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THE MINUTES OF THE 26th STATED MEETING OF THE PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

1 July 1982

F. Otto Haas, Chairman

Present: F. Otto Haas, Chairman of the Commission
Janet S. Klein, Vice Chairman of the Commission
Edward Pinkowski
John Taxin
Joseph W. Brown, Commissioner, Department of Public Property
Val C. Mogensen, Executive Assistant Director of Finance
Frank Thomas, Esq., Deputy City Solicitor, Law Department
Richard Tyler, Historian
Patricia Siemiontkowski, Architectural Historian
Jefferson M. Moak, Executive Secretary

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 3 June 1982 were reviewed, approved and directed to be filed.

The Report of the Architectural Committee of the Philadelphia Historical Commission for 16 June 1982, Herbert W. Levy, A.I.A., Chairman. The Committee's Report for 16 June 1982 was reviewed and amended to include Janet Klein's name in the list of those present. Subject to this amendment, the 16 June 1982 report was approved and directed to be filed with the official copy of the Minutes.

The Report of the Committee on Certification for 15 June 1982, Edward Pinkowski, Chairman. The 15 June 1982 report was reviewed and the following action taken.

Each of the buildings listed below was considered, individually, and approved for certification:

1501-1503 N. 16th Street
1505 N. 16th Street
1507 N. 16th Street
1509 N. 16th Street
1511 N. 16th Street
1515-1517 N. 16th Street
1519-1521 N. 16th Street
1523 N. 16th Street
1525 N. 16th Street
1527-1529 N. 16th Street

1531 N. 16th Street
1533-1541 N. 16th Street
1522 N. 16th Street
1524 N. 16th Street
1526 N. 16th Street
1530 N. 16th Street

The Report on Philadelphia Historical Commission Staff Activities for June, 1982, Richard Tyler, Historian. Mr. Tyler's report was reviewed, approved and directed to be filed with the official copy of the Minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

Additional Proposals for Certification - 1 July 1982, Richard Tyler, Historian.

Mr. Tyler presented to the Commission a proposal for the certification of seven buildings in the sixteen hundred block of Locust Street. They include:

1629 Locust Street: Edward C. Knight, Jr., Residence
1631 Locust Street and 1633 Locust Street: Alfred C. Harrison Houses
1635-1637 Locust Street, a.k.a., 235 S. 17th Street: Charlton Yarnall House
1630 Locust Street: James B. Markon Residence
245 and 247 South 17th Street: Edward R. Wood Houses

On 1 July 1982, the staff completed the standard descriptive and evaluative report on these seven properties. According to this report, the buildings possess significance for their individual architectural qualities and merit, their association with notable architects and major civic and business leaders in Philadelphia, and their contribution to the ambience of St. Mark's Church, a National Register property. In addition, the historic sites survey conducted in 1980 for the Pennsylvania Bureau for Historic Preservation found that they qualified for entry on the National Register of Historic Places. Following consultation with Edward Pinkowski, Chairman of the Committee on Certification, the staff polled the members of the Committee. They unanimously approved the submission of the seven buildings to the Commission for certification.

Following some discussion, the Commission reviewed each of the nominations separately and voted to certify the following buildings:

1629 Locust Street: Edward C. Knight, Jr., Residence
1631 Locust Street and 1633 Locust Street: Alfred C.
Harrison Houses
1635-1637 Locust Street, a.k.a., 235 S. 17th Street:
Charlton Yarnall House
1630 Locust Street: James B. Markoe Residence

Action on 245-247 South 17th Street was tabled owing to the apparently deteriorated condition of the building and referred back to the Committee on Certification for a recommendation. Three Commission members voted in favor of the tabling; Mr. Pinkowski and Mrs. Klein opposed this action.

The Commission also discussed the problem of increasing development pressures threatening historically and architecturally significant buildings in the Rittenhouse Square area and the need to survey, evaluate and certify those buildings worthy of preservation. A motion directing the Commission staff to undertake a study of the Rittenhouse Square area and to prepare a list of buildings for certification in priority order was made. This motion was seconded and carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Siemiontkowski
Architectural Historian