

MINUTES OF THE ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE OF THE PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

17 June 1975

Present: Henry J. Magaziner, A.I.A., Chairman, Architectural Advisor to the Commission
Theodore T. Bartley, Jr., A.I.A., Preservation Committee of the American Institute of Architects, Philadelphia Chapter
Erling H. Pedersen, A.I.A., Old Philadelphia Development Corporation
Russell Milnor, A.I.A., Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority
Patricia Siemiontkowski, Executive Assistant to the Chairman

Angelo Aquaro, Architect
Andrew Flager, NU SASH Replacement Windows
David Slocum, Architect
William Way, Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority

SPECIAL REVIEW

NU SASH Replacement Windows, Andrew Flager. Mr. Flager presented to the Committee for a review a sample of the muntin detail designed for use on the Nu Sash replacement windows. Although the Committee unanimously accepted the profile of the muntin, they asked Mr. Flager to submit to them for further consideration a complete window sash and frame. As soon as Mr. Flager has prepared such a sample window, the Committee will inspect it and make a recommendation to the Commission as to its acceptability for use in historically certified buildings.

Southwest corner of Front and Chestnut Streets, Department of Streets. At the request of the Department of Streets, the Architectural Committee considered the condition of the buildings situate at the southwest corner of Front and Chestnut Streets and the possibility of their retention. Owing to the construction of the Delaware Expressway in this area, grade adjustment must be made by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, thus requiring the expenditure of funds for building alterations to conform with the change in grade. Since the aforementioned buildings have been vacant for a number of years and since a proposal to demolish them was presented to and approved by the Commission in 1974, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation expressed a reluctance to make the necessary alterations to these buildings if their demolition was eminent. After some discussion, the Committee agreed to request more specific information concerning grade adjustments at this location and noted their concern for the retention of the existing structures if at all feasible.

SUBMISSIONS

606 Pine Street, Decker and Borowsky, Architects/Planners. The Committee recommended the approval of this plan with the requirement that louvered shutters be hung at the second and third floors rather than paneled shutters. If the dormer window, as shown on the drawing, is existing, it is to be repaired; if it is to be rebuilt, the Commission

will supply a detailed drawing for the construction of an appropriate dormer window.

University Museum (roof renovations), Mitchell/Giurgola Associates, Architects. The Committee unanimously recommended the approval of this project.

708 South Washington Square, Arthur W. Jones, Architect. The Committee reviewed the plan, as submitted, and agreed to ask the architect to submit more detailed specifications for renovations to the rear of this historically certified building.

Mt. Pleasant, Fairmount Park, David Slocum, Architect. Mr. Slocum presented to the Committee his plan to restore the mansion above the cornice line; the remainder of the building will be restored by another firm. After some discussion, the Committee agreed to recommend approval of this project.

Rodin Museum, Geddes, Brecher, Qualls and Cunningham, Architects. The Committee agreed to recommend approval of the plan to clean and repair the existing building. No comment was made on landscape renovation and exterior lighting since these do not fall under the jurisdiction of the Historical Commission.

328 South Twelfth Street, Richard Herakovitz, Architect. The Committee reviewed the plan for the renovation of the facade of this building. All window sash should be uniform and contain two over two lights of glass. The Committee agreed to allow the repair of the existing door as requested. It was noted, however, that these alterations do not constitute a full restoration and that the building will not be eligible for a plaque.

416 South Second Street, Peter Ayers Tarantino, Architect. The Committee reviewed the architect's plan to install additional windows on the first floor of the gable wall of this building and recommended that the Commission not allow the alteration as proposed. The Committee suggested the installation of two double hung windows to be lined up with the existing fenestration or the installation of a shop window, identical to the one on the Second Street facade, centered in the gable wall. All glass sizes should be uniform. A resubmission is requested.

Philadelphia Museum of Art, American Art Wing, Geddes, Brecher, Qualls and Cunningham, Architects. The Committee recommended approval of the plan to alter the first floor interior of the Art Museum to provide an American Art Wing.

917 Spruce Street, Angelo Aquaro, Architect. Mr. Aquaro, the architect for the restoration of this building, and William Way, Project Manager of Washington Square West, presented plans to the Committee for the restoration of 917 Spruce Street. The Committee agreed to recommend preliminary approval of this project subject to several changes in the plan. If there is an existing marble water table, it must be retained

and restored; all brickwork above the marble should be cleaned and repointed, if necessary. Finally, a 3'6" door will be allowed if the existing door frame is built out approximately three inches on each side and carried around the fanlight.

236 Stammers Street, Duncan Buell, Architect. The Committee recommended approval of a plan for the erection of a garden wall to the rear of this property.

PROBLEMS

1033 Spruce Street, Dance Academy (lighting fixtures). The Committee discussed the problem of exterior lighting on this building and recommended two solutions. A light recessed into the soffit over the door would be preferred by the Committee. If this solution proves to be unfeasible, however, the Committee will accept the use of Welsbach Newport lighting fixtures hung on brackets on either side of the entrance.

929-931-933 Spruce Street (railings). The Committee recommends the installation of railings to match the original railings as seen in the photograph in the Commission files. The railing is a combination of bars and circles and should be used on all three buildings.

333 Queen Street. The sample brick presented to the Committee for review was approved for use in the reconstruction of the front facade of this building.

PLAQUES

630 Spruce Street. The Committee recommends the approval of this request.

210 St. Mark's Square. Approval is recommended.

6901 Germantown Avenue. Although the Committee agreed to recommend an Award of Merit for this building, a plaque cannot be issued until the structure has been completely restored.

509 Spruce Street. Approval of a plaque for this building is recommended.

711 Pine Street. Better photographs of this building are required before the Committee will review this request.

250 South Sixteenth Street. A plaque cannot be awarded to this building at this time. However, the Committee agreed to recommend that a Certificate of Merit be granted.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Sieniontkowski