Office of the City Clerk
ALEX GEOURNTAS
City Clerk

June 23, 2025

TO THE CITY COUNCIL,

Submitted herewith for your consideration, please find the designation of The Old South Meeting House; 310 Washington Street, Boston, MA.

The foregoing designation was approved by the Boston Landmarks Commission on June 10, 2025 and having been presented to the Mayor was returned signed on June 23, 2025.

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended, if not acted upon within thirty days (July 23, 2025), the designation shall be deemed as if approved.

Respectfully

Alex Geourntas
City Clerk

VOTE OF DESIGNATION BY THE
BOSTON LANDMARKS COMMISSION

PROPERTY: The Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington Street, 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: **06/10/2025** Signature: _____
(Secretary to the Commission)

PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR:

Date: JUN 23 2025

DECISION OF THE MAYOR:

☑ Approved ☐ Disapproved

Date: JUN 23 2025 Signature: _____
(Mayor)

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

Date: _____ Signature: _____
(City Clerk)

PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

Date: JUN 23 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)

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

June 18, 2025

RE: Petition #268.20 – The Old South Meeting House, Downtown Boston

Dear Mr. Geourntas,

On June 10, 2025, the Boston Landmarks Commission unanimously voted to designate the Old South Meeting House 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 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

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

June 18, 2025

RE: Petition #268.20 – The Old South Meeting House, Downtown Boston

Dear Mayor Wu:

On June 10, 2025, the Boston Landmarks Commission unanimously voted to designate the Old South Meeting House in downtown Boston as a Landmark under the provisions of Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended.

The Old South Meeting House, originally constructed in 1729-1730, is nationally significant for its association with events in Boston that led to the American colonies' revolt in 1775. Most notably, the building was the site of large public meetings following the altercation on March 5, 1770, that became known as the Boston Massacre, and as the staging ground for the Boston Tea Party on December 16, 1773.

The Old South Meeting House is also associated with several outstanding historical personages in American history. Members of its congregation include Phillis Wheatley, Samuel Adams, James Otis, William Dawes, and Benjamin Franklin. Additionally, the commission's study report for the Old South Meeting House includes an addendum identifying free and enslaved members of the congregation between 1696 and 1773.

Architecturally, the Old South Meeting House is nationally significant as a rare example of a colonial church that combines an early Georgian exterior influenced by Christopher Wren's work with the traditional interior proportions and seating plan of the seventeenth-century four-square meeting house. The Old South Meeting House was constructed by Joshua Blanchard (1692-1748), a master mason who later erected Faneuil Hall in 1740-1742.

The Boston Landmarks Commission asks that you give full consideration to the designation of the Old South Meeting House in downtown Boston 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

Office of the City Clerk
ALEX GEOURNTAS
City Clerk

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

The Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington Street, Boston, MA

VOTE OF DESIGNATION BY THE
BOSTON LANDMARKS COMMISSION

PROPERTY: The Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington Street, Boston, MA

VOTED: That on June 10, 2025, the Boston Landmarks Commission designates the Old South Meeting House at 310 Washington Street as a Boston Landmark under Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended.

VOTING IN FAVOR:

David Berarducci	Christopher Hart	Justine Orlando
John Freeman	Jeffrey Heyne	Brad Walker
Jeffrey Gonyeau	Felicia Jacques	Angela Ward-Hyatt

VOTING IN OPPOSITION:

None.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SITE:

The Old South Meeting House was built in 1729-1730 as the second meeting house for its Puritan congregation, replacing a 1699 structure on the same site. The design is credited to Robert Twelves, a carpenter about whom little is known, and the construction to Joshua Blanchard, a master mason who also built Faneuil Hall. The Old South Meeting House combines the Georgian style with elements of traditional New England meeting house design. The building is well preserved and maintained.

The exterior of the Old South Meeting House looks much like it did in 1730. The original interior of the Old South Meeting House was oriented in a similar fashion to what visitors see today in the space, with the pulpit on axis with the Milk Street entrance on the south side of the building.

However, over the course of nearly three centuries, the Old South Meeting House has been modified to reflect changes in use, social and political context, architectural styles, and structural concerns. Today, visitors can see physical traces of each era of the meeting house's history from 1729 to the present.

GENERAL BOUNDARIES OF THE SITE:

The boundaries of the designation are limited to the following addresses and parcel numbers: 308-310 Washington Street and 2-4 Milk Street, Boston, MA 02108; parcel numbers 0303905000, 0303905001, 0303906000, 0303906001, and 0303904000.