

MINUTES OF THE 204th STATED MEETING OF THE PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

6 May 1976

F. Otto Haas, Chairman

Present: F. Otto Haas, Chairman of the Commission
Mrs. James C. Crumlish, Jr.
Janet S. Klein
John Taxin
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 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 April 1976, were approved and directed to be filed.

REPORTS

The Report of the Architectural Committee for 21 April 1976 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.

There were no nominations presented to the Commission at this time.

REPORT on Commission Staff Activities, Richard Tyler, Historian. The Historian read his report for the month of April to the Commission members and asked for a motion on its acceptance. The report was approved and directed to be filed with the official copy of the Minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

Election of a Vice Chairman, F. Otto Haas, Chairman. The Chairman opened the discussion with a request for nominations for the position of Vice Chairman, vacant since Mr. Tyson's resignation from the Board in January. The nomination of Mrs. Klein, by Mrs. Crumlish, was seconded and unanimously accepted. Mrs. Klein accepted the position and the matter was closed.

OLD BUSINESS (Cont'd)

Issuance of a Second Plaque, Herbert W. Levy, Architectural Advisor to the Commission and Richard Tyler, Historian. Messrs Levy and Tyler reported to the Commission on the deliberations of the committee appointed in March to consider the issuance of a second plaque. That committee unanimously reaffirmed the Commission's earlier determination on the desirability of a plaque for well maintained buildings which reflected the successful integration of more than one period or style of architecture. A majority of the committee recommended that the wording of the existing plaque be changed to "Certified Restored" and that the new plaque read "Certified Altered," that the design of both plaques be the same, and that they both follow the design of the present plaque. After some consideration, the Commission accepted the recommendation of the committee and directed the staff to contact the Quint Company concerning the fabrication of the plaques.

NEW BUSINESS

Objections to Spring Garden Certifications, Richard Tyler, Historian. Mr. Tyler presented to the Commission four letters from owners objecting to the historical certification of their homes in the Spring Garden area. The buildings are situate at 2000 Mt. Vernon Street, 2021 Brandywine Street, 2037 Brandywine Street and 2063 Brandywine Street. At the suggestion of Mr. Levy, the matter was referred to the Architectural Committee for its recommendation. Mr. Rosenblum noted that unless there is an overwhelming historical significance to the buildings, the Historical Commission should remove the structures from its list to avoid litigation.

The Commission, at this time, also asked the Historian to draft a new form letter to be sent to the owners of buildings under consideration for historical certification outlining the benefits and obligations of certification and specifying a specific time limitation for the receipt of objections.

Christ Church Variance Request, Richard Tyler, Historian. Mr. Tyler reported to the Commission on the receipt of a letter from a representative of Christ Church asking the Historical Commission for support in their quest for a variance from the Fire Code for installation of exterior exit lighting. After some discussion, it was determined that the Commission should not get involved in fire and safety considerations on historic buildings.

Archaeological Dig at 8 South Front Street, Barbara Liggett, Archaeological Consultant to the Commission. Dr. Liggett reported her submission to the staff of the archaeological completion report on 8 South Front Street. A copy of the interim report will be forthcoming. Dr. Liggett

NEW BUSINESS (Cont'd)

asked that the report be circulated among all Commission members and requested the members to authorize the expenditure of moneys from the Harry A. Batten Fund, not to exceed \$100.00, to cover reproduction costs. This request was approved.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Siemiontkowski
Executive Assistant to the Chairman

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