

THE THIRTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

November 24, 1959

Present were: Mr. R. Norris Williams, II.
Mr. Charles E. Peterson, Secretary

Mr. Grant M. Simon, Chairman

Also present: Mr. Harry G. McDowell, Deputy Director of Finance
Mr. Philip Carroll, Administrative Assistant to Commissioner
Gennetti
Mr. George I. Lovatt, City Architect
Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom, Historian
Mrs. Charles J. Maurer, Executive Secretary

Unless otherwise stated, all actions reported herein were taken after motions that were properly presented, seconded and carried.

THE MINUTES for October 27, postponed to November 2nd, were approved as corrected.

DR. TINKCOM'S REPORT:

The Commission's budget of \$12000 for Professional Services for the coming year is just sufficient to keep the present staff at work. Contracts will be prepared for Mrs. Kirkbride in the amount of \$3,600 at an hourly rate of \$3.00, as approved by the Commission last April; and for Mr. Fuller in the amount of \$2,500 at \$2.50 per hour. Mrs. Kirkbride will continue with the study of records at the Contributionship, having just finished those of the Reliance Insurance Company. Mr. Fuller will prepare briefs for houses certified in Washington Square West, as he has done for Washington Square East. He will also make a list of the wills and inventories, copies of which should be added to the Commission's files. Miss Rudolph will continue to explore 18th century newspapers and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's print collection. Her honorarium for the year will be \$750.00.

Mr. Robbins has been asked to submit his proposal for compiling and drawing ten sheets of architectural details used in the Philadelphia area from 1750 to 1850, to guide owners and architects engaged in restoring old buildings in this city. Mr. Robbins's fee will be \$1,000.

Hitherto the staff has been busy collecting records - briefs of title, insurance surveys, data from newspapers, maps, photographs and other graphic materials. Now we hope to have the opportunity to correlate our findings. The first such project should be the completion of the thirty reports now being prepared for the Historic American Buildings Survey and the filling out of the briefer Historic American Buildings Inventory forms for another hundred of the City's buildings. Both HABS reports and HABI forms will be filed in the Library of Congress.

Copies of Mr. Brumbaugh's report on Fort Mifflin, prepared for the Greater Philadelphia Movement were brought to the Commission's attention. The Historian

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Dr. Tinkcom's Report, continued

reported that the Greater Philadelphia Movement is thinking ^{of} studying Bartram's garden, with the idea of making it more attractive to visitors.

The Old Philadelphia Development Corporation has requested information on the owners of the certified houses in Washington Square East, Unit I. This information will be used to attract buyers for the houses whose owners do not or cannot, restore them.

THE HEAD HOUSE:

The Historian reported that an inventory of the fire fighting equipment now displayed in the Old City Hall and available for use in the Head House, was received from Mr. David Wallace of the National Park Service. Since the restoration of the Head House will be completed in about three months, the question of who will be responsible for this building was discussed at some length. Mr. Carroll was asked to explore this and to find out what will be the Commission's responsibility to the Head House, before the equipment is considered for exhibition there.

As the restoration of the Head House was the first business of the Commission upon its creation, Mr. Lovatt was asked to write a memorandum reporting on the contracts and subcontracts let and the plans made for the use of the building, in order that the Commission may have a complete record of its work on this project.

DEMOLITION BY NEGLECT:

Mr. McDowell reported that he has not yet received from the New Orleans administration the information requested regarding that city's experience with their ordinance. The matter will, therefore, be held over until the next meeting

SCHUYLKILL ARSENAL:

The General Services Administration has advertised the Arsenal for sale, and asked for bids on this property in January, 1960. Mr. Carroll proposed that a letter be written to the General Services Administration, asking that a part of this property, containing the original buildings (dating about 1800) be turned

SCHUYLKILL ARSENAL continued

over to the City as a gift, on the understanding that they would be properly restored. It was further suggested that Dr. Tinkcom's report be sent with the letter.

HAMILTON HOUSE, 61st & Cobbs Creek Boulevard

Mr. Peterson reminded this Board that the house has been photographed for the Historic American Buildings Survey and that Mrs. John Frederick Lewis is interested in the structure. If the building is demolished, the woodwork will be removed by the Board of Education and Mrs. Lewis will store it until needed. Mr. Peterson said that in his opinion there is little hope that the house will be saved. It was suggested that Mr. Obermayer's letter stating that the School Board will consider the Commission's request that the Hamilton House be preserved, be acknowledged, stating that as this is an unusually complete historic structure both in mass and ~~actual~~ detail, it would be ideal for use by the public schools in teaching American History.

PLAQUES FOR HISTORIC BUILDINGS

A draft of a certificate to be issued by the Philadelphia Historical Commission authorizing owners of certified houses to obtain a plaque for them was read. It was the concensus that the plaque should be displayed in a prominent position and at a sufficient distance from the ground to prevent defacing or looting.

NEW BUSINESS

WASHINGTON SQUARE WEST:

Dr. Tinkcom reported that photographs of 107 buildings have been circulated among the members of the Commission. All have been approved for certification by Messrs. Simon, Williams and Batten. Mr. Peterson has not yet had an opportunity to study the photographs sent to him and therefore could not voice his

WASHINGTON SQUARE WEST continued

his opinion at this time. Mr. Dilworth was not present to comment. The Chairman asked for a motion that these buildings be certified pending Mr. Peterson's and Mrs. Dilworth's approval. This was done.

Mr. Peterson reported that the Abercrombie House, 272-274 South Second Street, which is two hundred years old this wrk, is being considered by the Sons of the American Revolution as a headquarters for their organization.

Mr. Peterson also reported that salvage from the St. James Street houses will be stored in the Ross House, Second and Pine Streets, through the courtesy of Mr. Lawrence M. C. Smith, and that Mrs. Kirkbride, acting as a private citizen, has made the arrangements for preserving the fittings from these houses.

CERTIFICATION OF 117 and 119 LOMBARD STREET

The Commission resolved to certify these two houses and the office staff directed to notify the Department of Licenses and Inspections.

SUBMISSIONS:

The Busti Mansion

A letter from Mr. Paul Harbeson of Harbeson Hough Livingston and Larson was read agreeing to restudy the details of this mansion. Blue prints of the proposed use of the fragment of "Kirkbride's" as a garden form in the recreation area were reviewed.

242, 244 Delancey Street

The drawing submitted by Mr. Fridtjof Tobiessen, A.I.A., was approved subject to the submission of a full size drawing of the pentave and a statement showing precedent for the design and number of the dormers.

It was resolved that Mr. Tobiessen be complimented for his excellent drawing.

SUBMISSIONS continued

246, 248 Delancey Street

Mr. Peterson was asked to talk to Mr. Betz the architect, regarding an improved design for the penteave.

223 Monroe Street

The Commission recommended that the existing cornice be repaired and not replaced with a brick cornice, as requested in the application.

VARIANCES:

A Motion was made that the Commission initiate appropriate action to make legal the replacement with the same materials and designs, of all original interior and exterior details in all certified buildings (excluding roofing materials, but including penteave shingles). This Motion was accepted. The Chairman was asked to discuss this with the Hon. Victor E. Moore and request him to present the Motion to City Council.

The Meeting was adjourned at 5:15 P. M.

Respectfully submitted

Charles E. Peterson, Secretary

The following buildings were certified by the
Philadelphia Historical Commission on
24 November 1959

✓ Pine Street

820
822
824
826

905
907
911
913
917
919

1011 1012
1013 1014
1015 1016
1017 1030
1019

Lombard Street *W.C.*

✓ 811

✓ 937
✓ 939
✓ 941
✓ 943

1001
~~1011~~
~~1015~~
~~1021~~
~~1023~~
~~1025~~

✓ 1237
✓ 1239
✓ 1241
✓ 1243
✓ 1245
✓ 1247

~~1018~~
~~1020~~
~~1022~~
~~1024~~
~~1026~~

The following buildings were certified by the
Philadelphia Historical Commission on
24 November 1959

Walnut Street ✓

808
830
832

912
918
920

✓ St. James Street

1220-1222, including
Sharp's Avenue

✓ Irving Street

924
926
928
930
932

1026
1028
1030

✓ Locust Street

811
813
821
829

SE corner Locust and
10th Sts. (235 S. 10th St.)

1037 1020
1022

1112
1114
1116
1122
1124

1201

Spruce Street ✓

913 922
925
935
937
939

1027 1012
1033 1018

1102

✓ Panama Street

1219 1200-1202
1221 (338 S. 12th)
1223 1204
1225 1208
1227 1210
Lantern Square
(1212 Panama St.)
1214
1216
1218
1220

✓ Waverly Street

900
902
904
906
908
910
912
914
916
918
920
922

1001 1001 1018 1018
1011 1011 1020 1020
1015 1015 1022 1022
1021 1021 1024 1024
1023 1023 1026 1026
1025