

CHARLES E. PETERSON, F.A.I.A.

Architectural Historian, Restorationist and Planner

BY HAND

August 11, 1980

George L. Collins, Director
Henry George School of Social Science
413 S. 10th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147

Dear Mr. Collins:

Thanks for meeting with Jim Collins and me on Saturday morning. I am glad to know that we can help you and I attach a proposed Memorandum of Agreement to guide our cooperative efforts.

Below I record supplemental information for you and Richard Biddle.

James E. Collins

Mr. Collins is currently living at 8229 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, PA, 19118 (tel: 247-7303). He is a competent draftsman with an interest in historic buildings but currently working full time in Newtown Square. He is available for moonlighting evenings and weekends and is willing to work for \$7.00 per hour, furnishing his own drawing board, paper, etc. He can start Tuesday afternoon (tomorrow). For tax purposes I suppose that he can be considered as an independent contractor.

It is understood that James B. Moran of 300 W. Hartwell Street, Chestnut Hill (tel: 242-6757, not far from J. Collins) will be able to help him. Moran will work at a minimum wage directly for you but under J. Collins' direction. He will be needed only part time during the period of measuring.

Drafting Setup

Mr. Collins is to set up his board in your building with air-conditioning (necessary for drafting in hot, sticky weather) and you are to make the building accessible when he can come. It is understood that your school classes will start up again in the middle of September and I think that the measuring for the first round should be done as fast as possible and before outdoor light begins to fail.

Before too long, it will be necessary to have the limited use of an extension ladder which I hope you can furnish.

Government Agencies

Last week, through the HCRS Regional Office (600 Arch Street), I requested from Washington two HABS field notebooks and six sheets of 18" x 24" Mylar which they agreed to mail me direct.

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Saturday afternoon I talked to Dr. Poppeliers, Head of HABS in Washington and he said he'd send me xerox of the 5 historical data sheets about your house filed in 1961 and which are still in his office.

Research

I have agreed to run through the Philadelphia local directories to trace the movements of the George Family. While we're at it I will pursue Edward Harlan the house carpenter who's one I hadn't met up with before.

I will also look for the plats that are seemingly referred to in Richard Fuller's chain of title of September 8, 1961.

Peterson Compensation

As I told Mr. Biddle, I'd be willing to take on this job for my usual fee of \$150.00 per day. The days would be totaled up in fractions at \$18.75 per hour. That is based on the expectation of a substantial total of hours. The typing of reports here will be thrown in at no charge. The total cost to you won't be large.

Sincerely yours,

Charles E. Peterson
Consultant

CEP:hg
Encls. (2)
cc: Mr. R. Biddle (w/copy encl.)

P.S.: Enclosed is a copy of the HABS entry for your house in Philadelphia Preserved, Temple University Press, 1976, p. 128. The number "PA-1509" is your Library of Congress number.

Also enclosed a vita to identify me.

CEP

August 11, 1980

Memorandum of Agreement between George L. Collins of the Henry L. George School and Charles E. Peterson FAIA

Mr. Peterson agrees to supervise the preparation of a set of drawings and related material to record existing conditions at 413 South 10th Street. He shall

1) Direct the work of James E. Collins as Architectural Draftsman in preparing a set of Historic American Buildings Survey measured drawings suitable for acceptance by the Library of Congress. As now envisioned, these will consist of at least four floor plans (cellar + 3 floors), one cross section and a front elevation.

2) Provide annotations for the drawings and a detailed write-up of the structure (with reference to present and past conditions) as a guide towards authentic restoration.

3) Perform any research that may be agreed to in advance.

Mr. George Collins agrees to:

1) Pay Mr. James Collins at the rate of \$7.00 per hour as billed on the 15th and the last day of each month.

2) Provide access to the building as needed and an air-conditioned room for drafting.

3) Provide an assistant (rear chain) during the measuring period.

Termination

It is hoped that this exercise in Structural Analysis will eventually lead to some drawn and written recommendations for restoration work. If for any reason within party wishes to withdraw this will be handled by a written notice one week before the termination of the agreement.

Prepared


Charles E. Peterson FAIA

Agreed


George L. Collins

Important High Victorian church whose interior has survived 20th-century renovations. Built 1885-86; Frank Furness of Furness, Evans & Co., architect. Church and Parish House altered 1902; Savery and Sheetz, architects. Tower removed before 1939; squat entrance arch demolished, rock-facing reduced 1955. Certified, PHC 1957; Pennsylvania Register 1971; NR. 2 ext. photos (1973);* HABSI form (1970).*

Franklin Row. See Sims-Bilsland House

George, Henry, House

(PA-1509), 413 S. Tenth St. Museum. Brick with marble trim, approx. 18' (two-bay front) \times 16' with three-story rear ell (originally two-and-a-half stories), three stories on raised basement (originally two-and-a-half stories), mansard roof (originally gable), galvanized iron cornice and semihexagonal second-story bay window, one room to a floor with box entry.

Built c. 1820; Edward Harlan, carpenter. Bay window and mansard added, rear ell raised to three stories later; interior rehabilitated, partially restored 1957. Birthplace of Henry George, political economist, social philosopher, and author of single-tax theory. Acquired by Henry George Foundation 1926, Philadelphia Extension of Henry George School of Social Science since 1957. Certified, PHC 1958. 1 ext. photo (1974);* 5 data pages (1961, including 1831 insurance survey.)*

Girard Trust Corn Exchange Bank. Illustrated

(PA-1510), 34-46 S. Broad St., at N.W. corner Chestnut St. Steel frame with marble ashlar curtain walls, approx. 138' (five-bay front) \times 144', two stories with Ionic hexastyle portico on east facade and Ionic tetrastyle portico in antis on south facade, flat roof with Roman dome, large two-story domed banking room with side galleries.

A fine example of a Classical Revival design reflecting the architectural influence of Chicago's Columbian Exposition 1893. Built 1905-8; design by Frank Furness of Furness, Evans & Co., architects; detailing by McKim, Mead and White (New York), architects; Allen Evans of Furness, Evans & Co., superintendent of construction. Name changed to Girard Trust Bank 1964; known as Girard Bank since 1969. Certified, PHC 1963; Pennsylvania Register 1970. 2 ext. photos (1973);* HABSI form (1970).*

Richard J. Webster, Philadelphia Preserved: Catalog of the Historic American Buildings Survey, Philadelphia, Temple University Press, 1976.