



Office of the City Clerk

ALEX GEOURNTAS
City Clerk

August 28, 2023

TO THE CITY COUNCIL,

Submitted herewith for your consideration, please find the designation of Hotel Buckminster, 635 – 645 Beacon Street, Boston, MA, as a Landmark.

The foregoing designation was approved by the Boston Landmarks Commission on August 22, 2023 and having been presented to the Mayor was returned signed on August 25, 2023.

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended, if not acted upon within thirty days (September 24, 2023), the designation shall be deemed as if approved.

Alex Geourntas
City Clerk

cc Rosanne Foley, Executive Director
Boston Landmarks Commission

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

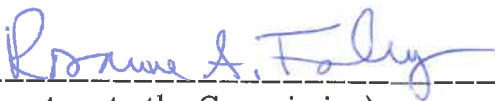
PROPERTY: Hotel Buckminster, 635-645 Beacon Street, Fenway (Boston), MA

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: 8/22/2023

Attest: 
(Secretary to the Commission)


PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR:

AUG 25 2023

(Date)

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR:

Date approved: 8/25/2023

Signature: 
(Mayor)

PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

(Date)

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL:

Date approved: -----

Signature: -----
(City Clerk)



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

August 23, 2023

RE: Petition #288.22 – Hotel Buckminster, Kenmore Square (Fenway)

Dear Mr. Geourntas,

On August 22, 2023, the Boston Landmarks Commission unanimously voted to designate the Hotel Buckminster in Kenmore Square (Fenway) 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 15 days.

The statute states that within 30 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 31st 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



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

August 23, 2023

RE: Petition #288.22 - Hotel Buckminster, Kenmore Square (Fenway)

Dear Mayor Wu:

On August 22, 2023, the Boston Landmarks Commission unanimously voted to designate the Hotel Buckminster in Kenmore Square (Fenway) as a Landmark under the provisions of Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended.

The first hotel built on a grand scale at Kenmore Square, the Hotel Buckminster is a Beaux-Arts/Renaissance Revival-style building with a prominent rounded corner that has anchored and defined the square since the turn of the 20th century. Originally built for occupancy as a luxury family or apartment hotel, the Buckminster is significant for its association with the growth of New England's radio broadcasting industry from 1930 to 1968, when radio station WNAC Boston maintained its studios here, establishing the Yankee Network to broadcast throughout New England and adding a television station by 1953. The building possesses further significance for its occupation and operation, during World War II, by the U. S. Army Service Forces First Service Command, serving the six New England states from headquarters in Boston. As the location, from 1951 to 1953, of Storyville, a widely known Boston jazz club operated by George Wein, the Buckminster hosted celebrated artists and became associated with the pioneer of jazz music promotion in New England.

The Boston Landmarks Commission asks that you give full consideration to the designation of the Hotel Buckminster in Kenmore Square (Fenway) 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: Hotel Buckminster, 635-645 Beacon Street, Fenway (Boston), MA

VOTED: That on August 22, 2023, the Boston Landmarks Commission designates the Hotel Buckminster at 635-645 Beacon Street as a Boston Landmark under Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended.

VOTING IN FAVOR:

David Berarducci
John Freeman
Susan Goganian

Christopher Hart
Richard Henderson
Thomas Hotaling

Felicia Jacques
Lynn Smiledge
Bradford Walker

VOTING IN OPPOSITION:

None.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SITE:

The Beaux Arts/Renaissance Revival-style hotel has a granite foundation, walls of red Roman brick with ornament executed in contrasting limestone, and a flat roof. The principal elevations, facing Beacon Street and Kenmore Square, are united by a rusticated two-story base executed in limestone, hierarchy of window sizes and ornamentation, stone belt course at the sixth story, and highly ornamental entablature at the roof line. Variation in elevation height—six stories on a raised basement at Beacon Street, six stories facing Kenmore Square, and five stories on a raised basement at the building's south corner fronting Brookline Avenue—reflect an ascending grade along Brookline Avenue.

Originally built for occupancy as a luxury family or apartment hotel, the Buckminster is significant for its association with the growth of New England's radio broadcasting industry from 1930 to 1968, when radio station WNAC Boston maintained its studios here, establishing the Yankee Network to broadcast throughout New England and adding a television station by 1953. The building possesses further significance for its occupation and operation, during World War II, by the U. S. Army Service Forces First Service Command, serving the six New England states from headquarters in Boston. As the location, from 1951 to 1953, of Storyville, a widely known Boston jazz club operated by George Wein, the



City of Boston
City Clerk

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

Designation as a Landmark - Petition #288.22, Hotel Buckminster,
Kenmore Square, Fenway