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MINUTES OF THE 248th STATED MEETING OF THE PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

5 June 1980

F. Otto Haas, Chairman

Present: F. Otto Haas, Chairman of the Commission
Janet S. Klein, Vice Chairman of the Commission
Mrs. James C. Cromlish, Jr.
Edward Pinkowski
Joseph W. Brown, Commissioner, Department of Public Property
Val C. Mogensen, Executive Assistant Director of Finance
Herbert W. Levy, A.I.A., Architectural Advisor to the Commission
Barbara Liggett, Archaeological Consultant to the Commission
Ivan Shomer, Chairman of the Commercial Law Department, City Solicitor's Office
Richard Tyler, Historian
Patricia Siemionkowski, Executive Assistant to the Chairman
Jefferson M. Mosk, Historical Research Technician

Also: Erling H. Pedersen, A.I.A.
Donna Williams, State Office of Historic Preservation
Robert Greenfield, Attorney for City Stores Corporation

Unless otherwise noted, all actions taken herein are the results of motions correctly made, seconded and carried.

The Minutes of the Stated Meeting of the Philadelphia Historical Commission held on 1 May 1980 were approved and directed to be filed.

as ~~filed~~ corrected
The Report of the Architectural Committee for 21 May 1980, Herbert W. Levy, A.I.A., Chairman, Architectural Advisor to the Commission.

In regard to Musical Fund Hall, Mr. Pinkowski questioned whether the Commission held jurisdiction over the building since the members had agreed earlier to the building's demolition. It was pointed out that although the previous proposal for the preservation and re-use of the building had been rejected and the demolition of the building approved owing to its dangerous condition, the structure had not been decertified. In view of this, the Historical Commission continues to maintain control over any proposed alterations to the building.

In view of the significance of the Lit Brothers Department Store complex, the Commission members gave special consideration to the owner's request for permission to demolish this last remaining intact strip of mid-nineteenth century commercial development. Mr. Greenfield, Counsel for City Stores Inc., appeared before the members of the Commission to restate City Stores request for approval to demolish the Lit Brothers complex as outlined in the Report of the Architectural Committee.

The Commission staff, as directed by the Architectural Committee, checked with the Department of Licenses and Inspections concerning the structural soundness of the buildings. According to the Department, the Lit Brothers buildings have not been determined imminently dangerous and pose no threat to public safety at this time.

After considerable discussion of the issue and following a summation of the matter under review, the Commission members voted unanimously to impose the six-month statutory delay on demolition. This period will end on 5 December 1980.

At this time, the remainder of the Report of the Architectural Committee was presented for consideration. A motion to approve the Report for 21 May 1980 was made by Mr. Pinkowski. This was seconded and carried and the report directed to be filed with the official copy of the Minutes.

The Report of the Committee on Certification for 27 May 1980, Edward Pinkowski, Chairman.

The Commission reviewed individually and approved for certification each of the following buildings located within Old City. These nominations by the staff represent a continuing effort to certify buildings in the Old City National Register Historic District legally.

305 Race Street
307 Race Street
309 Race Street
327 Race Street
321-323 Race Street
335-337 Race Street
160-164 North 3rd Street a.k.a. 300-302 Race Street
312-314 Race Street

In accordance with the recommendation of its Committee, the Commission voted to table the certification of 323-325 Race Street pending the preparation of a nomination form for 319-321 Race Street. It was determined that the 20th century police station and its adjoining firehouse should be considered together.

The Commission voted also to certify the following structures situate within the recently nominated Drum Moir National Register Historic District as recommended by its Certification Committee:

Drum Moir
Brinkwood
Caretaker's House
Gate House
Carriage House

Action on the Heating House was tabled pending the receipt of more information concerning the incorporation of the building into the proposed development of the estate.

The Commission reviewed and approved for certification several buildings designed by Frank Furness or produced by his architectural office. They are as follows:

235 South 21st Street, The Thomas Hookley House
Southwest corner of 34th Street and Girard Avenue, Philadelphia Zoo
Entrance Pavilion
2121 Chestnut Street, The First Unitarian Church
1804 Rittenhouse Square

Finally, the Commission voted to certify a building located in the Torresdale section of Philadelphia and entered on the National Register of Historic Places on 20 November 1979.

Glen Ford, 5001 Grant Avenue

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

NEW BUSINESS

Harry A. Batten Memorial Fund. At the request of the Commission staff, a motion approving the expenditure of \$30.00 from the Harry A. Batten Memorial Fund was made, seconded and carried. These funds will provide reimbursement to Mr. Moak for the processing and developing of photographic film and for the purchase of several USGS survey maps. Because of the depletion of its Fiscal 1980 operating allocation for materials and supplies, the staff asked for the authorization of Batten Fund money to cover the cost of these two items. The new fiscal year begins on 1 July and will bring with it a renewed operating budget.

Philadelphia Preserved. Mr. Levy reported to the Commission on the interest of the American Institute of Architects' Preservation Committee in the reprinting of Richard Webster's Philadelphia Preserved: Historic American Buildings Survey Catalog. A letter to the Editor of the Temple University Press from the A.I.A. Preservation Committee requested that consideration be given to the reprinting of the book in soft cover.

The Historian pointed out that the Commission maintains a vested interest in the publication of a second edition since all royalties from a second printing will be deposited in the Commission's Harry A. Batten Memorial Fund. After some discussion of the matter, a motion was made directing the preparation of a letter to Temple University Press urging the publication of a second edition of the catalog in paperback form. This was seconded and carried. Moreover, it was agreed that the text of the book should be up-dated before going to press.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:40 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Siemiontkowski
Executive Assistant to the Chairman