



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**SPRINGSIDE HOUSE AND PARK, PITTSFIELD, 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 Springside House and Park in Pittsfield for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at its March 12, 2008 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 this property on the National Register will help to protect our heritage for generations to come.”

Springside Park, located north of Pittsfield center, is composed of former pastureland, agricultural fields, and suburban estates combined through purchase and donation to create a 237.5-acre municipal park. The park’s most outstanding buildings include the Italianate-style summer “cottage” Springside House, as well as a fine example of a Gothic Revival-style barn. Springside Park is a well-preserved example of a 19th-century country estate, which evolved during the first half of the 20th century into a planned municipal park. Springside House was built between 1856 and 1869 by Abraham Burbank, a prominent Pittsfield native. Burbank sold the property in 1872 to a wealthy New York merchant, John Davol, who used the home as a summer residence. Subsequent owners included the Stephens and Miller families. Beginning in 1910, it was Kelton B. Miller, followed by his sons Donald and Lawrence, publishers of the *Berkshire Eagle*, who was responsible for donating land to the city, initiating the creation of what would become Springside Park.

The Springside House and Park 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 65,000 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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