



## News Release

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### **HISTORIC BOSTON THEATERS NAMED TO LIST OF “AMERICA’S 11 MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC PLACES” SUCCESS STORIES**

**Washington, D.C. (May 10, 2017)** – Today, to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the **America’s 11 Most Endangered Historic Places** list and how it has been a catalyst for the preservation of threatened historic sites around the country, the **National Trust for Historic Preservation** is issuing a retrospective list culled from the nearly 300 sites named to the program since its inception. The 2017 list highlights 11 once-endangered sites, including **Historic Boston Theaters**, that are now thriving and contributing to their communities—while also focusing attention on the extraordinary efforts undertaken to bring them back from the brink. Historic Boston Theaters appeared on the 11 Most Endangered list in 1995.

“The Historic Boston Theaters are beloved community assets that demonstrate the ability of older and historic buildings to contribute to the economic vitality and quality of life for residents and visitors alike,” said Stephanie Meeks, president and CEO of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. “The restoration of these architectural icons is also a powerful example of what can happen when a city, non-profits, developers, and local institutions work collaboratively toward a common goal.”

The Boston Opera House, the Paramount Theatre and Modern Theatre were lavish palaces when they first opened, and for decades were focal points of Boston’s nightlife and social scene. However, by the 1970’s, the three sites had fallen into disrepair. Lower Washington Street, where the theaters are located, was part of what was known as the “Combat Zone.”

All three eventually closed and were badly deteriorating, contributing to the decline of an economically challenged section of Boston. This prompted the National Trust to name the Historic Boston Theaters to its 11 Most Endangered list.

The listing led to the late Mayor Thomas Menino and city agencies to develop a network of partnerships to rehabilitate the theaters and revitalize the surrounding neighborhood, resulting in a key preservation success story for the city. A pivotal 1996 charrette co-sponsored by the City, the Boston Preservation Alliance, and the National Trust helped chart a new future for the theaters. The rehabilitation was so successful that the National Trust awarded the Lower Washington Street Theaters an Honor Award in 2011, in recognition of these achievements.

#### **The 2017 list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places (in alphabetical order):**



**National Trust for  
Historic Preservation**  
*Save the past. Enrich the future.*

**Angel Island Immigration Station – San Francisco, Calif.**

**Antietam National Battlefield – Sharpsburg, Md.**

**Cathedral of St. Vibiana – Los Angeles, Calif.**

**Governors Island – New York, N.Y.**

**Historic Boston Theaters – Boston, Mass.**

**Little Rock Central High School – Little Rock, Ark.**

**Nine Mile Canyon – Utah**

**Penn School – Frogmore, S.C.**

**President Lincoln’s Cottage at the Soldiers’ Home – Washington, D.C.**

**Statler Hilton Hotel – Dallas, Texas**

**Travelers’ Rest – Travelers’ Rest, Mont.**

Follow us on Twitter at **@savingplaces** and join the conversation using the hashtag **#11Most**.

**About America’s 11 Most Endangered Historic Places Program**

Over the past 30 years, the **National Trust for Historic Preservation** has used its annual list of America’s 11 Most Endangered Historic Places to spotlight important examples of the nation’s architectural and cultural heritage that were at risk of destruction or irreparable damage. Of the sites that appeared on the list since 1988, fewer than five percent have been lost.

Members of the public are invited to learn more about this year’s 11 Most list and what they can do to support hundreds of sites that remain endangered at [www.SavingPlaces.org/11Most](http://www.SavingPlaces.org/11Most)

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The **National Trust for Historic Preservation**, a privately funded nonprofit organization, works to save America’s historic places. [www.SavingPlaces.org](http://www.SavingPlaces.org)