



City of Boston
City Clerk

October 16, 2023

TO THE CITY COUNCIL,

Submitted herewith for your consideration, please find the designation of The Nazzaro Community Center, 30 – 32 North Bennet Street, Boston, MA, as a Landmark.

The foregoing designation was approved by the Boston Landmarks Commission on September 12, 2023 and having been presented to the Mayor was returned signed on October 5, 2023.

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended, if not acted upon within thirty days (November 5, 2023), 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 Nazzaro Community Center, 30-32 North Bennet St, 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: **September 12, 2023**

Attest:



(Secretary to the Commission)

PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR:

SEP 14 2023

(Date)

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR:

Date approved:

OCT - 5 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

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

September 14, 2023

RE: Petition #264.19 - The Nazzaro Community Center, North End

Dear Mayor Wu:

On September 12, 2023, the Boston Landmarks Commission unanimously voted to designate the Nazzaro Community Center in the North End as a Landmark under the provisions of Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended.

The Nazzaro Community Center (previously called either the North Bennet Street Public Bath House and Gymnasium or the North End Bath House) was constructed in 1906-1908 and opened in 1910. Designed in 1903 by the Boston-based architectural firm of Maginnis, Walsh and Sullivan, the building is an exceptional example of early 20th-century Beaux-Arts Renaissance Revival Style architecture with its detailed ornamentation indicative of the Arts and Crafts movement. The City of Boston constructed the building as one of 12 municipally run bathhouses in response to a public health policy implemented in 1895.

Situated in the heart of the North End section of Boston, the North Bennet Street Public Bath House and Gymnasium with the adjacent Polcari Park at 45 Prince St. (established in 1897 as Prince Street Playground) served the area's growing immigrant population in the early 20th century. The bathhouse operated until the 1970s when it was officially closed, having fallen into a state of neglect. In 1985, the Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF) acquired the building and reopened it as the Nazzaro Community Center.

The Boston Landmarks Commission asks that you give full consideration to the designation of the Nazzaro Community Center in the North End as a Boston Landmark.

Please don't hesitate to call me at (617) 635-2912 if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Clark
Assistant Survey Director
Boston Landmarks Commission



CITY of BOSTON



City of Boston
City Clerk

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

Designation as a Landmark - Petition #264.19, the Nazzaro Community
Center, 30-32 North Bennet St. Boston, MA



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

September 14, 2023

RE: Petition #264.19 – The Nazzaro Community Center, North End

Dear Mr. Geourntas,

On September 14, 2023, the Boston Landmarks Commission unanimously voted to designate the Nazzaro Community Center in the North End 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) 635-2912 if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,



Dorothy Clark
Assistant Survey Director
Boston Landmarks Commission

CITY of **BOSTON**

20 CITY HALL AVENUE BOSTON, MA 02108-4301 | 617-635-1935 | BLC@BOSTON.GOV

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

PROPERTY: The Nazzaro Community Center, 30-32 North Bennet St., North End (Boston), MA 02113

VOTED: That on September 12, 2023, the Boston Landmarks Commission designates the Nazzaro Community Center at 30-32 North Bennet St. as a Boston Landmark under Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended.

VOTING IN FAVOR:

John Amodeo
David Berarducci
John Freeman

Christopher Hart
Richard Henderson
Kirsten Hoffman

Justine Orlando
Lynn Smiledge
Brad Walker

VOTING IN OPPOSITION:

None.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SITE:

The Nazzaro Community Center was designed in 1903 by the noted Boston-based architectural firm of Maginnis, Walsh, and Sullivan, and is an exceptional example of early 20th-century Beaux-Arts Renaissance Revival Style architecture with its detailed ornamentation indicative of the Arts and Crafts movement. The building is formally finished on three sides: the façade (southeast), the North Bennet Street side (northeast) elevation, and park-side (southwest) elevation. The community center directly abuts a structure on the northwest elevation of the building. The three-story building rises from a raised basement; it is indicative of palazzo-style architecture and consists of brick and granite construction with terra-cotta ornamentation. A low-pitched deck on a hipped slate roof and two brick chimneys are hidden from the street-level view by an elaborate metal cornice. Each elevation displays aspects of symmetry and is dominated by the third story. The park-side elevation has a tower that extends off the rear of the building; it functions as a stairwell.

The noteworthy sculptor Hugh Cairns was commissioned in 1907 to sculpt the lunette located above the entrance of the vestibule; the bas-relief sculpture represents Boston's connection with land and sea by situating the God Neptune and Mercury on either side of the City insignia, encased in a wreath.

The Nazzaro Community Center was originally known as the North Bennet Street Bathhouse and Gymnasium and later named in honor of Michael A. Nazzaro Jr., a former state representative. The public building was constructed in the early 20th century as part of the City of Boston's efforts to improve the health and well-being of its population, as the combined effects of industrialization, urbanization, and poverty during the 19th century contributed to high rates of endemic and epidemic disease in Boston and throughout the North End. The building continues to be an extraordinary testament to both architectural and social history.

GENERAL BOUNDARIES OF THE SITE:

The boundaries of the designated property are limited to the following address and parcel number: 30-32 North Bennet Street, Boston, 02113, parcel number 0302342000.