



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT, OXFORD, 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 Oxford Center Historic District in Oxford for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at its June 8, 2011, 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 Oxford Center Historic District in the National Register will help to recognize the wealth of historic architectural resources in this area.”

The Oxford Center Historic District, also referred to as Oxford Main Street, represents a significant concentration of historic resources within the larger town of Oxford. The district is comprised of a wide variety of architectural styles and building types. Examples of regionally popular styles and forms from the late 18th to the mid 20th century reflect the area’s long history of development and its continued presence as the area’s civic and business district. One of the district’s most distinctive characteristic features is the Main Street streetscape, which retains its historic broad width through most of the district. Prominent public buildings, many funded by local industrialists, include the Charles Larned Memorial Library, built in 1903 with Greek Revival- style detailing; Memorial Hall, an elaborate two-story brick structure with a four-story central clock tower; and Oxford High School/Oxford Middle School, a well-preserved example of an early 20th century Classical Revival-style public building. Among the landscape features are the South Cemetery/Church Street Burial Ground, a 3.6-acre, rectangular parcel of land, with its oldest stones dating to 1761, and Joslin Park, donated by prominent physician Dr. Elliot Joslin in 1927. There is also a concentration of large and fashionable 19th-century houses that convey the significance of Oxford Center as a desirable residential neighborhood.

The Oxford Main Street Historic District is one of 6 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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