

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE OF THE PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

20 August 1980

Herbert W. Levy, A.I.A., Chairman

Present: Herbert W. Levy, A.I.A., Chairman, Architectural Advisor to the Commission
Theodore T. Bartley, Jr., AIA, Preservation Committee, American Institute
of Architects, Philadelphia Chapter
Henry J. Magaziner, F.A.I.A., Architect for the National Park Service
Penelope H. Batcheler, Architect for the Independence National Historical Park
Janet S. Klein, Vice Chairman of the Commission
Patricia Siemionkowski, Architectural Historian

Also: Thomas Holloman, Architect, to present his proposal for renovations to
3212 Powelton Avenue.
Hugh McCauley, Architect, to present his plans for the reconstruction of
the front wall of 1821 Delancey Street.
Richard Tartara, of McCauley-Sperr Architects, to present plans for the
restoration of 1220 Panama Street.
Ellen LaRiviera to present a proposal for the restoration of the front
facade of 215 South 9th Street.
John Konick, Architect, to present his proposal for alterations to the
side elevation of 5263 Germantown Avenue.
Brian Ambruster, Architect, to present plans for alterations to the side
and rear elevations of 321 Chestnut Street.
David Porter, Architect, Sean O'Shea, Developer, and Craig Blakely of the
Philadelphia Historic Preservation Corporation, to present plans for
the restoration of 100 Chestnut Street.
Sal Orivivo, Contractor, to discuss his proposal for the reconstruction
of the front facade of 2102 Green Street.

SUBMISSIONS FOR ALTERATIONS

3212 Powelton Avenue, Thomas Holloman, Architect. Mr. Holloman presented
to the Committee his plans for the restoration of the front facade of
3212 Powelton Avenue. Erected in 1882 from the designs of G. W. and
W. D. Hewitt, the 3200 block of Powelton Avenue stands as a fine example
of West Philadelphia speculative rowhouse development.

The architect submitted, along with his plans, photographs of the restored
window sash installed within the original upper floor openings and stated
his intention to repair the original wooden porch and restore the first
floor window sash and doors.

Following a brief discussion of the project, the Committee agreed to
recommend the approval of Mr. Holloman's proposal subject to the
installation of an elliptical window sash on the first floor front to
match the original at 3218. A revised drawing is required.

1821 Delancey Street, Hugh McCauley, Architect. Mr. McCauley presented to
the Committee several proposals for the stabilization of the front facade
of 1821 Delancey Street. Built c. 1860 as part of a row of four buildings,
the front wall of 1821 is structurally unsound and in need of repair.

Two of the schemes reviewed called for the removal of the face brick, the stabilization of the back-up brick with blind plates and anchoring and the reconstruction of the bulging sections of the facade with the original face brick. Scheme three entails the complete reconstruction of the facade with new cinder block back-up and the re-erection of the original face brick. The alternate chosen will depend on the condition of the wall as determined by the architect during construction. In addition, new window sash within the upper floor window openings are proposed for installation.

After some discussion, the Committee recommended the approval of Mr. McCauley's proposal and encouraged the architect to install the correct four-over-four light window sash on the fourth floor as shown in an early photograph in the Commission's file.

1220 Panama Street, Richard Tartara, McCauley-Sparr, Architects. Mr. Tartara presented to the Committee for review his plans for the full restoration of the front facade of 1220 Panama Street. Built c. 1830, this small two-and-a-half story house represents a throw-back to an earlier style of construction with its shed dormer, plank window frames and steeply pitched roof.

Subject to several changes, the Architectural Committee agreed to recommend the approval of this restoration proposal. Concerning the door, the architect was advised to correct the proportions between the panels by making all rails equal except for the heavier bottom rail. The Committee suggested that the architect examine the cheeks of the dormer under the asphalt shingling and treat them accordingly. Finally, the use of wider, 1 x 6, beaded boards on the cellar bulkhead door is required.

215 South 9th Street, Ellen LaRiviera, Owner. Mrs. LaRiviera presented to the Committee plans for the restoration of the front facade of 215 South 9th Street. Built c. 1816, this three-and-a-half story house was later altered for commercial use on the ground floor.

Mrs. LaRiviera's proposal called for the restoration of the ground floor to its original residential character with the installation of an arch head doorway, two window openings and a cellar bulkhead. Work on the upper floors would include the installation of new window sash and repair-work to the dormer.

Several changes to the elevation were suggested by the Committee. These included the installation of a cellar window next to the basement bulkhead and centered under the first floor window; three over three light sash in the third floor window openings; leaner cheeks on the cellar bulkhead and a further study of the doorway proportions. If shutters are desired, they should be louvered on all three floors.

The Committee recommended that the elevation be revised and resubmitted to the staff for a final review and approval.

5283 Germantown Avenue. John Konick, Architect. The Committee reviewed Mr. Konick's proposal for the refurbishing of the exterior of this much altered early nineteenth century house and recommended its approval. Since the proposed work will not constitute a restoration, the building will not be eligible for the receipt of a plaque.

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321 Chestnut Street, Brian Armbruster, Architect. Mr. Armbruster presented his plans for alterations to the Maritime Museum at 321 Chestnut Street for the Committee's consideration. In addition to the construction of a third and fourth floor addition at the rear of the building, the proposal called for the introduction of a handicapped access ramp along the side elevation and accompanying alterations.

After a brief discussion, the Committee voted to recommend the approval of Mr. Armbruster's plans as presented.

100 Chestnut Street, David Porter, Architect, H2L2. Mr. Porter appeared with Sean O'Shea, Developer and Craig Blakely of the Philadelphia Historical Preservation Corporation to present the Corporation's drawings for the restoration of 100 Chestnut Street.

The Committee found the drawings, prepared by Marianna Thomas, to be acceptable and suggested only a few minor changes. On the Front Street elevation it was determined that the window hoods were most probably a Victorian addition to the facade and not original. The Committee agreed that they could be eliminated from the restoration proposal if desired. Also the Committee asked that the plans be revised to include the reopening of the window at 106 South Front Street to match that within the south bay. Finally, Mrs. Batchelor agreed to contact Marianna Thomas concerning various details.

An approval of this project is recommended.

2102 Green Street, Sal Orivivo, Contractor. Mr. Orivivo discussed with the Committee members his proposal to demolish the bulging front wall of 2102 Green Street and reconstruct it with new brick.

The Committee pointed out to Mr. Orivivo that the building was originally stuccoed, as recorded in an 1855 insurance survey on file in the Commission office, to simulate brownstone. A similar block front stuccoed and scored to simulate brownstone would be more in keeping with the original character of the structure and, if done correctly, would merit the building a plaque. The Committee recommended using 2106 as a model for the design of the projecting window sills and lintels. Pre-cast brownstone steps were suggested as a replacement for the existing concrete ones.

The Committee recommended that the contractor consult with the staff concerning the details of the restoration and submit for review an elevation drawing.

PLAQUES

309 South 3rd Street. Mr. Bartley reported on his inspection of 309 South 3rd Street to the Committee members. The following items were noted:

- 1) a scored water table (south end)
- 2) broken cheeks walls on the steep
- 3) no iron railing
- 4) no shutters on the third floor
- 5) poor condition of shutters on second floor
- 6) cornice not restored
- 7) dormer not restored
- 8) missing large boards on water wall.

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The Committee recommended that a plaque not be issued to 309 South 3rd Street until the building has been completely and accurately restored.

941 and 943 Lombard Street. Subsequent to the Committee meeting, Mr. Bartley inspected the two buildings at 941 and 943 Lombard Street and found the restorations to be acceptable. A plaque for each of the buildings is recommended.

2123 Spruce Street. Mr. Levy, subsequent to the Committee meeting, inspected 2123 Spruce Street and recommended that a plaque not be issued at this time. To be eligible for a plaque, the storm sash on the ground floor, the flower box and the screen door on the basement entrance must be removed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Sieniontkowski
Architectural Historian