

MINUTES OF THE 205th STATED MEETING OF THE PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

5 August 1976

F. Otto Haas, Chairman

Present: F. Otto Haas, Chairman
Janet S. Klein, Vice Chairman
Val C. Mogensen, Executive Assistant Director of Finance
John Tadin
Herbert W. Levy, A.I.A., Architectural Advisor to the Commission
David Rosenblum, Esq., Assistant City Solicitor, Law Department
Richard Tyler, Historian

Guests: Beatrice H. Kirkbride
Susan Walker, Washington Square West Project Area Committee
Ivonne Ortiz de Webb, Washington Square West

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

THE MINUTES of the Stated Meeting, 6 May 1976, were approved and directed to be filed.

REPORTS

The Report of the Architectural Committee for 20 May 1976 was approved and directed to be filed with the official copy of the Minutes.

The Report of the Architectural Committee for 16 June 1976 was amended upon the suggestion of Herbert W. Levy, A.I.A., to delete all reference to the application for a plaque for 425 Spruce Street; the Committee is re-examining the application and the building. As amended, the Report was approved and directed to be filed.

The Report of the Architectural Committee for 21 July 1976 was amended upon the request of Herbert W. Levy, A.I.A., to indicate that he did not participate in the discussion on the submission of drawings for 229 South Schell Street and to add the approval for the demolition of a building at Episcopal Hospital. As amended, the Report was approved and directed to be filed.

Recommendations by the Staff for the Certification of Buildings,
Richard Tyler, Historian.

The Commission approved the deletion from the administrative list of certified buildings 723 Addison Street and 725 Addison Street.

REPORTS (Cont'd)

The Commission ratified the certification of the following properties:

303 South American Street
305 South American Street
307 South American Street
309 South American Street
311 South American Street
313 South American Street
315 South American Street
317 South American Street
319 South American Street
321 South American Street
323 South American Street
325 South American Street
327 South American Street
329 South American Street
331 South American Street

103-105 Arch Street
109-111 Arch Street
115 Arch Street
117-119 Arch Street
127 Arch Street
129 Arch Street
131 Arch Street
133 Arch Street
135 Arch Street
100 Arch Street
116-118 Arch Street
120 Arch Street
122-124 Arch Street
126 Arch Street
128 Arch Street
130 Arch Street

In the course of this discussion, the Commission directed the Historian to consult with Councilman Kelly on the passage of an ordinance to permit district designations.

Report on Commission Staff Activities, Richard Tyler, Historian. The written reports for the months of May, June and July 1976 were approved by the Commission and directed to be filed with the official copy of the Minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

Letter of Notification, Richard Tyler, Historian. The Commission approved a second draft of a new letter of notification to the owners of certified properties. This draft incorporates the suggestions made by several members of the Commission.

OLD BUSINESS (Cont'd)

Objections to Spring Garden Certifications, Herbert W. Levy, A.I.A., and Richard Tyler, Historian. Following the presentation of the Architectural Committee's report requested by the Commission on 6 May, the Commission discussed the legal and practical ramifications of the objection of four owners to certification in the Spring Garden district. Inasmuch as it appears that current market forces and the inclination of the owners will encourage the preservation of these buildings, the Commission determined to avoid the issue at this time and to write to the four owners again in approximately one year.

The New Plaques, Richard Tyler, Historian. The Historian explained that the Quint Company finds that the manufacture of new plaques, of the old or new design, will require that the firm charge \$30.00 each for them. In addition, the cost of new dyes will be \$500.00, which can be passed on to the consumers over time. The Commission directed its staff to secure other estimates and proceed at its discretion.

Historic American Buildings Survey Catalogue, Richard Tyler, Historian. The Commission authorized the payment of \$1,000.00 to Margaret B. Tinkcom for the preparation of an index for the HABS Catalogue. This complies with the Commission's agreement with Temple University Press for the publication of the Catalogue.

NEW BUSINESS

Preservation of Canal Street Paving, Susan Walker and Ivonne Ortiz de Webb, Washington Square West. Following a request by Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Ortiz de Webb that the Commission support the effort of the Washington Square West Project Area Committee to preserve the wooden block paving of Canal Street from Walnut Street to Locust Street, the Commission agreed to write to Commissioner David Bandano to solicit his cooperation in this matter.

Retirement of Mrs. Beatrice E. Kidder. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, Mrs. Kidder attended the meeting and was presented a framed copy of a print of Benjamin West's William Penn's Treaty with the Indians in recognition of her many years of service to the Commission.

City Tavern. Upon the request of Mr. Varin, it was agreed to request that Robert Carwood, Superintendent of the Independence National Historical Park, attend the next meeting to discuss the use of and public access to City Tavern.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:10 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Tyler, Historian

RT/pas