



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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THE CROSSMAN BRIDGE, WARREN, APPROVED FOR NOMINATION TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Secretary of the Commonwealth William Francis Galvin is pleased to announce that the Massachusetts Historical Commission approved the Crossman Bridge in Warren for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at its September 8, 2010, meeting. The nomination will be submitted to the National Register of Historic Places at the National Park Service in Washington, DC, for final consideration and designation.

“The Massachusetts Historical Commission is dedicated to preserving the Commonwealth’s rich architectural, cultural, archaeological, and historic resources,” Secretary Galvin said. “Inclusion of the Crossman Bridge in the National Register will help to protect an exceptionally rare example of 19th-century engineering.”

The Crossman Bridge, also known today as the Gilbert Road Bridge, is 73 feet long and 18 feet wide and crosses the Quaboag River at about 10 feet above the water. The Quaboag River roughly bisects the rural, formerly industrial community of Warren in south-central Massachusetts and once served as a power source that contributed to the town’s development. The strength, size, and ornamental qualities of the bridge reflect Warren’s late-19th century industrial prosperity. Built in 1888 by the Berlin Iron Bridge Company of Connecticut, a major 19th-century bridge fabricator, Crossman Bridge is one of only three lenticular truss bridges remaining in place in Massachusetts. The lenticular truss design was patented by the Berlin Iron Bridge Company. The bridge is also the state’s only surviving lenticular pony truss, with arches extending above and below the roadbed. It has a distinct lens-shaped profile and is exceptional in retaining much of its original appearance. Distinctive features include an 18-inch lattice railing with cast-iron rosettes, and end posts embellished with cast-iron orb finials. The bridge survived the devastating hurricane and flood of 1938, as well as a 1955 flood that covered its deck. Between 2004 and 2008, the bridge was removed, painstakingly rehabilitated, and then reassembled at its original location. A modern brass commemorative plaque has been affixed to the northwest end post.

The Crossman Bridge is one of 8 historic resources around the Commonwealth approved for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places by the Massachusetts Historical Commission at this meeting.

Secretary Galvin serves as Chairman of the 17-member board, which meets regularly and considers historic resources eligible for the National Register four times a year.

The National Register is the nation’s official listing of significant historic resources. In Massachusetts, there are over 70,000 properties listed in the National Register. The Massachusetts Historical Commission has been administering the National Register of Historic Places program in Massachusetts since 1966.

The Massachusetts Historical Commission is the office of the State Historic Preservation Officer and the State Archaeologist. It was established in 1963 to identify, evaluate, and protect important historical and archaeological assets of the Commonwealth. Visit our website to learn more about the Commission’s programs (www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc).

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