

THE REPORT OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE
PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Arlene Matzkin, Chairperson
Commission Conference Room
Suite 1301, 1401 Arch Street

27 May 1994

Present

Arlene Matzkin, AIA, Chairperson
Penelope H. Batcheler, Historical Architect
J. William Cornell, J.S. Cornell & Sons, Inc.
David Hollenberg, National Park Service
Herbert W. Levy, GBQC
Suzanne Pentz, Keast and Hood

Richard Tyler, Historic Preservation Officer
Randal Baron, Historic Preservation Planner
Lori Plavin Salganicoff, Historic Preservation Specialist
Bennett Levin, Commissioner, Department of Licenses and Inspections
Peter VanderHeide, Department of Public Property

Also

Jean Marra, NPS-INDE
Michael C. Henry, Watson & Henry Associates
Richard I. Ortega, Ortega Consulting
Jim Caufield, PA Historical & Museum Commission
Martha B. Aikens, NPS-INDE
Dennis Reidenbach, NPS-INDE
George Skarmas, Vitetta Group
Stephen F. Finkelman, Miyahara Associates
Rich Varela, NPS-DSC
Bob Whissen, NPS-DSC
Cliff Northrop, NPS-INDE
Tim Hine, Philadelphia Inquirer
Doris Finelli, INDE
Bill Brookover, INDE
Diann Jacox, NPS-MARO
Bonnie Halda, NPS-MARO
Michael Stern, Philadelphia Historic Preservation Corporation

PROPOSAL

INDEPENDENCE HALL GROUP OF BUILDINGS

PROPOSAL: Utilities Alteration

This 90% draft proposal contains several options for upgrading the HVAC systems in Independence and Congress Halls, as requested by the Committee and Commission in previous meetings. The parameters for some of the options are 20-63% relative humidity and 65-78°F -- numbers taken from ASHRAE standards. According to the Vitetta Group and their consultants, temperature and relative humidity falling below these ranges would risk cracking of elements, and above these ranges would risk mold growth. Aside from a globe whose paper covering is lifting on the second floor of Independence Hall, no evidence of either condition has yet been observed.

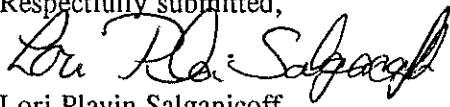
Although the Applicant strongly backed one option for approval, Committee members saw a need for further analysis of current and proposed conditions. The submissions of the Applicant to date have not sufficiently described the problem to be solved, the capabilities of the building's envelope, and the criteria for the temperature and relative humidity parameters that have driven the proposals. Without this information, Committee members were unwilling to make a recommendation for any of the proposed alternatives.

Bob Whissen of the Denver Service Center recounted the tight schedule necessitated by the Congressional appropriation's bid and construction timetable, and urged that the Committee select an option and make a recommendation for the 3 June 1994 Historical Commission meeting. In the interest of aiding the Applicant to meet its schedule and also protecting the building, the Committee instead opted to ask for a meeting of the Commission's technical consultants (Henry & Finkelman) and some Committee members (Matzkin & Hollenberg) and staff with the Applicant's team to together define the problems and come up with a solution. The results of this meeting will be discussed at the Architectural Committee's regular 31 May 1994 meeting.

The Committee voted to have Arlene Matzkin, David Hollenberg, Michael Henry, Stephen Finkelman, Bennett Levin and Richard Tyler meet with the Applicant and their mechanical system consultants to discuss the proposed HVAC changes and examine the parameters used on 31 May 1994 at 10 a.m. at the Vitetta Group's office. The results of this meeting may be used to formulate a recommendation by the Architectural Committee at its 31 May 1994 meeting.

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Lori Plavin Salganicoff