



Office of the City Clerk

ALEX GEOURNTAS
City Clerk

February 23, 2023

TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Submitted herewith for your consideration, please find the designation of The Richards Building, Downtown Boston, MA, as a Landmark.

The foregoing designation was approved by the Boston Landmarks Commission on February 14, 2023 and having been presented to the Mayor was returned signed on February 17, 2023.

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended, if not acted upon within thirty days (March 19, 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: The Richards Building, 112-116 State 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: 2/14/2023

Attest: Rosanne Foley
(Secretary to the Commission)

PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR:

FEB 15 2023
(Date)

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR:

Date approved: 2/17/23

Signature: [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

February 15, 2023

RE: Petition #95 – The Richards Building, Downtown

Dear Mr. Geourntas,

On February 14, 2023, the Boston Landmarks Commission unanimously voted to designate the Richards 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



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 15, 2023

RE: Petition #95 - The Richards Building, Downtown

Dear Mayor Wu:

On February 14, 2023, the Boston Landmarks Commission unanimously voted to designate the Richards Building in Downtown Boston as a Landmark under the provisions of Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended.

The ca. 1858 Richards Building at 112-116 State St. is the oldest remaining cast-iron-front structure in Boston's central business district. The Richards Building is architecturally significant as it is one of about six such façades in existence in the city. It is representative of an architectural design and construction style that became popular in the latter part of the 19th century (and was a precursor to the modern skyscraper). It is an outstanding example of early cast-iron architecture.

The Richards Building has local, state, and regional significance for its associations with the growth of real estate development and the expansion of the city's financial district. The building was originally known as the Shaw Building, having been commissioned by Boston merchant and shipowner Robert Gould Shaw on two parcels he acquired in 1811 and 1818. Shaw was the grandfather of Colonel Robert Gould Shaw, who commanded the all-Black 54th regiment of the Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. The design is attributed to architect Edward Cabot, who in 1857 became a charter member and later a fellow of the American Institute of Architects, and was also president of the Boston Society of Architects from its founding in 1867 until 1900.

The Boston Landmarks Commission asks that you give full consideration to the designation of the Richards 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 Richards Building, 112-116 State Street, Boston, MA

VOTED: That on February 14, 2023, the Boston Landmarks Commission designates the Richards Building at 112-116 State Street as a Boston Landmark under Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended.

VOTING IN FAVOR:

John Amodeo
Susan Goganian
Jeffrey Gonyeau

Richard Henderson
Kirsten Hoffman
Thomas Hotaling

Justine Orlando
Lynn Smiledge

VOTING IN OPPOSITION:

None.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SITE:

The ca. 1858 Richards Building at 112-116 State St. is the oldest remaining cast-iron-front structure in Boston's central business district. The Richards Building has local, state, and regional significance for its associations with the growth of real estate development and investment by wealthy Boston business interests, as well as the expansion of the city's financial district.

The Richards Building is architecturally significant as it is one of about six such façades in existence in the city. It is representative of an architectural design and construction style that became popular in the latter part of the 19th century (and was a precursor to the modern skyscraper). It is an outstanding example of early cast iron architecture.

The building was originally known as the Shaw Building, having been commissioned by Boston merchant and shipowner Robert Gould Shaw (1776-1853) on two parcels he acquired in 1811 and 1818. Shaw was the grandfather of Colonel Robert Gould Shaw (d. 1863 at Fort Wagner, South Carolina), who commanded the all-Black 54th regiment of the Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. The design is attributed to architect Edward Cabot, who in 1857 became a charter member and later a fellow of the American Institute of Architects. Cabot was also president of the Boston Society of Architects from its founding in 1867 until 1900.

