

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

10 February 1983

Present: Janet S. Klein, Vice Chairman of the Commission
John F. McCloskey, Commissioner, Department of Public Property
Val C. Mogensen, Executive Assistant Director of Finance
Herbert W. Leve, A.I.A., Architectural Advisor to the Commission
Richard Tyler, Historian
Patricia Siemiontkowski, Architectural Historian

Also: Mr. Herd of Zalesne & Herd, Mr. Underberger, attorney for the
Scottish Rite Temple and Mr. Zuritsky of the Parkway Cor-
poration to request permission to demolish the building
situate at the southwest corner of Broad and Race Streets.

Scottish Rite Temple, Southwest corner of Broad and Race Streets.
On 10 February 1983 members of the Philadelphia Historical
Commission met with Messrs. Herd, Underberger and Zuritsky to
review the Temple's request for permission to demolish the
building at the southwest corner of Broad and Race Streets.

Before hearing the testimony of the applicants on this
matter, Mr. Tyler reviewed for the Commission members the
significance of the building and the recommendation of the
Commission's Architectural Committee reached at its 19
January 1983 meeting.

It was the opinion of the Architectural Committee that the
deteriorated and obsolete condition of the building, its
limited capacity for re-use and the owner's unsuccessful
attempts to market the structure over the past five years
made the potential for preservation of the Scottish Rite
Temple extremely doubtful. In view of this, the Committee
recommended that the Historical Commission not impose its
six month statutory delay since, in this case, such a delay
would simply inflict a continuing financial hardship on the
owners.

Following the Historian's brief introduction, Mr. Herd and
Mr. Underberger restated for the Commission members the
facts reported to the Architectural Committee on 19 January
1983 and recorded in the minutes of that meeting. Mr. Herd
elaborated further on the Scottish Rite Temple's intensive

campaign to market the building over the last six months. Only the Electric Factory and Temple University had expressed a serious interest in the building during that period. Temple University considered occupying the building on a lease basis; the Electric Factory expressed its interest in the upper floors only. Both, however, withdrew after a careful study of the structure and its potential for a successful reuse.

Following some additional discussion of the matter, a motion to allow the demolition of the Scottish Rite Temple at the southwest corner of Broad and Race Streets was made, seconded and carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Siemiontkowski
Architectural Historian