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Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**LOWNEY CHOCOLATE FACTORY, MANSFIELD, 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 Lowney Chocolate Factory in Mansfield for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at a recent 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 the Lowney Chocolate Factory in the National Register will help to preserve a collection of buildings tied to Mansfield’s industrial history.”

The Lowney Chocolate Factory, located at 150 Oakland Street in Mansfield Center, is a complex of industrial buildings constructed between 1903 and 1987. Originally based in Boston, the Walter Lowney Chocolate Company became known in the 1880s for its bonbons and other prepackaged candies. By the turn of the 20th century, the company’s expansion resulted in the construction of the new factory in Mansfield, which supplied chocolate not only to Lowney, but to other candy makers and retailers as well.

The architecture and engineering firm of Dean & Main designed the earliest structure at the complex, Building 1 (1903), in the Classical Revival style, and architect Lewis Bacon designed the Craftsman-style Building 2 (1910). The company expanded Building 1 in 1911 and again in 1919.

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After Walter Lowney's death, his widow, Nettie, continued to operate the company until the 1930s, when the Rexall Drug Company purchased the factory, constructing Building 3 as a storage facility in 1942. Welch Candy purchased the factory in 1955; they were bought out in 1963 by Nabisco, at which point the complex began producing ten-pound bars of chocolate for candy manufacturers, as well as the chocolate for Oreo cookies.

Buildings 4 and 5, constructed in 1983 and 1987, respectively, fall outside of the property's period of significance (1903-1965) and are therefore not contributing elements of the National Register nomination.

A series of corporate transactions culminated in the property being owned by Archer-Daniels-Midland, who used the property for manufacturing until 2010. Archer-Daniels-Midland is currently rehabilitating the buildings for rental housing, as well as commercial and light industrial uses. The adaptive reuse project will utilize state and federal historic rehabilitation tax credits and preserve the buildings' historic integrity.

The Lowney Chocolate Factory 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.

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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