

MINUTES OF THE 198th STATED MEETING OF THE PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

6 November 1975

Dr. F. Otto Haas, Chairman

Present: F. Otto Haas, Chairman
Charles R. Tyson, Vice Chairman
Mrs. James C. Crumlish, Jr.
The Hon. John B. Kelly, Jr., Councilman-at-Large
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
Miriam Klein, Secretary

Also: Alan Rubin and George Novito, Spring Garden Civic Association Representatives.

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

THE MINUTES of the Stated Meeting, 2 October 1975, were approved and directed to be filed.

REPORTS

The Report of the Architectural Committee for 21 October 1975 was approved by the Commission and directed to be filed with the official copy of the Minutes.

Mr. Levy presented to the Board the suggestion of the Architectural Committee to consider the adoption of a second plaque which acknowledges the preservation and/or restoration of a structure which reflects the successful integration of design elements from more than one period. The design or shape of the second plaque would be different from that now issued by the Commission and would be awarded to buildings successfully preserved or restored although not completely in their original condition. Mr. Tyler noted that another solution would be the awarding of the same plaque to both groups of restored and/or preserved structures.

After some discussion of the proposal, the Commission recommended that the Architectural Committee study the matter further.

Mr. Levy also presented to the Board the recommendation of the Architectural Committee calling for the decertification of the buildings situate at 2109, 2111, 2119, 2121 and 2143 Bainbridge Street. Since the area is a low income neighborhood, adherence to the Commission's conventional standards for rehabilitation work would not allow the owners of these buildings to bring them up to building code standards and meet the requirements of the federal government for federal funds. The buildings are being rehabilitated through the Redevelopment Authority with HUD money. The Committee

REPORTS (Cont'd)

agreed that rather than approve a building permit application for inappropriate alterations, the five buildings should be decertified.

The Commission agreed to accept the Committee's recommendation and moved to decertify the five buildings.

There being no further discussion, the Report of the Architectural Committee for 21 October 1975 was approved by the Commission 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 Commission reviewed and approved for certification the following buildings. These buildings will be placed on the Commission's preservation list unless there is an objection by the owner.

408-410 South Alder Street. These buildings were certified at the request of the owner.

The following buildings were considered for certification at the request of the Spring Garden Civic Association:

1901-11, 1913-27, 1931-33 Wallace street
1900-16, 1920-22 Wallace Street

1901-1935 Mt. Vernon Street
1900-1910, 1918-1934 Mt. Vernon Street

1907-1917, 1923-1927 Brandywine Street
1900-1908, 1918-1926 Brandywine Street

1901-1941 Spring Garden Street

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

OLD BUSINESS

HABS Catalog Publication, Richard Tyler, Historian. With the HABS Catalog virtually finished, the Commission was asked to authorize the allocation of money from the Perry A. Batten Memorial Fund for its publication. Much of the money in the Batten Fund was raised to underwrite this project. The catalog will be published by Temple University Press and will be available for sale in September 1976. In order to maintain the quality of the publication Temple University has requested a subsidy of \$6000. The Historical Commission will receive royalties of a minimum of 7% upon the publication of a second printing. It is estimated that the first edition of 1500 hardback copies will sell out very quickly and that after that sale a profit will be realized.

OLD BUSINESS (Cont'd)

A motion was made to authorize the staff to pay to Temple upon demand \$6000 and to authorize Mr. Tyler to spend up to an additional \$1000 for the preparation of an index to the catalog. This motion was seconded and carried. Mr. Tyson abstained from voting on this matter.

NEW BUSINESS

U. S. Naval Home, Richard Tyler, Historian. The problem of finding an adaptive reuse for the U. S. Naval Home was brought to the attention of the Board. Mr. Tyler reported to the Board on his discussions with the Planning Commission on this question. One proposal to come out of those deliberations was the retention of an outside architectural planning development firm to study the Naval Home and offer a solution. The Board agreed to authorize the expenditure of \$300 from the Harry A. Batten Fund for this purpose if Messrs. John Mitkus and Craig Schelter of the Planning Commission and Mr. Tyler later concur that this is the most appropriate course to follow in seeking an adaptive reuse of the complex. The City Planning Commission can and will contribute \$100 for this purpose. (Since the building is government surplus property, the City could acquire the property for one dollar if they agreed to preserve the building's facade.)

Resolution for Henry J. Magaziner, A.I.A. The resolution for Henry J. Magaziner, A.I.A. on the occasion of his resignation as the Historical Commission's Architectural Advisor was approved by the Board.

220 South Broad Street, Richard Tyler, Historian. Mr. Tyler reported to the Board that a feasibility is currently being conducted to determine the appropriateness of this structure for use by the Jenkins Law Library.

Environmental Impact Statement Requirements, Barbara Liggett, Archaeological Consultant to the Commission. Miss Liggett requested that the Commission discuss the requirements for the filing of these statements at a subsequent meeting. This Commission should be supplied with guidelines and procedures for EIS reviews.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam Klein, Secretary

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