

October 26, 1993

Mr. Alan G. Schwartz, Chairman  
Boston Landmarks Commission  
City Hall  
Boston, MA 02201

Dear Mr. Schwartz:

**RE: Ames Building and Flour and Grain Exchange Building**

The Boston Preservation Alliance enthusiastically supports the designation of both the Ames Building at One Court Square and the Flour and & Grain Exchange Building at 177 Milk Street.

**The Ames Building:** As Boston's first skyscraper, the Ames Building is one of our City's most prominent and significant office buildings. It is the second tallest masonry building in America, surpassed only by the impressive Monadnock Building of Chicago. Designed by the nationally prominent architectural firm of Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge in the Richardson Romanesque style, the Ames Building has distinct arched windows with tall pier columns and Byzantine detailing creating a strong visual anchor at the corner of Court Street and the Washington Mall. This building certainly meets the criteria for a Boston Landmark.

**The Flour and Grain Exchange Building:**  
This unusual three sided structure is one of Boston's most impressive buildings. The Worcester quarry granite facade is detailed by distinct and well defined Romanesque features. Constructed in 1892 for the Chamber of Commerce, the Flour and Grain Exchanger Building has an unusual cylindrical turret and is topped with triangular attic dormers. The Chamber of Commerce played a major role in the promotion and regulation of Boston's trade and commercial history. Designed and constructed by the prominent Boston firm of Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge this building is of national significance.

Mr. Alan G. Schwartz, Chairman  
Page Two  
October 26, 1993

The Boston Preservation Alliance urges the Boston Landmarks Commission to designate both the Ames Building and the Flour and Grain Exchange as Boston Landmarks. Although the buildings currently are being well maintained by their respective owners, Landmark designation would ensure their future contribution to the City of Boston and its citizens.

Sincerely,

Susan Park  
President