

DEDICATION OF THE AUDITORIUM

Cathy E. Minehan

It is by no means a matter of chance that we have chosen to dedicate a major public portion of this building—the auditorium—to Frank E. Morris. He was the mastermind who saw a crumbling area of town, right on the harbor's edge, distinctly remote from the comfort of Post Office Square, and imagined a Boston financial district that would expand down through Dewey Square to the Fort Point Channel. He had a vision for the building and that vision included major public space.

For over sixty years Reserve Banks had been fortress-like in their design; the new Boston Bank was quite a contrast, incorporating as it did an operations building with roof gardens, and a glass-faced, two-tower skyscraper. I am told by retired officer Herb Wass that during the construction phase Arthur Burns came to Boston to meet with the Bank's board of directors. Burns was a traditionalist regarding what Reserve Banks should look like, and it was decided to avoid calling his attention to the new Bank under construction. The driver who met Chairman Burns was instructed to take a route from the airport to the old, fortress-like Bank that would not call attention to the very modern skyscraper that would be the new Bank. It was a good idea—and it might have worked—except for the fact that the pilot of the plane the Chairman came in on pointed out to the passengers on the left side that the tall aluminum building reflecting the sun was the new Federal Reserve Bank building.

And it was no accident that this new building had an elegant auditorium. Again, I have a couple of stories. In the early '70s, Frank visited the Bank of England and dropped into a noontime concert open to the public. He so enjoyed the experience that he decided that the new Bank's auditorium would both meet the Bank's needs and be available to the community and offer lunchtime concerts as well. As so it does to this day.

Also in the early '70s, the old Bank building's small auditorium facilities were drafted into use in the face of ever-expanding needs for physical space. In 1973, it was converted into a computer room to house our first Fedwire communications switch, with adjacent office space for technical staff. A raised floor was installed along with new wiring and air-conditioning. In fact, two large HVAC units filled up much of what had been the stage. During the early days of the switch's operation, Frank visited the new computer facility. He was interested in the new operation and listened attentively to descriptions of the system's capabilities. But when his visit ended, he shook his head slightly and murmured with perhaps a bit of regret mixed with his appreciation for the high-tech transformation, "This used to be my auditorium." Well, now this auditorium will be forever Frank's.



WHEREAS,

Frank E. Morris, as part of an illustrious career in the Federal Reserve System, the military, government, business, and higher education, served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston from 1968 to 1988, bringing exceptional insight, vision and dedication to all his endeavors; and

WHEREAS,

Mr. Morris, a distinguished member of the Federal Open Market Committee for twenty years, provided invaluable expertise, judgment and counsel while carrying out his responsibilities as a member of the Committee, and

WHEREAS,

Mr. Morris, a persuasive advocate for the link between education and business, and particularly with the Boston Public Schools, pointed this Bank decisively in the direction of community service and educational partnership that continue to be core values of this Bank; and

WHEREAS,

Mr. Morris, having the foresight to set the Bank's new headquarters in the South Station area of the City, played a lead role in spurring the revitalization and

development of this vital commercial area and extending the span of Boston's important Financial District; and

WHEREAS,

Mr. Morris played a prominent role in the conception, design and implementation of the Federal Reserve System's Employees' Thrift Plan, which has become a very successful and key benefit for all employees of the Federal Reserve System, and

WHEREAS,

in all his endeavors, Frank Morris exemplified the finest traditions of excellence, commitment and dedication; be it therefore

RESOLVED,

that the Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, by unanimous vote, on this 14th day of September in the year 2000, and in appreciation of his many contributions to this institution, the region, and Federal Reserve System, names the auditorium located in the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston building at 600 Atlantic Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts, the

FRANK E. MORRIS AUDITORIUM



WILLIAM C. BRAINARD
CHAIRMAN

CATHY E. MINEHAN
PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER