



Office of the City Clerk

ALEX GEOURNTAS
City Clerk

March 31, 2026

TO THE CITY COUNCIL,

Submitted herewith for your consideration, please find the designation of The Copley Plaza Hotel, Back Bay.

The foregoing designation was approved by the Boston Landmarks Commission on March 24, 2026 and having been presented to the Mayor was returned signed on March 31, 2026.

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended, if not acted upon within thirty days (April 30, 2026), the designation shall be deemed as if approved.

Respectfully

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

Alex Geourntas
City Clerk

cc Elizabeth Sherva, 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 #147.89 – The Copley Plaza Hotel,
Back Bay



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

March 26, 2026

RE: Petition #147.89 – The Copley Plaza Hotel, Back Bay

Dear Mr. Geourntas,

On March 24, 2026, the Boston Landmarks Commission unanimously voted to designate the Copley Plaza Hotel in Back Bay 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

March 26, 2026

RE: Petition #147.89 – The Copley Plaza Hotel, Back Bay

Dear Mayor Wu:

On March 24, 2026, the Boston Landmarks Commission unanimously voted to designate the Copley Plaza Hotel in Back Bay as a Landmark under the provisions of Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended.

The Copley Plaza Hotel is significant to the city, the Commonwealth, and the New England region as one of Boston's most prominent hotels for over 110 years. The hotel has notable historical associations with the evolution of the hospitality industry as it was the first hotel in the world to have an international reservation system and to accept credit cards, in addition to other advances. The hotel has hosted many notable events and guests, including most American presidents since 1912 and many foreign dignitaries and entertainment celebrities.

The Copley Plaza Hotel is also a monumental and architecturally significant example of the Italian Renaissance Revival style. It is known for its structural innovations and exceptionally elaborate interiors. The hotel is also a prominent character-defining element of one of Boston's most iconic urban spaces, Copley Plaza.

The property owner, Iconic Copley Plaza Hotel LLC, is supportive of the designation.

The Boston Landmarks Commission asks that you give full consideration to the designation of the Copley Plaza Hotel in Back Bay 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

26 COURT STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108 | 617-635-1935 | BLC@BOSTON.GOV

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

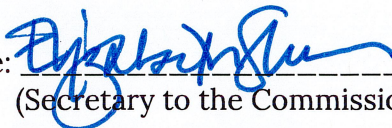
PROPERTY: The Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James Avenue, Back Bay (Boston), MA

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: 3/24/2026

Signature: 
(Secretary to the Commission)

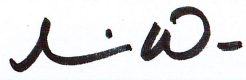
PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR:

Date: MAR 27 2026

DECISION OF THE MAYOR:

Approved Disapproved

Date: MAR 31 2026

Signature: 
(Mayor)

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

Date: _____

Signature: _____
(City Clerk)

PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

Date: _____

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)

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

PROPERTY: The Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James Avenue, Back Bay (Boston), MA

VOTED: That on March 24, 2026, the Boston Landmarks Commission designates the Copley Plaza Hotel at 138 St. James Avenue as a Boston Landmark under Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended.

VOTING IN FAVOR:

John Amodeo

Celina Barrios-Millner

John Freeman

Jeffrey Gonyeau

Jeffrey Heyne

Felicia Jacques

Justine Orlando

Brad Walker

Angela Ward-Hyatt

VOTING IN OPPOSITION:

None.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SITE:

The Copley Plaza Hotel is an architecturally significant example of the Italian Renaissance Revival style, articulated as a palazzo of pale brick and rusticated limestone blocks with a massive and graceful swell front and flanking wings. It is known for its structural innovations and exceptionally elaborate interiors. The hotel is built on 8,000 wood piles driven nearly 70 feet below ground level, and incorporates a recessed steel beam structural system designed to impede erosion and any critical structural damage. The hotel is a prominent character-defining element of one of Boston's most iconic urban spaces, Copley Plaza.

The Copley Plaza Hotel is significant to the city, the commonwealth, and the New England region as one of Boston's most prominent hotels for over 110 years. The hotel has notable historical associations with the evolution of the hospitality industry as it was the first hotel in the world to have an international reservation system and to accept credit cards, in addition to other advances. The hotel has hosted many notable events and guests, including most American presidents since 1912 and many foreign dignitaries and entertainment celebrities.

GENERAL BOUNDARIES OF THE SITE:

The boundaries of the designated property are limited to the following address and parcel number: 138 St. James Avenue (205 Dartmouth Street), parcel number 0401087000.