



**William Francis Galvin**  
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**THE MEETING HOUSE HISTORIC DISTRICT, WEYMOUTH, 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 Wilder Homestead in Buckland 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 Weymouth Meeting House Historic District in the National Register signifies the rich historic and architectural significance of this area.”

The Weymouth Meeting House Historic District is a medium-density residential neighborhood defined by almost four centuries of association with Weymouth’s first meetinghouse. A linear village centered on North Street extends south from the town’s oldest burial ground, through a triangular residential district, to the Weymouth Common and surrounding buildings at the district’s southern end. The 31-acre area includes the First Church (Old North Congregational), its cemetery, and the oldest surviving school building in Weymouth, the John Adams School (listed individually in the National Register, 1986). The cemetery includes some important early gravestone carvings by the Pratt family. The district contains intact buildings from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, including examples of Cape Cod vernacular, Federal, Greek Revival, Second Empire, Italianate, and Colonial Revival-style houses. The area has served as a focal point for the town almost since its earliest days of European settlement, and is also significant for its connections with the birth and childhood of Abigail Smith Adams, whose husband John and son John Quincy became, respectively, the 2nd and 6th United States presidents. The Abigail Adams Birthplace, a ca. 1685 gambrel-roofed Cape Cod house, was saved in 1947 by a group of Weymouth citizens who formed an association to restore it and move it to its current location on Norton Street. The nearby North Weymouth Cemetery, also known as the Old North Cemetery, makes up more than half the district’s acreage. Nearly four centuries old, it is still used for burials; the cemetery is also significant as the final resting place for Thomas A. Watson, famed as the laboratory assistant to Alexander Graham Bell during the discovery of the telephone in 1867.

The Weymouth Meeting House Historic District 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.

State House, Room 337, Boston, Massachusetts 02133

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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