



Office of the City Clerk

ALEX GEOURNTAS  
City Clerk

March 18, 2024

TO THE CITY COUNCIL,

Submitted herewith for your consideration, please find the designation of The Blue Cross Blue Shield Building, 133 Federal Street, Boston, MA.

The foregoing designation was approved by the Boston Landmarks Commission on February 27, 2024 and having been presented to the Mayor was returned signed on March 11, 2024.

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended, if not acted upon within thirty days (April 20, 2024), the designation shall be deemed as if approved.

Respectfully

Alex Geourntas  
City Clerk

cc Rosanne Foley, Executive Director  
Boston Landmarks Commission

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

**PROPERTY:** The Blue Cross Blue Shield Building, 133 Federal Street, Boston, MA

**STANDARDS AND CRITERIA TO BE APPLIED:**

As described in the section entitled: "8.0 Standards and Criteria," included in the study report for the subject property.

**APPROVED BY THE BOSTON LANDMARKS COMMISSION:**

Date approved: 02/27/2024

Attest:



(Secretary to the Commission)

**PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR:**

MAR 04 2024

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(Date)

**APPROVED BY THE MAYOR:**

Date approved:

MAR 11 2024

Signature:



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(Mayor)

**Sign  
Here**

**PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL:**

MAR 20 2024

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(Date)

**APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL:**

Date approved:

Signature:

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(City Clerk)



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 #255.16, the Blue Cross Blue Shield  
Building, Boston



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

February 28, 2024

**RE: Petition #255.16 – The Blue Cross Blue Shield Building, Boston**

Dear Mr. Geourntas,

On February 27, 2024, the Boston Landmarks Commission unanimously voted to designate the Blue Cross Blue Shield Building in downtown Boston 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 disapproves the designation, they file the designation form with 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) 635-2510 if you have any questions.

Best Regards,



Rosanne Foley  
Executive Director  
Boston Landmarks Commission

FEB 28 2024  
CITY OF BOSTON OFFICE  
RECEIVED



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

February 28, 2024

**RE: Petition #255.16 - The Blue Cross Blue Shield Building, Boston**

Dear Mayor Wu:

On February 27, 2024, the Boston Landmarks Commission unanimously voted to designate the Blue Cross Blue Shield Building in downtown Boston as a Landmark under the provisions of Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended.

The building at 133 Federal Street, colloquially known as the Blue Cross Blue Shield Building, is significant for its associations with the urban renewal movement that took place in Boston's core downtown area in the 1950s and 1960s. It was the first new building to be erected in the Central Business District since the 1920s, and was one of the earliest buildings erected in Boston in the Brutalist style. It is one of three buildings in Boston designed by Paul Rudolph, and it is especially notable as his first tall building and an early prototype of the idiosyncratic design philosophies that would then influence the remainder of his impactful career. Its distinctive form with Y-shaped, precast-concrete piers and columns, large white quartz aggregate, and an innovative engineering and HVAC system hidden within the nonstructural columns were all a direct challenge to the glass curtain wall, and pushed the boundaries of contemporary architectural discourse. The building contributes to Boston's collection of Brutalist architecture which transformed the city in the 1960s and 1970s, and represents the resulting shift in the design idiom of Boston and the United States from the International style to postmodernism.

The Boston Landmarks Commission asks that you give full consideration to the designation of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Building in downtown Boston as a Boston Landmark.

Please don't hesitate to call me at (617) 635-2510 if you have any questions.

Best Regards,



Rosanne Foley  
Executive Director  
Boston Landmarks Commission

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

**PROPERTY:** The Blue Cross Blue Shield Building, 133 Federal Street, Central Business District (Boston), MA

**VOTED:** That on February 27, 2024, the Boston Landmarks Commission designates the Blue Cross Blue Shield Building at 133 Federal Street as a Boston Landmark under Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended.

**VOTING IN FAVOR:**

John Freeman

Susan Goganian

Richard Henderson

Kirsten Hoffman

Lindsey Mac-Jones

Justine Orlando

Lynn Smiledge

Angela Ward-Hyatt

**VOTING IN OPPOSITION:**

None.

**GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SITE:**

The building at 133 Federal Street, colloquially known as the Blue Cross Blue Shield Building, is significant for its associations with the urban renewal movement that took place in Boston's core downtown area in the 1950s and 1960s. It was the first new building to be erected in the Central Business District since the 1920s, and was one of the earliest buildings erected in Boston in the Brutalist style. It is one of three buildings in Boston designed by Paul Rudolph, and it is especially notable as his first tall building and an early prototype of the idiosyncratic design philosophies that would then influence the remainder of his impactful career. Its distinctive form with Y-shaped, precast-concrete piers and columns, large white quartz aggregate, and an innovative engineering and HVAC system hidden within the nonstructural columns were all a direct challenge to the glass curtain wall, and pushed the boundaries of contemporary architectural discourse. The building contributes to Boston's collection of Brutalist architecture which transformed the city in the 1960s and 1970s, and represents the resulting shift in the design idiom of Boston and the United States from the International style to postmodernism.

**GENERAL BOUNDARIES OF THE SITE:**

The boundaries of the designated property are limited to the following address and parcel number: 133 Federal Street, Boston, parcel number 0304733000.