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THE CHARLES H. HAYES BUILDINGS, HAVERHILL, 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 Charles H. Hayes Building in Haverhill for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at its September 8, 2010, 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 the Hayes Buildings in the National Register will help to protect this highly significant historic factory building.”

The Charles H. Hayes Buildings, located at 14-44 Granite Street, consist of two adjacent, well-preserved buildings associated with Haverhill’s continued industrial expansion in the late 19th and early 20th centuries as a center for boot and shoe manufacture. By the mid 19th century, shoe production was the dominant industry in Haverhill. Charles H. Hayes was one of the city’s most influential businessmen; he founded the C. H. Hayes Company, whose primary product was shoeboxes. The east section of the Hayes Company’s factory, built in 1894, is a 6-story, Queen Anne Revival-style, red brick building. Its focal point is the pyramid-roofed stairtower. This building is a notable example of the work of prominent local architect Josiah M. Littlefield, who built many of Haverhill’s historic shoe factories and shoe-related buildings. The south building, designed by George W. Griffin and built in 1911, is a 7-story buff brick building with concrete detail; its restrained, symmetrical façade suggests the Classical Revival Style. Both buildings bear the name “Charles H. Hayes Building.” A new owner recently acquired the Hayes buildings and is rehabilitating them to create 57 apartments, 40 of which will be affordable units.

The Charles H. Hayes Buildings are 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).

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