

MINUTES OF THE 177th STATED MEETING OF THE PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

7 June 1973

Dr. F. Otto Haas, Chairman

Present: Dr. F. Otto Haas, Chairman
Charles R. Tyson, Vice Chairman
Mrs. James C. Crumlish, Jr.
Hon. John B. Kelly, Jr., Councilman-at-Large
Edward Pinkowski
John Tazin
William A. Costello, Commissioner, Department of Public Property
James L. Ferguson, Deputy Director, Department of Finance
Mr. Henry J. Magaziner, A.I.A., Architectural Advisor to the Commission
Barbara Liggett, Archaeological Consultant to the Commission
Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom, Historian
Patricia Sienicki, Executive Assistant to the Chairman
Tom Erickson, City Solicitor's Office

Also: John Mitkus, Executive Director of the City Planning Commission, concerning the Friends' Hospital.

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

THE MINUTES of the Stated Meeting, 7 May 1973, were approved and directed to be filed.

REPORTS

The Report of the Architectural Committee for 15 May 1973 was approved and directed to be filed with the official copy of the Minutes.

Recommendations by the Staff for the Certification of Buildings, Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom, Historian. The following buildings were approved for certification:

Ravenhill Academy, 3480 Schoolhouse Lane
Women's Homeopathic Assoc. Hospital, 20th and Susquehanna
Rittenhouse Village - 206-08; 209; 210 (including barn) Lincoln Drive
232 Mantrose Street
South Sixteenth Street, Locust to Spruce, both sides
245-47; 249-51-53-55 and 250-52-54-56-58-60; 264.

Commission Activities, Report on, Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom, Historian.

Dr. Tinkcom reported the receipt of a check in the amount of \$500.00 from Mr. Charles Woodward. The money will be used to pay a student who will prepare the text of a booklet for publication listing all these

REPORTS (Cont'd)

buildings still standing in Philadelphia that were here on or before July 4, 1776

It was agreed that the student would be paid at the rate of \$2.00 an hour and that a thank you letter be sent to Mr. Woodward for his generous contribution to this project.

Dr. Tinkcom's Report was approved and directed to be filed with the official copy of the Minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

1974 Fiscal Operating Budget, Patricia Sienientkowski, Executive Assistant to the Chairman. The Commission's Fiscal 1974 Operating Budget, a copy of which was circulated with the May Minutes, has been approved and will become effective July 2, 1973.

Cannon Ball house, Dr. F. Otto Haas, Chairman. The Historical Commission has been asked by Commissioner Guarino for some additional time to arrange with the Army Corps of Engineers for the relocation of the Cannon Ball house on their land. Commissioner Guarino believes that the Corps will agree to this course of action.

Dr. Haas, at this time, reported the receipt of a letter from Chester Brooks, Director of the National Park Service, stating that that agency could not add Ft. Mifflin to the National Park system now. The Chairman also noted that James Biddle suggested that the National Trust might consider acquisition of the Fort for the Trust. It was agreed that the Chairman should discuss these proposals with Commissioner Crawford.

The Board voted to allow the extension of time as requested by Commissioner Guarino and to look into all proposals concerning Fort Mifflin and Cannon Ball farm.

Mariner's Theatre, Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom, Historian. The Commission was asked by Dr. Tinkcom, at the request of Mrs. Joseph Segal of the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority, to write to Lynne Abraham, Director of the Authority, expressing concern for the unusually long delay in having this theatre marketed and restored. The building, being vacant for a number of years, is in a deplorable state at this time suffering from the damage caused by weather and vandals.

Civic Center Exhibition, Bicentennial Philadelphia, Dr. F. Otto Haas, Chairman. The Chairman reported the Civic Center's lack of interest in the exhibition of the material salvaged from a number of old Philadelphia houses and previously on display at the First Bank. Miss Liggett suggested using the exhibit in a public space possibly in development with a building as part of a brick wall expanse. It

OLD BUSINESS (Cont'd)

was Dr. Tinkeem's opinion that the Carpenters' Company might have an interest in such an exhibit. This has been discussed informally with Mr. John Harbeson.

NEW BUSINESS

The Friends' Hospital, Mr. John Mitkus, Executive Director of the Philadelphia City Planning Commission. Mr. Mitkus appeared before the Historical Commission to discuss the proposal of the Friends' Hospital to sell a portion of their grounds for development possibly as a shopping center. (The proceeds from this sale would be used for the construction of a new hospital building.) It is the Planning Commission's opinion, however, that such a proposal would only serve to aggravate existing traffic problems in this area.

It was the opinion of the Board that the relocation of the Hospital would be a sad loss to the City for both the environmental and historical reasons. If necessary, the Board would consider allowing the development of a high rise apartment structure on the Roosevelt Boulevard frontage if the Strickland building were preserved and a vista to this building retained and all parking screened from public view. The Commission would permit the demolition of the later structures as well as the demolition of any additions to the original building. All trees and shrubery should remain wherever possible.

The Bourse, Fifth Street between Market and Chestnut Streets, Dr. Margaret B. Tinkeem, Historian. As a result of several telephone calls, the staff finally received a full set of drawings, consisting of elevations and interior plans, for alterations to the Bourse Building. A schematic drawing submitted to the Architectural Committee several months ago had received the Committee's approval. It is obvious, however, from the new plans that a good deal more work is being done than had been presented for review. Of particular concern is the removal of the gates from the exterior of the structure. Dr. Tinkeem suggested that these might be given to the Art Museum if Evan Turner agrees. The Board recommended that Dr. Tinkeem pursue this line of action. The course to be taken as regards the illegal work underway at the site was left in the hands of the Historian.

Centennial Guard Box, Dr. Margaret B. Tinkeem, Historian. The Board enthusiastically supported the relocation of this guard box to the site in front of the Art Museum.

Restoration Proposals for the Bicentennial, Dr. Margaret B. Tinkeem, Historian. The Board reviewed a list of properties proposed for restoration by the Bicentennial Planning Group and agreed to endorse them. Funds for the restoration will be available from the federal government on a matching basis.

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NEW BUSINESS (Cont'd)

Date of the Commission's next Stated Meeting, Dr. F. Otto Haas, Chairman.
The Board agreed to cancel the July meeting and meet next on August 2,
1973.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Siemiontkowski
Executive Assistant to the Chairman