

MINUTES OF THE 203rd STATED MEETING OF THE PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

1 April 1976

Dr. F. Otto Haas, Chairman

Present: F. Otto Haas, Chairman
Mrs. James C. Crumlish, Jr.
Janet S. Klein
Edward Pinkowski
Barbara Liggett, Archaeological Consultant to the Commission
David Rosenblum, Esq., Assistant City Solicitor, Law Department
Richard Tyler, Historian
Patricia Siemiontkowski, 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, 1 March 1976, were approved and directed to be filed.

REPORTS

The Report of the Architectural Commission for 17 March 1976, Herbert W. Levy, A.I.A., Architectural Advisor to the Commission, was approved and directed to be filed with the official copy of the Minutes.

Recommendations by the Staff for the Certification of Buildings, Richard Tyler, Historian.

The staff had no recommendations to make at this time.

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

Dr. Tyler in his report noted that through the efforts of Commissioner Silver and Michael Silver of the City Solicitor's Office the Haviland Paneling has found a home at the Philadelphia College of Art in their Haviland building. The Commission is grateful to Commissioner Silver and Mr. Silver for their success in preserving the Paneling.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no matters to be discussed under this heading.

NEW BUSINESS

Mikveh Israel Cemetery, Richard Tyler, Historian. Dr. Tyler reported that the Commission staff and the National Park Service staff had been approached by a representative of the Hays Solomon Lodge with a proposal calling for the demolition of the existing wall and the erection of a wrought iron fence around the Mikveh Israel Cemetery. Although the date of the existing wall is now known, in 1752, a wall was erected around the cemetery after the wood fence had been removed. This establishes the existence of a brick wall in the 1750's even if not the existing one.

In view of this evidence, an agreement was reached to have the existing wall cleaned and retained and calling for the installation of either a brick or shingle coping.

After some discussion, the Commission agreed to allow Dr. Tyler to approve a building permit application in conformity with the decision reached by the National Park Service and Historical Commission staff representatives after examining the existing fabric.

Portico Row, Richard Tyler, Historian. As the result of a recent fire, the buildings situate at 904-06-08 Spruce Street, part of Portico Row, suffered extensive damage. Owing to the importance of these buildings, a part of one of the most distinguished rows of houses in the City, the Historical Commission expressed its concern for the preservation of the entire massing of the buildings, including the rears, and directed the Historian to notify the owner of the Commission's position in this matter. It is the opinion of the Commission that a full and accurate restoration of the entire structure be undertaken by the developer provided that it does not cause a hardship.

121-23 Market Street, Richard Tyler, Historian. The Commission members were informed of the demolition of the 100 block of Market Street, currently underway, by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for the construction of an Interstate 95 ramp connecting center city to Penn's Landing. The cast iron fronts on the buildings at 121-23 Market Street are being salvaged and stored by the Fairmount Park Commission with the hope that they can be reused somewhere in the Old City area. The fronts, however, if placed in the ownership of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission cannot be sold or given away. At the suggestion of the State Museum Commission, the Historical Commission is being asked to accept title to the cast iron facades directly from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

After some discussion, David Rosenblum recommended that the Department of Public Property be asked to acquire title to the

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fronts. The Commission members agreed and asked Dr. Tyler to report this proposal to the State.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Slomkowski
Executive Assistant to the Chairman

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