



Office of the City Clerk

ALEX GEOURNTAS
City Clerk

June 1, 2026

TO THE CITY COUNCIL,

Submitted herewith for your consideration, please find the designation of The Swallow Mansion, 33 Cordis Street, Charlestown, MA.

The foregoing designation was approved by the Boston Landmarks Commission on May 15, 2026 and having been presented to the Mayor was returned signed on June 1, 2026.

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended, if not acted upon within thirty days (July 1, 2026), the designation shall be deemed as if approved.

Respectfully

Alex Geourntas
City Clerk

cc Elizabeth Sherva, Director
Boston Landmarks Commission



Office of the City Clerk

ALEX GEOURNTAS
City Clerk

RECEIVED FROM THE CITY CLERK FOR PRESENTATION TO THE
MAYOR, VIZ:

Designation as a Landmark - Petition #294.24 – The Swallow Mansion, 33
Cordis Street, Charlestown, MA

**VOTE OF DESIGNATION BY THE
BOSTON LANDMARKS COMMISSION**


PROPERTY: The Swallow Mansion, 33 Cordis Street, Charlestown (Boston), MA

STANDARDS AND CRITERIA TO BE APPLIED:

As described in the section titled "Standards and Criteria" included in the study report for the subject property.

APPROVED BY THE BOSTON LANDMARKS COMMISSION:

Date approved: 5/12/2026

Signature: 
(Secretary to the Commission)

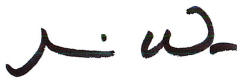
PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR:

Date: MAY 15 2026

DECISION OF THE MAYOR:

Approved Disapproved

Date: 6/1/26

Signature: 
(Mayor)

(OR) DEEMED IN EFFECT WITH NO ACTION BY THE MAYOR:

Date: _____

Signature: _____
(City Clerk)

PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

Date: JUN 01 2026

DECISION OF THE CITY COUNCIL:

Approved Disapproved

Date: _____

Signature: _____
(City Clerk)

(OR) DEEMED IN EFFECT WITH NO ACTION BY CITY COUNCIL:

Date: _____

Signature: _____
(City Clerk)

**VOTE OF DESIGNATION BY THE
BOSTON LANDMARKS COMMISSION**

PROPERTY: The Swallow Mansion, 33 Cordis Street, Charlestown (Boston), MA

VOTED: That on May 12, 2026, the Boston Landmarks Commission designates the Swallow Mansion at 33 Cordis Street as a Boston Landmark under Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended.

VOTING IN FAVOR:

Jeffrey Gonyeau	Lindsey MacJones	Angela Ward-Hyatt
Jeffrey Heyne	Justine Orlando	
Kirsten Hoffman	Brad Walker	

VOTING IN OPPOSITION:

None.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SITE:

The Swallow Mansion, built in 1845, is architecturally significant as a rare Boston-area example of a Greek Revival temple-form house with a full-height columned portico capped by a pediment. Although the Greek Revival style was common throughout New England, only a handful of homes in Boston are temple-fronts with full-height porches. With the monumentality of its columns, entablature, and pediment, the Swallow Mansion could be considered the finest example of a Greek Revival house in Charlestown, and one of the finest in all of Boston. Set back from the street, the house's position on its site is also unique for its neighborhood. From the south end of Cordis Street, the Swallow Mansion rests on its foundation like a temple projecting from the incline of Breed's Hill.

The Swallow Mansion is best known as the home of the Swallow family, whose grocery store chain and foray into local politics were well known in Boston during the second half of the nineteenth century. However, a closer look at the house's past reveals that this is only one part of its rich history. Constructed amid efforts to create an upper-class enclave in Charlestown and stem the influx of Irish immigrants, the unusually fine Greek Revival house at 33 Cordis Street projected an image of fashionable prosperity that attracted wealthy merchant class owners. Eventually, however, it was subdivided to serve as a multifamily home of immigrants. Today the house provides a glimpse into how Charlestown's housing stock was adapted by disparate demographics in the early twentieth century.

GENERAL BOUNDARIES OF THE SITE:

The boundaries of the designated property are limited to the following address and parcel number: 33 Cordis Street, Charlestown, parcel number 0203175000.



City of Boston
Historic Preservation



City of Boston
Mayor Michelle Wu

Alex Geourntas
City Clerk, City of Boston
Boston City Hall - Room 601
Boston, MA 02201

May 15, 2026

RE: Petition #294.24 - The Swallow Mansion, 33 Cordis Street, Charlestown

Dear Mr. Geourntas,

On May 12, 2026, the Boston Landmarks Commission unanimously voted to designate the Swallow Mansion in Charlestown as a Landmark under the provisions of Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended.

According to the Landmarks Commission's statute, a designation approved by the Commission is presented to the Mayor for signing. If the Mayor approves the designation, they sign and date the provided signature page. If the Mayor disapproves the designation, they return the signature page to the City Clerk with objections noted in writing. If no mayoral action is taken on a designation, it is deemed approved by the Mayor after fifteen days.

The statute states that within thirty days following mayoral approval, the City Council can override a designation by a two-thirds vote. In the absence of City Council action, the designation is approved after the thirty-first day.

I appreciate your supervision of this approval process. Please call me at (617) 635-1935 if you have any questions.

Best Regards,



Elizabeth Sherva
Executive Director
Boston Landmarks Commission



City of Boston
Historic Preservation



City of Boston
Mayor Michelle Wu

The Honorable Michelle Wu
Mayor of the City of Boston
Boston City Hall
Boston, MA 02201

May 15, 2026

RE: Petition #294.24 - The Swallow Mansion, 33 Cordis Street, Charlestown

Dear Mayor Wu:

On May 12, 2026, the Boston Landmarks Commission unanimously voted to designate the Swallow Mansion in Charlestown as a Landmark under the provisions of Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended.

The Swallow Mansion, built in 1845, is architecturally significant as a rare Boston-area example of a Greek Revival temple-form house with a full-height columned portico capped by a pediment. Although the Greek Revival style was common throughout New England, only a handful of homes in Boston are temple-fronts with full-height porches. With the monumentality of its columns, entablature, and pediment, the Swallow Mansion could be considered the finest example of a Greek Revival house in Charlestown, and one of the finest in all of Boston.

The Swallow Mansion is best known as the home of the Swallow family, whose grocery store chain and foray into local politics were well known in Boston during the second half of the nineteenth century. However, a closer look at the house's past reveals that this is only one part of its rich history. Constructed amid efforts to create an upper-class enclave in Charlestown and stem the influx of Irish immigrants, the unusually fine Greek Revival house at 33 Cordis Street projected an image of fashionable prosperity that attracted wealthy merchant class owners. Eventually, however, it was subdivided to serve as a multifamily home of immigrants. Today the house provides a glimpse into how Charlestown's housing stock was adapted by disparate demographics in the early twentieth century.

The Boston Landmarks Commission asks that you give full consideration to the designation of the Swallow Mansion in Charlestown as a Boston Landmark.

Please don't hesitate to call me at (617) 635-1935 if you have any questions.

Best Regards,



Elizabeth Sherva
Executive Director
Boston Landmarks Commission

CITY of BOSTON

26 COURT STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108 | 617-635-1935 | BLC@BOSTON.GOV