

MINUTES OF THE ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE OF THE PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

19 November 1974

Mr. Henry J. Magaziner, A.I.A., Chairman

Present: Henry J. Magaziner, A.I.A., Architectural Advisor to the Commission
Erling H. Pedersen, A.I.A., Old Philadelphia Development Corporation
Theodore T. Bartley, Jr., A.I.A., Preservation Committee of the American
Institute of Architects, Philadelphia Chapter
Dr. F. Otto Haas, Chairman of the Commission
Gary Jones, Washington Square West Project Area Committee
Richard Tyler, Historian
Patricia Sieniontkowski, Executive Assistant to the Chairman

Guests: Hugh McCauley and Associates to present Thalheimer and Weitz's proposal
for the Philadelphia Fire Museum at Second and Quarry Streets.
George Borowsky, representing the Elfreth's Alley Association, concerning
the proposal for the Philadelphia Fire Museum at Second and Quarry Sts.

SUBMISSIONS

Fire House, Second and Quarry Streets, Hugh McCauley, Thalheimer and Weitz, Architects. Mr. McCauley presented to the Architectural Committee his firm's proposal for the restoration of the existing fire house and the development of the surrounding area as part of the museum complex. The Committee was asked to allow the demolition of the two historically certified buildings within the project area for the construction of new facilities.

Mr. Borowsky raised several questions concerning the proposal, i.e., possible retention of the historically certified warehouses and the incorporation of those structures into the new design; parking, crowd movement, and traffic problems for the area, etc.

Mr. McCauley advised the Committee of his firm's original plan to restore the factory complex. This, however, proved to be unfeasible both as far as design and economics were concerned.

After some discussion, the Committee enthusiastically agreed to endorse the concept of the proposal. It was determined, however, that demolition of the warehouses would not be approved until funds have been secured for the project and that the parking and traffic problems would be called to the attention of the City Planning Commission.

Final approval, of course, is subject to the review and approval of detailed drawings including all elevations.

913 Spruce Street, The Schmadelbach-Braun Partnership, Architects.

The Committee asks that a new cornice, door, railing, and shutters of the 1816 period be installed and that a marble or cast stone watertable replace the existing brownstone one. Before final approval of this project can be granted, a resubmission, incorporating the above recommendations, must be presented for review.

917 Spruce Street, Redevelopment Authority. The Committee asked that the architect measure the building accurately and resubmit his proposal.

919-21 Spruce Street, Redevelopment Authority. The Committee asked for the construction of a more compatible areaway and the installation of a stair rail at 919 Spruce Street. If the City will allow it, the Committee suggests the installation of a side entrance on Hutchinson Street for the property at 921 Spruce Street.

7th South Tenth Street. The Committee suggested that the owner retain the existing sash, if possible. If not, they may be replaced with one over one windows. It was agreed that the stained glass windows could be retained.

PLAQUES

2016 Spruce Street. The Committee agreed that this building did not merit a Commission plaque since it neither remained in its original condition nor had it been completely and accurately restored. The Committee found the railing to be inappropriate as well as the cornice and roof alterations.

131 Elfreth's Alley. As soon as the storm sash are removed and the cornice and roof are repaired, the Commission will be pleased to award this building a plaque.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Sieniontkowski
Executive Assistant to the Chairman

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