



# NEWS

**William Francis Galvin**  
*Secretary of the Commonwealth*

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## **JONATHAN KEYES, SR. HOUSE IN WESTFORD APPROVED FOR NOMINATION TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin has announced that the Massachusetts Historical Commission approved the Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House in Westford for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at its March 13, 2019 meeting. The nomination will now be submitted to the National Register of Historic Places at the National Park Service for final consideration and designation.

“The Massachusetts Historical Commission is dedicated to preserving the Commonwealth’s rich historic, architectural, archaeological, and cultural resources,” Secretary Galvin said. “The Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House, built around 1750 and modified in the early 19th century in the Federal style, is an important building in Westford. Its listing in the National Register documents its historical and architectural significance for posterity.”

The Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House is one of six historic resources around the Commonwealth approved for nomination to the National Register by the Massachusetts Historical Commission at this meeting. Galvin serves as chair of the 17-member board, which meets regularly and considers historic resources eligible for the National Register four times per year.

The Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House was built circa 1751 and added to in the early 19th century to give the house a saltbox appearance and Federal-style decorative details. Dendrochronological investigations of tree rings in samples taken from exposed timbers in the house helped to solidify the date of construction and counter theories that the core of the house was the Solomon Keyes House of 1664. The definitive construction date for the house is an important correction to the historical record for one of the better-preserved historic houses in Westford.

Its attribution to Jonathan Keyes, Sr. is based on research showing that he received land in the vicinity of the present house in the 1740s. The house’s preservation



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is a result of owners who purchased the property, which had been vacant for several years, in 1993, and set about restoring it. It was sold to the present owners in 2017.

The National Register is the nation's official listing of significant historic resources. In Massachusetts, there are more than 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. Additional information about the Commission's programs may be found at [www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc).

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