



Office of the City Clerk

ALEX GEOURNTAS
City Clerk

November 17, 2025

TO THE CITY COUNCIL,

Submitted herewith for your consideration, please find the designation of Ferdinand's Blue Store (Bruce C. Bolling Building) 2260 – 2270 Washington Street, Roxbury, MA.

The foregoing designation was approved by the Boston Landmarks Commission on November 12, 2025 and having been presented to the Mayor was returned signed on November 17, 2025.

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended, if not acted upon within thirty days (December 17, 2025), the designation shall be deemed as if approved.

Respectfully

Alex Geourntas
City Clerk

cc Elizabeth Sherva, Director
Boston Landmarks Commission

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

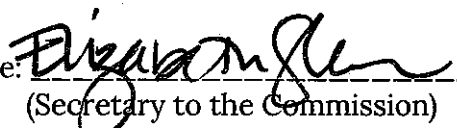
PROPERTY: Ferdinand's Blue Store (Bruce C. Bolling Building), 2260-2270 Washington Street, Roxbury (Boston), MA

STANDARDS AND CRITERIA TO BE APPLIED:

As described in the section titled "Standards and Criteria" included in the study report for the subject property.

APPROVED BY THE BOSTON LANDMARKS COMMISSION:

Date approved: 11/12/2025

Signature: 
(Secretary to the Commission)

PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR:

Date: NOV 14 2025

DECISION OF THE MAYOR:

☒ Approved ☐ Disapproved

Date: NOV 17 2025

Signature: 
(Mayor)

(OR) DEEMED IN EFFECT WITH NO ACTION BY THE MAYOR:

Date: _____

Signature: _____
(City Clerk)

PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

Date: NOV 17 2025

DECISION OF THE CITY COUNCIL:

☐ Approved ☐ Disapproved

Date: _____

Signature: _____
(City Clerk)

(OR) DEEMED IN EFFECT WITH NO ACTION BY CITY COUNCIL:

Date: _____

Signature: _____
(City Clerk)



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 #152.89 – Ferdinand's Blue Store
(Bruce C. Bolling Building) 2260 – 2270 Washington Street, Roxbury, 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

November 13, 2025

RE: Petition #152.89 – Ferdinand's Blue Store (Bruce C. Bolling Building), Roxbury

Dear Mr. Geourntas,

On November 12, 2025, the Boston Landmarks Commission unanimously voted to designate Ferdinand's Blue Store (now part of the Bruce C. Bolling Building) in Roxbury 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 approves the designation, they sign and date the provided signature page. If the Mayor disapproves the designation, they return the signature page to 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) 635-1935 if you have any questions.

Best Regards,



Elizabeth Sherva
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

November 13, 2025

RE: Petition #152.89 – Ferdinand's Blue Store (Bruce C. Bolling Building), Roxbury

Dear Mayor Wu:

On November 12, 2025, the Boston Landmarks Commission unanimously voted to designate Ferdinand's Blue Store (now part of the Bruce C. Bolling Building) in Roxbury as a Landmark under the provisions of Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended.

Renowned furniture retailer Ferdinand's Blue Store contributed significantly to the development of Roxbury's principal business district, Dudley Square (now called Nubian Square), during the late 19th century and into the mid- 20th centuries. The business made a name for itself throughout Greater Boston and the New England region. Although the facade of the store is the only part that remains, it is a distinctive remnant of a late-19th-century department store, and it is representative of a physical link to the past, documenting the rise of Dudley Station and the square as an important transportation and commercial center.

In 2007 the Boston Redevelopment Authority acquired the building as part of Mayor Thomas M. Menino's Dudley Vision Project with the aim to gut the interior, rebuild it as a municipal space, and preserve and adapt the facade. In 2014 Mayor Walsh recommended to the City Council that the structure be named the Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building in honor of the council's first Black president. Today it is the headquarters of the Boston Public Schools and also contains generous space for retail businesses and nonprofits.

The Boston Landmarks Commission asks that you give full consideration to the designation of the Ferdinand's Blue Store in Roxbury as a Boston Landmark.

Please don't hesitate to call me at (617) 635-1935 if you have any questions.

Best Regards,



Elizabeth Sherva
Executive 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: Ferdinand's Blue Store (Bruce C. Bolling Building), 2260-2270
Washington Street, Roxbury (Boston), MA

VOTED: That on November 12, 2025, the Boston Landmarks Commission
designates the Ferdinand's Blue Store (now part of the Bruce C. Bolling
Building) at 2260-2270 Washington Street as a Boston Landmark
under Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended.

VOTING IN FAVOR:

Celina Barrios-Millner	Christopher Hart	Justine Orlando
David Berarducci	Jeffrey Heyne	Brad Walker
Jeffrey Gonyeau	Kirsten Hoffman	Angela Ward-Hyatt

VOTING IN OPPOSITION:

None.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SITE:

Renowned furniture retailer Ferdinand's Blue Store contributed significantly to the development of Roxbury's principal business district, Dudley Square (now called Nubian Square), during the late 19th century and into the mid- 20th centuries. The business made a name for itself throughout Greater Boston and the New England region. Although the facade of the store is the only part that remains, it is a distinctive remnant of a late-19th-century department store, and it is representative of a physical link to the past, documenting the rise of Dudley Station and the square as an important transportation and commercial center.

Architect John Lyman Faxon designed this five-story department store using a blend of Baroque and Renaissance Revival stylistic elements. The store is situated at a prominent intersection – the convergence of Washington and Warren streets – in the center of Dudley (now Nubian) Square in the main business district of Roxbury. Faxon's design included large, metal-framed display windows surrounded by Doric pilasters and limestone entablature. Of special note are the oversize oculus windows with ornate surrounds that distinguish the end and central bays of levels two and five.

In 2007 the Boston Redevelopment Authority acquired the building as part of Mayor Thomas M. Menino's Dudley Vision Project with the aim to gut the interior, rebuild it

as a municipal space, and preserve and adapt the facade. In 2014 Mayor Walsh recommended to the City Council that the structure be named the Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building in honor of the council's first Black president. Today it is the headquarters of the Boston Public Schools and also contains generous space for retail businesses and nonprofits.

GENERAL BOUNDARIES OF THE SITE:

The designated property is located at 2260-2270 Washington Street and is part of parcel 0903139000.

The extents of the Landmark designation are limited to the following:

- The historic facade of the former Ferdinand's Blue Store.
- The air space above the five-story portion of the Bruce C. Bolling Building facing the intersection of Washington and Warren Streets.



Air space above the 5-story portion of the building

Historic facade

Diagram showing the extents of the Landmark designation