



**William Francis Galvin**  
Secretary of the Commonwealth

Contact: Brian McNiff  
Telephone: 617-727-9180

October 8, 2014

**UPTON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT 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 Upton Center Historic District for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at its September 10, 2014, 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 Upton Center Historic District in the National Register will help to preserve a remarkably intact town center, with a number of civic, institutional, and residential historic resources.”

The approximately 70-acre Upton Center Historic District includes 148 contributing resources of historic significance, spanning more than two centuries of historic architecture and representing the development of Upton’s civic and social history. The district contains both residential and institutional properties, predominantly designed in the Federal, Greek Revival, and Italianate styles, as well as some Queen Anne, Stick, and Gothic Revival-style buildings. The oldest resource in the district is the Jonathan Wood House, built around 1742. Wood built a corn mill and sawmill on the southern edge of nearby Mill Pond; subsequent residents continued to use the mills into the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Central Square, the town’s civic and institutional center, and the Upton Town Common are at the core of the district.

-more-

The Common, a small, grassy area of about 1/3 of an acre, contains four monuments: the 1891 Upton Civil War Monument; the late 19<sup>th</sup>- or early 20<sup>th</sup>-century Women's Christian Temperance Union Fountain; the Upton World War I Monument, installed in 1921; and the Recent Wars Memorial, which is not counted as a contributing historic resource due to its relatively recent installation in 1984. More than 80 percent of the historic resources in the district are currently residential in use. Many freestanding and retaining stone walls throughout the district reflect its 19<sup>th</sup>-century period of development. Institutional buildings in the district include the Greek Revival-style First Unitarian Society and First Congregational Society churches, both constructed in 1848. The Greek Revival-style Center School, constructed in 1851, has housed the Grange since 1923, when the Classical Revival-style George S. Ball School, named after a long-time pastor of the First Unitarian Church, was built.

The Ball School was converted to use as the Upton Police Station in 1992. The Upton Town Hall, also located within the district, was individually listed in the National Register in 1999. Today, the Upton Center Historic District retains much of its historic fabric, and most buildings are occupied and well maintained.

The Upton Center Historic District 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 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](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)).

-End-

