properties. The

architect will resubmit his proposal for each of the two buildings and include in that submission accurately drawn elevations and details.

Furness Library, Hyman Myers, Architect. Mr. Myers presented to the members of the Architectural Committee his plans for the restoration of the Furness Library lobby and the rehabilitation of the later McGoodwin addition to the original building.

Following some discussion of the plans, the Architectural Committee voted to recommend their approval.

Victory Building, 10th and Chestnut Streets, Gary H. Kanalstein & Associates. Eric Timber of Kanalstein & Associates presented for the Committee's consideration his plans for the removal of the existing unsightly sheds along the 10th and Chestnut Street elevations of the Victory Building and their replacement with a new glass shopfront enclosure. The Victory Building stands as the second finest example of Second Empire design in the City.

Following a review of the plans, the Committee found the design of the new enclosure to be acceptable and voted to recommend its approval subject to some minor changes. The members suggested that the sign band along both elevations be reduced in size and that it be translucent in color.

The architect agreed to revise his drawings in accordance with the Committee's recommendations and to resubmit to the staff for a final review and approval.

30th Street Station, Martin Associates. The Historian presented, for the architectural firm of Martin Associates, plans for the construction of two new kiosks proposed for placement within the 30th Street Station street level concourse.

Following some discussion of the design of the kiosks and their placement in the concourse area, the Architectural Committee voted to recommend the rejection of the plans as submitted. It was the opinion of the Committee that since an overall plan for the renovation of 30th Street Station, prepared by the architectural firms of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill and Ueland and Junker, had received the endorsement of the Architectural Committee and the Commission, previously, any separate and additional work should be coordinated with the SOM-Ueland and Junker rehabilitation plan for the station. In addition, the Committee found the kiosk submission to be incomplete, noting particularly the absence of mechanicals which were specified on the plan but excluded from the elevation drawings. A site plan showing the placement of the kiosks is also required.

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DEMOLITIONS

U. S. Naval Home, 24th and Gray's Ferry Avenue, Zvi Barzilay, Toll Brothers. Mr. Barzilay outlined briefly for the Committee members Toll Brothers proposed development of the Naval Home site at 24th and Gray's Ferry Avenue. Based on an extensive study of the property and its potential for reuse, Toll Brothers reached a decision that only the three major buildings on the site, designed by William Strickland, could be preserved and adapted for reuse. Both the State Bureau for Historic Preservation and the National Park Service have concurred in this finding. Toll Brothers in addition to preserving the Strickland buildings will retain the two gatehouses and the iron fence surrounding the property. They further intend to save, and perhaps relocate, if feasible, the two existing gazebos located on the property.

Following some discussion, the Architectural Committee voted to recommend that the demolition of all the buildings on the Naval Home property, excluding the three major Strickland structures and the two gatehouses, be permitted. Mrs. Klein abstained.

PLAQUES

1215 Spruce Street. The Committee members reviewed and rejected the owner's request for a plaque for 1215 Spruce Street. The building has been neither fully nor correctly restored.

318 South 19th Street. Mr. Levy reported to the Committee on his recent inspection of the building at 318 South 19th Street. On the side elevation of the house at the roof level, Mr. Levy found the floor of the roof deck to be a visually obtrusive element. This, he observed, could be remedied by the application of a coat of dark color paint thereby making the floor of the deck less noticeable.

Subject to the painting of the floor area visible from the street, the Committee voted to recommend the approval of a Certified Altered Plaque for 318 South 19th Street.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Siemiontkowski
Architectural Historian