



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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THULE/PLUMMER HISTORIC DISTRICT, WORCESTER, 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 Thule/Plummer Historic District in Worcester 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 Thule/Plummer Historic District in the National Register will help to preserve this section of Worcester’s historic commercial corridor.”

The two-building Thule/Plummer Historic District is located toward the north end of Main Street in downtown Worcester. The Thule Building, a five-story structure with a red brick exterior and limestone trim, was constructed in 1905, and the building was renovated in 1914 to convert it from its original mixed retail/function hall use, to commercial use only. Charles Hanson, who was the first Swede to settle in Worcester, purchased the land for the building in 1903, on behalf of the Thule Music Hall Association. The names of the four function halls (Vasa, Svea, Thule, and Continental) reflected the Swedish heritage of those who commissioned the structure, and many of the Swedish clubs and charities held their meetings there in the early part of the 20th century. As part of its recent historic rehabilitation, the building was converted to use as a commercial space on the first floor, and a law library on the upper floors. Later walls were removed to reveal the surviving historic window casings and baseboards, and the historic front and rear staircases were restored and remain in use. The Plummer Building, set back from and abutting the Thule building at the latter’s northwest corner, was originally a small apartment building with first-floor commercial space. The building was constructed in two phases: the five-story 1890 main block, and a large rear addition, erected when the building was converted to warehouse use ca. 1930. The main block is brick trimmed with rusticated brownstone detailing; the rear addition is a utilitarian brick structure. In 2009-2010, the Plummer Building also underwent an historic rehabilitation, and is now an office building.

The Thule/Plummer Historic District 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).

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