



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**MOUNT VERNON CEMETERY, WEST BOYLSTON, 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 Mount Vernon Cemetery in West Boylston 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.”

Mount Vernon Cemetery is composed of the Beaman Cemetery (which was displaced by the Wachusett Reservoir project and moved to adjoin Mount Vernon Cemetery in 1904), the Old Burying Ground (ca. 1790), and the Mount Vernon Cemetery (1852). In 1931, the Mt. Vernon Cemetery Association turned over all its own burial lots and funds to the town of West Boylston, thereby making Mount Vernon Cemetery a completely municipal cemetery. Now the town’s oldest cemetery, Mount Vernon Cemetery contains the graves of the earliest settlers, including the town’s founder, Major Ezra Beaman, Esq. The gravestones and monuments stand as visual evidence of the sweep of the town’s development through its early ministers, town leaders, veterans of all the nation’s wars, industrialists, physicians, and ordinary citizens. The Holbrook Chapel (1891) near the cemetery’s entrance is a charming vernacular example of a Victorian Eclectic cemetery chapel. The cemetery also contains many finely cut slate gravestones, some carved by noted regional gravestone carvers, which add to the cemetery’s historical and architectural significance.

Mount Vernon Cemetery 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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State House, Room 337, Boston, Massachusetts 02133