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Trust for Architectural Easements Helps Place Historic Boston Building on the National Register of Historic Places

February 12, 2009, Boston, MA – The 106-year old Compton Building that houses the Club Quarters Hotel and the Elephant & Castle Pub and Restaurant in downtown Boston has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places, a federal designation that bestows honor on one of Boston’s architecturally and historically significant buildings.

“The Compton Building, like many other historic gems in Boston, was not listed on the National Register of Historic Places and also not protected by any preservation measures. I am delighted that we have now taken the first step by giving this building the recognition that it deserves,” said Mory Bahar, the Boston representative of the Trust for Architectural Easements.

Located at 161-175 Devonshire Street, the 11-story Classical Revival granite and buff brick Compton Building was designed by the architectural firm of Winslow and Bigelow. Winslow and Bigelow designed many of Boston’s buildings built in the wake of the Great Fire of 1872. The building features several new engineering advances invented in the late 19th century, including steel frame construction and the elevator. Since electric lighting was still a relatively new technology, the building was designed with a large indentation at the rear of the building to allow for improved lighting and air circulation.

“The National Register of Historic Places is the federal program that provides public recognition of our nation’s historic resources, whether architectural, cultural, or archaeological,” said Steve McClain, President of the Trust for Architectural Easements. “This listing is important because, in addition to honoring a property’s history, it means consideration of the property in the planning for federal undertakings, eligibility for federal tax benefits, and qualification for federal historic preservation grants, when funds are available.”

The Trust for Architectural Easements is one of the nation’s largest not-for-profit organizations dedicated to voluntary preservation through easement donations. The Trust protects more than 800 historic buildings across the United States. For more information about the Trust’s local preservation efforts, the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentive Program and the donation process, contact the Trust at 1-888-831-2107 or visit www.architecturaltrust.org.

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