



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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March 22, 2013

COBB MEMORIAL LIBRARY, TRURO, 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 Cobb Memorial Library in Truro for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at its March 20, 2013, 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 Cobb Memorial Library in the National Register will help to protect this well-preserved and significant piece of Truro’s history.”

Cobb Memorial Library, 13 Truro Center Road, was built in 1912 as Truro’s first town-owned public library. The building is an excellent, well-preserved, and rare local example of Craftsman-style architecture in Truro, and is the only nonresidential building in the town designed in the style. Elisha Wiley Cobb, a Truro native and Boston leather merchant, donated the building to the town in memory of his parents, Elisha W. and Mehitable Cobb. In 1930 Nellie Magee, daughter of Elisha W. Cobb, donated a clocktower to the library as well as chimes to Truro Town Hall, located half a mile away; the chimes were sounded by an impulse from the Cobb Library clock. At the same time, she donated a bronze plaque commemorating these gifts, given in honor of her father. The plaque was placed on a boulder set into the slope to the north of the library’s main steps. The building served as a library until 1999, when a new library was built in North Truro and Cobb Memorial Library closed. In 2009, after undergoing extensive rehabilitation, the building reopened as the Cobb Archives, which holds a collection of historic maps and documents belonging to the Truro Historical Society.

Cobb Memorial Library is one of 6 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).

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