

ORDINANCE

John B. Murphy Memorial

50 E. Erie St.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the procedures set forth in the Municipal Code of Chicago (the "Municipal Code"), Sections 2-120-620 through -690, the Commission on Chicago Landmarks (the "Commission") has determined that the John B. Murphy Memorial (the "Building"), located at 50 E. Erie St., Chicago, Illinois, as more fully described in **Exhibit A**, attached hereto and incorporated herein, satisfies five criteria for landmark designation as set forth in Section 2-120-620 (1), (3), (4), (5) and (7) of the Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, the building represents the legacy and lasting ideals of Chicago surgeon Dr. John B. Murphy (1857-1916), who reformed surgical practice through the establishment of the American College of Surgeons; and

WHEREAS, the American College of Surgeons occupied the building as an auditorium with office and library spaces from its completion in 1926 through the 1930s, and as an occasional professional meeting hall until 2003; and

WHEREAS, the memorial building was built with donations from over 2,000 Chicagoans and was transferred as a gift to the American College of Surgeons as part of their permanent home and headquarters in Chicago; and

WHEREAS, locating the American College of Surgeons in Chicago established Chicago as a leader of both surgical research and of the surgical profession; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Murphy and the American College of Surgeons are significant in Chicago's medical history for their contributions to the improvement, standardization, development, and advancement of surgical technique; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Murphy established a new way to teach surgical methods through clinical classroom operations on real patients and by publishing his lectures in his own non-commercial journal; and

WHEREAS, the building is also significant for its association with Chicago surgeon Dr. Franklin H. Martin, a leading force in the establishment of standards in the surgical profession and in the founding of the American College of Surgeons; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin also was a leading organizer in the construction of the building as a memorial to Dr. Murphy and in locating the American College of Surgeons in Chicago where it remains today; and

WHEREAS, the building's exterior design represents a rare Chicago example of the French Renaissance style, a style of Beaux-Arts architecture that was popular in Paris during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries; and

WHEREAS, the building's interior is equally opulent in its high level of quality of design, its use of materials, and the execution of its finishes and ornament; and

WHEREAS, the memorial building is finely crafted with traditional building materials. The exterior is of Bedford limestone with an exceptional set of bronze doors; and

WHEREAS, the interior is equally finely crafted with materials that include marble, highly ornate plasterwork, carved woodwork, cast and wrought metal, and stained glass; and

WHEREAS, the building was designed by the firm of Marshall & Fox, which is significant in Chicago history for its involvement in the design of early apartment and commercial buildings that guided the development of Michigan Avenue and Lake Shore Drive in the early twentieth century, including 1550 North State Parkway; and 179, 199, and 209 East and 999 North Lake Shore Drive among others; and

WHEREAS, Marshall & Fox also designed theaters, residences, hotels, and clubs. The firm, but Marshall especially, brought Classical elegance combined with modern luxury to these building types. Examples include, the Blackstone Hotel (1908), The South Shore Country Club (1908), The Drake Hotel (1920), the demolished Edgewater Beach Hotel (1923), and Sheridan Trust and Savings Bank Building (1924); and

WHEREAS, Benjamin Marshall, one of the architects who designed the building, is acknowledged as one of the most important and influential architects in Chicago during the first decades of the twentieth century. His work in the design of theaters contributed to the overall interior design and layout of the Murphy Memorial's main auditorium; and

WHEREAS, Tiffany Studios, a prominent New York City firm, cast and finished the impressive bronze doors on the memorial building's facade, which were sculpted by Charles Keck; and

WHEREAS, Willet Studios, a nationally significant art-glass firm based in Philadelphia, designed and built the grand memorial window on the north wall of the main auditorium; and

WHEREAS, the building's highly ornamented facade, monumental scale, and slight setback from the street make it a visually prominent building that is highly visible along Erie Street, between Rush Street and Wabash Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the building's form as a memorial to an individual makes it a rare building type in Chicago; and

WHEREAS, the building's design was modeled after the 1901 Chapelle Notre Dame de Consolation in Paris, which itself is a memorial to a fire tragedy in that city; and

WHEREAS, consistent with Section 2-120-630 of the Municipal Code, the Building has a significant historic, community, architectural, or aesthetic interest or value, the integrity of which is preserved in light of its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and ability to express such historic, community, architectural, or aesthetic interest or value; and

WHEREAS, on March 7, 2024, the Commission adopted a resolution recommending to the City Council of the City of Chicago (the "City Council") that the Building be designated a Chicago Landmark; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO:

SECTION 1. The above recitals are hereby adopted as the findings of the City Council.

SECTION 2. The Building is hereby designated a Chicago Landmark in accordance with Section 2-120-700 of the Municipal Code.

SECTION 3. For purposes of Sections 2-120-740 and 2-120-770 of the Municipal Code governing permit review, the significant historical and architectural features of the Building are identified as:

- All exterior elevations, including rooflines, of the Building.
- The major historic interior spaces of the building, at the *piano nobile* level above the ground floor as delineated in the Exhibit Drawing (attached hereto and incorporated herein), including:
 - The lobby leading to the auditorium from the bronze doors.
 - The anteroom to the west of the auditorium.
 - The auditorium.

Additional Guidelines—General

Pursuant to Section 2-120-740 of the Municipal Code, on June 8, 2023, the Permit Review Committee of the Commission approved, with conditions, a pre-permit submission, including drawings, for exterior and interior rehabilitation of the Building including a new rooftop addition (the “P.R.C. Project”). Notwithstanding the foregoing significant historical and architectural features listed above, the Building alterations and additions contained in the P.R.C. Project shall be permitted.

SECTION 4. The Commission is hereby directed to create a suitable plaque appropriately identifying the Building as a Chicago Landmark.

SECTION 5. If any provision of this ordinance shall be held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, the invalidity or unenforceability of such provision shall not affect any of the other provisions of this ordinance.

SECTION 6. All ordinances, resolutions, motions or orders in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 7. This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and approval.