

Ed J.
3/3/72

MINUTES OF THE ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE OF THE PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

15 February 1972

Present: Mr. Henry J. Magaziner, A.I.A., Chairman, Architectural Advisor to the Commission
Mr. Erling H. Pedersen, A.I.A., Old Philadelphia Development Corporation
Mr. Richmond P. Miller, for the Commission
Mr. Ira Winarsky, for the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority
Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom, Historian
Mrs. Charles J. Maurer, Executive Assistant to the Chairman
Patricia Siemiontkowski, Secretary

DISCUSSIONS

Pennsylvania Hospital (property at 706-12 Spruce Street). Mr. Magaziner reported to the Architectural Committee the Historical Commission's efforts to persuade the Pennsylvania Hospital to retain this group of historically certified buildings (at least the front facades) by constructing a high rise building behind them and making use of the transfer of development rights concept. John Lloyd, the Hospital's architectural consultant in charge of the site development of this area, has agreed to take the matter under consideration.

Dr. Tinkcom suggested that the Historic Houses Committee of the Old Philadelphia Development Corporation be advised of the Historical Commission's proposal and asked to support it.

John Wanamaker House. Dr. Tinkcom related to the Committee her conversation with Paul Jaffe, attorney for the developer interested in the parcel of land which includes the Wanamaker House. Mr. Herman Hassinger, the architect, has come up with a proposal for a high rise structure for the site which would allow the retention of the Wanamaker House. It is hoped that negotiations with Bankers Security Corporation and the developer, Mr. Herbert Goldstein, will be carried out.

SUBMISSIONS

317 Spruce Street, Giovanni Petri, A.I.A. The Committee enthusiastically approved Mr. Petri's submission for the restoration of this certified building.

Cathedral SS. Peter and Paul, Nowicki and Polillo, Architects. The work to be done on the chapel was approved.

218-24 South Fourth Street (proposed parking lot), J. F. Cavanaugh, R. A. The Committee was pleased with the proposed design for the iron fence which will enclose this site.

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SUBMISSIONS (Cont'd)

529 Pine Street (preliminary submission), Giovanni Cosco. The Committee endorses the principle of the restoration of this Pine Street building as a private residence. Detailed drawings are requested.

334 Queen Street, rear court, Nick James Chimes, R. A. The restoration of the court houses was approved.

PROBLEMS

1117-19 Spruce Street (a report). As a result of the Commission's last Stated Meeting, 3 February 1972, a letter was written to the new Commissioner of the Department of Licenses and Inspections inviting a representative of that agency to come to the Historical Commission's next meeting, 2 March 1972. At that time Historical Commission procedures and regulations will be discussed in an effort to establish a better rapport with that department. Deputy Commissioner Robert Taylor has been authorized to attend.

University Museum. Mrs. Maurer reported that a variance to allow the grand staircase to be kept open had been approved by the Fire Commission.

Street lighting, Washington Square West (a verbal request). Mr. Ennis' concern for the design of the street lamps planned for the Washington Square West area was reported to the Committee by Mrs. Maurer. It was the consensus of the members that the matter be referred to the Redevelopment Authority.

114 Delancey Street ("flatt", third floor rear), R. D. Hall. The request to add a "flatt" to the rear of the third floor was approved.

DEMOLITIONS

305-07 Chestnut Street. The Commission's withholding period of six months has long since expired and it is agreed that this fine building will be permitted to come down whenever the request is made. However, it was suggested that an architect be asked to talk with Mr. Kurz about the possibility of saving the front facade of the structure and transferring the development rights to the new structure which could be constructed behind the old bank building. The cooperation of Mr. Kurz over the past several months has been heartening and is very much appreciated.

6306 Germantown Avenue (The Tannery). Because of the dangerous condition of this building, as reported by Deputy Commissioner Taylor of the Department of Licenses and Inspections, it will be allowed to come down.

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PLAQUES

236 South Third Street. Approved.

639 Church Lane. Approved.

247 South Camac Street. Approved.

327 South Lawrence Street. Tabled until a report from the Redevelopment Authority is received.

Edgar Allen Poe House. Dr. Tinkom reported on her visit to the Poe House with Dr. Murray Nelligan of the National Park Service, Keith Doms and other members of his staff of the Free Library. Application will be made by the Free Library to the National Trust for Historic Preservation for assistance in planning the development of the Poe House property and to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission for matching funds to further its restoration. A research project, now underway by the Philadelphia Historical Commission staff, will explore in as much detail as possible the history of this structure and its surroundings. Mrs. Kirkbride is preparing this. It was the suggestion of the Committee that the Library's request for a plaque be tabled until restoration has been completed according to plans approved by the Historical Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Siemiontkowski
Secretary