

MINUTES OF THE 274th STATED MEETING OF THE PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

1 September 1983

F. Otto Haas, Chairman

Present: F. Otto Haas, Chairman
Janet S. Klein, Vice Chairman
Edward Pinkowski
David Price, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Property
Val C. Mogensen, Executive Assistant Director of Finance
Herbert W. Levy, A.I.A., Architectural Advisor to the Commission
Gilda Kremer, Esq., Deputy City Solicitor, Law Department
Patricia Siemiontkowski, Architectural Historian
Jefferson Moak, Executive Secretary
Sara Reiter, City Planner Trainee

Unless otherwise noted, all actions taken herein are the results of motions correctly made, seconded and carried.

THE MINUTES of the 273rd Stated Meeting of the Philadelphia Historical Commission, 4 August 1983, were reviewed and corrected. In the last paragraph of page 1, the date of 11 August 1983 was corrected to read 11 August 1982. Subject to this change, the Minutes were approved and directed to be filed.

THE REPORT of the Architectural Committee for 17 August 1983, Herbert W. Levy, A.I.A., Chairman, was reviewed and approved excluding the entry regarding proposed new signage for the Masonic Temple at 1 N. Broad Street. This item was discussed and acted upon separately.

It was the opinion of the Historical Commission that additional signage identifying the Masonic Temple should be permitted. The Commission members suggested that representatives of the Masonic Temple be invited to attend the next meeting of the Architectural Committee to receive advice and guidance in selecting signage appropriate to the character and integrity of the Masonic Temple building.

Mr. Levy, Chairman of the Architectural Committee, assured the Commission that the members of the Committee would be pleased to offer their assistance in this regard.

THE REPORT of the Committee on Certification for 11 July 1983, Edward Pinkowski, Chairman.

Under New Business, the Historical Commission considered and approved for certification the Church of the New Jerusalem and Parrish House at 2129 Chestnut Street.

The Commission also considered for certification the Delmar Apartments at 319 W. Cheltenham Avenue.

Mr. Mogensen expressed considerable reservation concerning the historical and architectural significance of the Delmar Apartments. He noted that Frederick Fox, designer of the building, did not possess prominence in the field of architecture and that the building was considered an intrusion into a predominantly residential neighborhood at the time it was erected. He further stated that the Delmar Apartments should not be granted special recognition simply because it happened to be the first large scale apartment building in Northwest Philadelphia.

Following considerable discussion regarding the merits of the building, a motion to certify the Delmar Apartments was made and seconded. Upon the Chairman's call for a vote, two members voted in favor of certification; two opposed. The deciding vote was cast by the Chairman against the certification of the Delmar Apartments.

The remainder of the items listed under New Business in the Report of the Committee on Certification for 11 July 1983 were tabled owing to the late hour.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Siemiontkowski
Architectural Historian