



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**LEE STATION, LEE, 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 Lee Station in Lee 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 Lee Station in the National Register affirms the building’s status as an important representative of railroad history.”

Lee Station, 109 Railroad Street, is a 1½ -story building with a side-gable roof. Its exterior displays Queen Anne and Stick Style detailing. The station is located between the Housatonic River and the town center in an area that includes a 19th-century school converted into an inn, several mid to late-19th century commercial buildings, and about half a dozen Italianate and Queen Anne-style houses. The station is a significant example of the type of railroad station that served both passengers and freight. Built in 1893 as a stop for the Housatonic Railroad Company, Lee Station soon changed hands when the New Haven Railroad Company bought the Housatonic line. For much of the 20th century, the line contributed to Lee’s growth and the development of the town’s commerce and industries. The station was closed in 1973. In 1976 Daniel and Marilyn Sullivan purchased Lee Station and converted it for office use. The Sullivans restored the station and rehabilitated it as a restaurant in 1981, constructing a small addition for more kitchen space. In 1984, the Sullivans purchased a caboose from Conrail; it now functions as a gift shop and offices on the north end of the station. In 2008, the station began functioning again as a stop on the Housatonic Railroad Company, which has linked with the Berkshire Scenic Railroad to conduct rides between Lenoxdale and Stockbridge annually, from May through October.

Lee Station 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).

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