



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**FOBES-O'DONNELL HOUSE IN OAKHAM 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 Fobes-O'Donnell House at 1221 Old Turnpike Road in Oakham for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at its December 13, 2017 meeting. The nomination will now 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 historic, architectural, archaeological, and cultural resources," Secretary Galvin said. "Inclusion of the Fobes-O'Donnell House in the National Register will help to raise the profile of this historically significant small-town farmhouse, now owned by the Oakham Historical Museum." The Fobes-O'Donnell House is one of four historic resources around the Commonwealth approved for nomination to the National Register 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 Fobes-O'Donnell House was built in the early 1770s and is an early surviving dwelling from the first period of Oakham's settlement by colonists. Before the development of the town center, in the 1820s, widely scattered farmsteads were the predominant settlement pattern, and the Fobes-O'Donnell House is a particularly intact example of the surviving houses of this era. In the early 19th century, the house served as the town's first post office. The house contains some Georgian interior features dating to its earliest years as well as elements of various styles from throughout the 19th century that provide an important understanding of how such early houses were modified over time. Owned by the Oakham Historical Museum since 1997, the Fobes-O'Donnell House is an exemplary relic of Oakham's early history and an excellent venue for the museum to interpret and promote the town's heritage.

The National Register is the nation's official listing of significant historic resources. In Massachusetts, there are more than 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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