



Office of the City Clerk

ALEX GEOURNTAS  
City Clerk

February 7, 2024

TO THE CITY COUNCIL,

Submitted herewith for your consideration, please find the designation of The Ropewalk, Charlestown.

The foregoing designation was approved by the Boston Landmarks Commission on January 23, 2024 and having been presented to the Mayor was returned signed on January 29, 2024.

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended, if not acted upon within thirty days (March 8, 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 Ropewalk, 97 Fifth Street, Charlestown (Boston), MA [address in  
Study Report is 155 Chelsea Street, Charlestown]

**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: 01/23/2024

Attest:



(Secretary to the Commission)

**PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR:**

JAN 26 2024

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(Date)

**APPROVED BY THE MAYOR:**

Date approved: 1/29/24

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

(Mayor)

**PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL:**

FEB 7 2024

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(Date)

**APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL:**

Date approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

(City Clerk)



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

January 24, 2024

**RE: Petition #115 – The Ropewalk, Charlestown**

Dear Mr. Geourntas,

On January 23, 2024, the Boston Landmarks Commission unanimously voted to designate the Ropewalk 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 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

RECEIVED  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
2024 JAN 25 A 10:34  
BOSTON, MA



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

January 24, 2024

**RE: Petition #115 - The Ropewalk, Charlestown**

Dear Mayor Wu:

On January 23, 2024, the Boston Landmarks Commission unanimously voted to designate the Ropewalk in Charlestown as a Landmark under the provisions of Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended.

The Ropewalk, located in the former Charlestown Navy Yard, is the only remaining granite ropewalk in the United States. The design is unique and was developed specifically to accommodate the manufacture of rope. Built in 1834 - 1837, the Ropewalk produced all of the rope used by the U.S. Navy for over 100 years.

The architect, Alexander Parris, was an early proponent of the Greek Revival style of architecture in this country and designed the Ropewalk in this style. As such, the Ropewalk incorporates many of the elements of this style: rough granite blocks with architectural detailing of smooth hammered granite; bold massing; a hipped roof of low pitch in the head house, with a gabled roof on the remainder of the Ropewalk, with all slopes covered with slate; a heavy, simple cornice line with smooth architrave; a regular fenestration pattern; and a large, triangular pediment capping the protruding central pavilion on the eastern facade. A quarter-mile long and 45-foot wide with two-foot thick walls, the building conveys power, clarity, simplicity, and attention to purpose.

The Boston Landmarks Commission asks that you give full consideration to the designation of the Ropewalk in Charlestown 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 Ropewalk, 97 Fifth Street, Charlestown (Boston), MA [*address in Study Report is 155 Chelsea Street, Charlestown*]

**VOTED:** That on January 23, 2024, the Boston Landmarks Commission designates the Ropewalk at 97 Fifth Street as a Boston Landmark under Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended.

**VOTING IN FAVOR:**

John Amodeo  
David Berarducci  
John Freeman

Sue Gogonian  
Richard Henderson

Justine Orlando  
Lynn Smiledge  
Brad Walker

**VOTING IN OPPOSITION:**

None.

**GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SITE:**

The Ropewalk, located in the former Charlestown Navy Yard, is the only remaining granite ropewalk in the United States. The design is unique and was developed specifically to accommodate the manufacture of rope. Built in 1834 - 1837, the Ropewalk produced all of the rope used by the U.S. Navy for over 100 years.

The architect, Alexander Parris, was an early proponent of the Greek Revival style of architecture in this country and designed the Ropewalk in this style. As such, the Ropewalk incorporates many of the elements of this style: rough granite blocks with architectural detailing of smooth hammered granite; bold massing; a hipped roof of low pitch in the head house, with a gabled roof on the remainder of the Ropewalk, with all slopes covered with slate; a heavy, simple cornice line with smooth architrave; a regular fenestration pattern; and a large, triangular pediment capping the protruding central pavilion on the eastern facade. A quarter-mile long and 45-foot wide with two-foot thick walls, the building conveys power, clarity, simplicity, and attention to purpose.

**GENERAL BOUNDARIES OF THE SITE:**

The boundaries of the designated property are limited to the following address and parcel number: 97 Fifth Street, Charlestown, parcel number 0203510005. *[Parcel number in Study Report, written in 1988, is 3510. Parcel number has since changed.]*



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 #115, the Ropewalk,  
Charlestown