



Office of the City Clerk

ALEX GEOURNTAS
City Clerk

October 19, 2022

TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Submitted herewith for your consideration, please find the designation of The Tileston House, 13 River Street, Dorchester, MA, as a Landmark.

The foregoing designation was approved by the Boston Landmarks Commission on September 13, 2022 and having been presented to the Mayor was returned signed on October 6, 2022.

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended, if not acted upon within thirty days (November 6, 2022), the designation shall be deemed as if approved.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alex Geourntas".

Alex Geourntas
City Clerk

cc Rosanne Foley, Executive Director
Boston Landmarks Commission

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

PROPERTY: The Tileston House, 13 River Street, Dorchester (Boston), MA

VOTED: That on September 13, 2022, the Boston Landmarks Commission designates the Tileston House at 13 River Street as a Boston Landmark under Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended.

VOTING IN FAVOR:

John Amodeo
David Berarducci
John Freeman

Jeffrey Gonyeau
Christopher Hart
Richard Henderson

Felicia Jacques
Anne Renehan
Bradford Walker

VOTING IN OPPOSITION:

None.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SITE:

The Tileston House is historically significant for its association with the early industrial history of the Milton/Dorchester Lower Mills industrial and residential area. It also has a connection with important individuals in two prominent skilled trade and artisan families, the Badlams and Tilestons. The property was once owned by the Badlam family. Brothers Stephen and Ezra Badlam served in the Continental Army during the American Revolution, then returned to Dorchester and their cabinet and carriage-making businesses. Stephen Badlam is one of Massachusetts' highly regarded furniture makers, and his work is curated in the collections of major American museums. The house currently on the site was built ca. 1797 by Euclid Tileston, who learned cabinetry from Ezra Badlam, his father-in-law, and later became a carriage maker. The house was owned by the Tilestons for a century.

Architecturally, the house is a rare surviving example of a gambrel-roof, Georgian-style house. It is one of the oldest buildings in Boston and is also one of only two extant buildings of its style and form identified in Dorchester. Few buildings from this time period survive in cities such as Boston due to rapid urban growth and replacement of older buildings. Petitioners requested that the building be designated a landmark due to its architectural style and age.

GENERAL BOUNDARIES OF THE SITE:

The boundaries of the designated property are limited to the following address and parcel number: 13 River Street, Dorchester, parcel number 1703728020.



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

September 19, 2022

RE: Petition #266.19 - The Tileston House, Dorchester

Dear Mayor Wu:

On September 13, 2022, the Boston Landmarks Commission unanimously voted to designate the Tileston House in Dorchester as a Landmark under the provisions of Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended.

The Tileston House is a historically and architecturally significant building in the Mattapan neighborhood of what was historically the town of Dorchester, now part of Boston.

The house is historically significant for its association with the early industrial history of the Milton/Dorchester Lower Mills industrial and residential area. It also has a connection with important individuals in two prominent skilled trade and artisan families, the Badlams and Tilestons. The property was once owned by the Badlam family. Brothers Stephen and Ezra Badlam served in the Continental Army during the American Revolution, then returned to Dorchester and their cabinet and carriage-making businesses. Stephen Badlam is one of Massachusetts' highly regarded furniture makers, and his work is curated in the collections of major American museums. The house currently on the site was built ca. 1797 by Euclid Tileston, who learned cabinetry from Ezra Badlam, his father-in-law, and later became a carriage maker. The house was owned by the Tilestons for a century until 1897.

Architecturally, the house is a rare surviving example of a gambrel-roof, Georgian-style house. It is one of the oldest buildings in Boston and is also one of only two extant buildings of its style and form identified in Dorchester. Few buildings from this time period survive in cities such as Boston due to rapid urban growth and replacement of older buildings. Petitioners requested that the building be designated a landmark due to its architectural style and age.

The Boston Landmarks Commission asks that you give full consideration to the designation of the Tileston House in Dorchester 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



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 #266.19, The Tileston House, 13
River Street, Dorchester, MA