

MINUTES OF THE 182nd STATED MEETING OF THE PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

7 February 1974

Dr. F. Otto Haas, Chairman

Present: Dr. F. Otto Haas, Chairman
Charles B. Tyson, Vice Chairman
Mrs. James C. Crumlish, Jr.
Edward Pinkowski
Robert Silver, Commissioner, Department of Public Property
Henry J. Magasiner, A. I. A., Architectural Advisor to the Commission
James L. Ferguson, Deputy Director of Finance
David Rosenblum, Assistant City Solicitor
Edward Mittinger, Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority
Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom, Historian
Patricia Sieniontkowski, Executive Assistant to the Chairman

Also: Mark Ueland, Architect, for the restoration of 526 South Front Street.

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

THE MINUTES of the Stated Meeting, 6 December, were approved and directed to be filed.

REPORTS

The Reports of the Architectural Committee for 11 December 1973, 9 January 1974, and 4 February 1974 were approved and directed to be filed with the official copy of the Minutes.

Mr. Magasiner, at this time, presented to the Board the suggestion of Gerald M. Cope of COPE LINDER WAINSWLEY, Architects, Engineers, and Landscape Architects, to revitalize the Eastern State Penitentiary and turn it into a major International Student Center for the 1976 Bicentennial. The Board voted to refer the matter to the Architectural Committee for review and suggested that Mr. Magasiner invite Mr. Cope to be present at the Committee's next meeting.

Recommendations by the Staff for the Certification of Buildings, Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom, Historian. The following buildings are approved by the Board for certification unless objected to by the owner.

1923 Walnut Street.

Phi Delta Theta, Thirty-Seventh and Locust Streets.

Kappa Epsilon, 3706 Locust Street.

Phi Sigma Kappa house, University of Pennsylvania, Thirty-Sixth and Locust Streets. 3615 Locust

REPORTS (CONTINUED)

Christian Education Building and two adjoining structures.
 Weighmen Hall. 33rd & Locust
 White Field House 33rd & Locust
 St. Mary's P. E. Church.
 2100 block of Mount Vernon Street
 2100 block of Wallace Street
 2100 block of Spring Garden Street
 2200 Green Street
 2223 Green Street
 555 North Twenty-Third Street

NW. Cor
 36th & Locust
 (3601)

Commission Activities, Report on, Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom, Historian.
 Dr. Tinkcom's report was approved and directed to be filed with the official copy of the Minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

700 South Front Street (request for a Historical Commission plaque), Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom, Historian. The Commission voted, with the support of the Redevelopment Authority, to uphold the Architectural Committee in its refusal to issue a plaque to the building at 700 South Front Street because of the poor craftsmanship that has produced an unsatisfactory restoration.

Canon Ball Farm, Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom, Historian. Dr. Tinkcom reported to the Board members that the Water Department was preparing specifications for the removal of the Canon Ball house.

Mariners' Theatre, Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom, Historian. Dr. Tinkcom reported to the Board members City Council's continued failure to act on the ordinance which would change the zoning in the one block area occupied by the Theatre to allow its commercial development and the Redevelopment Authority's effort to expedite this legislation.

St. Nicholas Church, 811-817 North Seventh Street, Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom, Historian. The Commission members were informed of the receipt of a copy of William Simpson's letter to Councilman Melvin Greenberg concerning St. Nicholas Church and the Commission's refusal to grant the congregation permission to alter the church building. Dr. Tinkcom's reply to Mr. Greenberg corrected a number of mis-statements in Mr. Simpson's letter and noted the action recommended to the Church by the Architectural Committee. The Board agreed with Dr. Tinkcom's handling of this matter.

Replacement for Dr. Tinkcom, Dr. F. Otto Haas, Chairman. The Chairman reported that seventeen applications for Dr. Tinkcom's position were received with only four being accepted as qualifying. These four being Dr. Trenner, Dr. Dixon-Stone, Dr. Bogner, and Dr. Greenberg. At the request of Mr. Levinson, however, the residency requirement will be removed and the job re-advertised to allow for the receipt of more applications. It is Dr. Haas' understanding that the City has in mind for the position a man presently at Berkeley. Dr. Tinkcom, at this time, expressed her hope of being

NEW BUSINESS

526 South Front Street, Mr. Mark Ueland, Architect. Mr. Ueland presented to the Commission his client's proposal for the renovation of the historically certified building at 526 South Front Street. A variance to use the first floor as a tavern with apartments in the upper floors was granted by the Zoning Board of Adjustment recently. After discussing Mr. Ueland's proposal at some length, the matter was referred to the Architectural Committee. Mr. Silver asked that the economics of this rehabilitation be taken into consideration since in his opinion this would provide the area with a boost it needs. Mr. Ueland was asked to attend the Committee's next meeting, February 22, and was then excused.

225 Chestnut Street, Patricia Sieniontkowski, Executive Assistant to the Chairman. The Chairman's Assistant reported to the Board the availability of the building at 225 Chestnut Street for use by the Commission. This building, declared excess property by the Federal Government, could be acquired by the City for a specific use if the City agrees to maintain it. Mr. Magaziner suggested using the building for commercial purposes with the income earmarked for historic preservation purposes. Mr. Magaziner agreed to explore the possibilities of such a use and report his findings to the Board.

Bill introduced into City Council regarding Signs on Germantown Avenue, Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom, Historian. The Historical Commission voted to write a letter to City Council asking for favorable action on this bill which would limit the size and projection of signs on Germantown Avenue.

246-260 West Walnut Lane, Patricia Sieniontkowski, Executive Assistant to the Chairman. A letter from a resident of the West Walnut Lane area asking the Historical Commission's support in opposition to a request before the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a variance allowing the conversion of the buildings at 246-260 West Walnut Lane into a residential therapeutic community center. The Commission voted to table the matter for further review.

National Trust Workshop on Public Relations in Preservation, Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom, Historian. At the recommendation of Dr. Tinkcom, the Board voted to send the Chairman's Assistant to Washington, D. C., to attend the Trust Workshop.

Seminar for Historical Administrators, Williamsburg, Virginia, Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom, Historian. The Commission voted to allow Miss Sieniontkowski, at the request of Dr. Tinkcom, to apply to the National Trust for admission to the Williamsburg Seminar. If accepted, the Chairman will ask the Commission to approve a leave of absence with pay for the six week period for Miss Sieniontkowski.

NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

Resolution on Fort Mifflin, Mr. Edward Pinkowski, Member of the Commission. The Commission, at the request of Mr. Pinkowski, accepted and approved the resolution calling for the designation of Fort Mifflin as a National Historic Site. Copies will be sent to the President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Secretary of the Interior, to the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, to the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, to the Chairman of the American Revolutionary Bicentennial Commission, to the two United States Senators from Pennsylvania, and to each Representative from Pennsylvania in the Congress of the United States.

Request for demolition of 811-813-821 and 829 Locust Street and 218 South Eighth Street by the Redevelopment Authority, Patricia Siemiontkowski, Executive Assistant to the Chairman. The Board agreed to allow the demolition of the aforementioned structures.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Siemiontkowski
Executive Assistant to the Chairman

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