



**William Francis Galvin**  
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**SOUTH UNION SCHOOL, SOUTHBOROUGH, 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 South Union School in Southborough for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at its December 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 South Union School in the National Register will help to preserve this important part of the community’s educational history.”

South Union School, 21 Highland Street, is a Classical Revival-style, two-story, brick school building with cast-stone and wood trim. The school was designed as a three-classroom building, with additional space on the second floor designated for an assembly hall, a domestic science room, and a local branch of the town’s public library. The building was designed by Frank Irving Cooper, of the Boston architectural firm, Cooper & Bailey, a leader in the early 20<sup>th</sup>-century effort to standardize the planning and construction of school buildings. Distinctive features include a monumental stair of rubblestone and granite, which frames the view of the school from Highland Street, and a projecting, full-height frontispiece that dominates the façade. The school opened in December of 1912, and represents the consolidation of public schools in Cordaville and Southville, two industrial neighborhoods of Southborough. The building was last used as a school during the 1979-1980 academic year, and became the home of the Southborough Arts Center in 1981. In addition to the Arts Center, the building now houses the offices of the town’s Recreation Department and Facilities Department.

The South Union School is one of 7 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)).

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State House, Room 337, Boston, Massachusetts 02133