

MINUTES OF THE 178th STATED MEETING OF THE PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

2 August 1973

Dr. F. Otto Neas, Chairman

Present: Dr. F. Otto Neas, Chairman
John Tazin
William A. Coptello, Commissioner, Department of Public Property
James L. Ferguson, Deputy Director, Department of Finance
Henry J. Magasiner, A.I.A., Architectural Advisor to the Commission
Barbara Liggett, Archaeological Consultant to the Commission
Dr. Margaret B. Tinkens, Historian
Patricia Sieniatkowski, Executive Assistant to the Chairman
David A. Rosenblum, Assistant City Solicitor
Mrs. Joseph Segal, Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority

Also: Jan Schaeffer, reporter for the PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

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

THE MINUTES of the Stated Meeting, 7 June 1973, were approved as amended and directed to be filed.

The Historian requested that the following be added to the paragraph concerning the Mariner's Theatre: "The Board agreed to send a letter to the Redevelopment Authority expressing the Commission's concern for the Theatre in view of the fact that redevelopment cannot proceed unless the pending bill before Council is passed this month. The bill will die unless acted upon before August 31."

REPORTS

The Reports of the Architectural Committee for both 19 June 1973 and 11 July 1973 were approved and directed to be filed with the official copy of the Minutes.

At this time, the Board was asked to consider a request by the Redevelopment Authority to demolish 728 Bodman Street and 1032-34-36 Bodman Street. In both cases, the buildings in question stood in the way of the development of the whole block for new residential or commercial use. The Architectural Committee had reviewed this request earlier and tabled it pending receipt by the Commission of more information about the proposed use for the land. Permission to demolish was granted.

Recommendations by the Staff for the Certification of Buildings, Dr. Margaret B. Tinkens, Historian. The following buildings were approved for certification:

1023-25 Clinton Street--Proposed by the Redevelopment Authority.

REPORTS (Cont'd)

Summit Street (Nos. 8, 12, 14, 18, 22, 26, 30, 32, 36, 42, 46, 52, and 54.
Nos. 1, 17, 21, 25, 31, 35, 37, 39, 41, and 57.)
Also 100 Summit Street

Requested by the Chestnut Hill Historical Society.

Bellevue Stratford Hotel, Southwest corner Broad and Chestnut Sts. *walnut*
St. James Hotel, Southeast corner Thirteenth and Walnut Streets.
John Wanamaker Store, Market, Thirteenth to Juniper Streets.
Provident Trust Company, Southwest corner Broad and Chestnut Sts.
Bank, Northeast, corner Fifteenth and Walnut Streets.
(Packard Building, Southeast corner Fifteenth and Chestnut Sts.—

Approved but hold temporarily.)

Baptist Church, Bethlehem Pike and Germantown Avenue.
Our Mother of Consolation Church and Rectory, E. Chestnut Hill Ave.
St. Paul's Church, E. Chestnut Hill Avenue.
Christ Lutheran Church, 8300 Germantown Avenue.
Seventh Day Adventist Church, 8700 Germantown Avenue.
6012 Ridge Avenue—Requested by Roxborough-Manayunk Historical Society.
308-10 Walnut Street.

Commission Activities, Report on, Dr. Margaret B. Tinckon, Historian.

Dr. Tinckon's report for June and July was approved and directed to be filed with the official copy of the Minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

Head House East, 423-25 South Second Street, Dr. Margaret B. Tinckon, Historian. The Historical Commission was presented with the developer's request to remove not only the back buildings of these two structures but also five feet of the original main building. The Board did not alter its previous approval to remove only the back buildings but instead referred the problem to the Architectural Committee for review and advice.

Cannon Ball farm house, The Chairman informed the Board of the extended deadline for the moving of the Cannon Ball house from February 74 to February 75. A survey is now being made to determine exactly the tract of land the City (Water Department) would like to acquire for the Fort in an exchange of ground with the Army Corps of Engineers.

The Historian also reported to the Board on a meeting in Washington, D. C., of interested officials with the State's representatives and senators to urge the introduction of a bill into Congress authorizing the addition of Fort Mifflin to the Independence National Historic Park. It was agreed that such a bill would be introduced.

NEW BUSINESS

56-66 North Third Street, Request for Demolition, Patricia Siemiontkowski, Executive Assistant to the Chairman. The Religious Society of Friends' request to demolish these buildings was presented to the Board who voted to table the matter for further study.

National Trust Annual Meeting in Cleveland, Dr. Margaret B. Tinkeon, Historian. The Board voted to send Miss Siemiontkowski to the National Trust Annual meeting in Cleveland in October if money were available in the budget. (If the Commission found that funds were not available, Mr. Taxin agreed to cover the cost.)

Diagnostic and Rehabilitation Center, Northwest corner Broad and Arch Streets, Dr. F. Otto Haas, Chairman. The Commission voted in favor of this location for a new Diagnostic and Rehabilitation Center. This project has also received the support of the City Planning Commission and the Managing Director's Office.

Philadelphia Historical Commission Publication, Dr. Margaret B. Tinkeon, Historian. A brochure, outlining the work of the PHC, is in the process of being compiled for publication. The booklet will contain an outline map of the City showing those areas with the greatest concentration of certified buildings; photographs of certified buildings, and line cuts of architectural drawings; and possibly prints of the staff in action. The buildings to be shown will be representative of Philadelphia - chronologically, geographically, and by the type of structure. The text, of course, will explain the Commission's work and stress continued cooperation through community involvement.

Archaeological Investigations at Head House East, Miss Barbara Liggett, Archaeological Consultant to the Commission. Miss Liggett brought to the meeting three examples of Pennin and Morris pottery uncovered at her archaeological dig on east of Second Street. The three pieces found, the work of the famous Philadelphia manufactory on Washington Avenue--the first pottery plant in the United States--are among the few surviving examples of this company's work. Miss Liggett extended an invitation to the Board members to visit her lab at 112 Pine Street to see the other rich finds uncovered at Head House.

Retirement of the Commission's Historian, Dr. F. Otto Haas, Chairman. Dr. Haas reported Dr. Tinkeon's proposal to retire at the end of December, 1973, and asked the Board to refer to him any candidates they feel are qualified for the position. It was noted that a one year residency requirement for all civil servants barred out-of-towners from applying for the job.

Proposal from the Mayor's Office, Dr. F. Otto Haas, Chairman. The Commission was approached by the Mayor's Office concerning the hiring of a staff archaeologist for the Commission. Although

NEW BUSINESS (Cont'd)

the Commission would be happy to have an archaeologist on its staff. It is of the opinion that an architect is more urgently needed. If the Commission's budget can be increased to provide for the salary for a part-time archaeologist and for funds for a crew to help with the digging and the cleaning and cataloging of the artifacts retrieved, the Commission would be gratified.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Stenlund-Kennel
Executive Assistant to the Chairman

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