



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**CHAPIN SCHOOL, CHICOPEE, APPROVED FOR NOMINATION TO THE NATIONAL
REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin is pleased to announce that the Massachusetts Historical Commission approved the Chapin School in Chicopee for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at its March 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 historic, architectural, archaeological, and cultural resources,” Secretary Galvin said. “Inclusion of Chicopee’s Chapin School in the National Register will help to preserve a building that served its community’s educational needs for more than 100 years, and which will provide affordable housing for veterans into the future.”

Located in Chicopee’s Willimansett neighborhood, the red-brick and cast-stone Chapin School, 40 Meadow Street, is a well-preserved example of late 19th- and early 20th-century institutional architecture. The locally and regionally prominent architectural firm of George P. B. Alderman & Company, of Holyoke, designed the school in the Classical Revival style. The building is located in a predominately residential neighborhood, and was largely built in response to the upsurge in population in the Willimansett area following the construction of the nearby Willimansett-Holyoke Bridge in 1891.

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The school was constructed in a series of three building campaigns between 1898 and 1911. The original section of the building, constructed in 1898, measured eight bays wide by five bays deep. In 1905, an addition was constructed on the south elevation of the original building, increasing the school's student population to 389 students. Later, in 1911, a larger addition was made, connecting to the original building via the central corridor at the north elevation. At the completion of this addition, the Chapin School was the largest school building in the city, housing 505 students in grades one through nine.

The student population peaked in 1928, with 933 students, then gradually decreased until reaching 511 by 1950 and remaining steady until the 1970s, when enrollment dropped to 366. Due to budget cuts and the school's lack of a cafeteria and gymnasium, the Chapin School closed in 1982. The building then housed an alternative school until the early 2000s, when it ceased operating as a school.

The Chapin School is currently undergoing a substantial rehabilitation to provide affordable housing for veterans. The project will preserve much of the building's historic fabric and sensitively adapt it for residential use, while utilizing state and federal historic rehabilitation tax credits.

The Chapin School is one of six 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 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.

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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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