



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

Contact: Deb O'Malley
Telephone: (617) 878-3135

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**EMERSON SHOE COMPANY FACTORY, ROCKLAND, 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 Emerson Shoe Company factory in Rockland 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 Emerson Shoe Company factory, a recipient of historic rehabilitation tax credits, in the National Register will help to raise awareness of this remarkable manufacturing complex whose rehabilitation will help to stimulate economic development in the town of Rockland.” The Emerson Shoe Company factory is one of four 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.

Located about a half-mile from the center of Rockland at 51 Maple Street, the Emerson Shoe Company factory was built in phases between 1894 and 1919 and was one of the four largest factories in the town, which had a history of shoemaking dating to the early 19th century. It is the largest of the remaining shoe-manufacturing buildings in Rockland and the most intact, retaining all of its major buildings. Converted to use by multiple tenants by the late 1930s, the building served as space for artists, small offices, and light industry until 2007. An important relic of the industrial history of Rockland, the factory complex was rehabilitated with the support of state and federal historic rehabilitation tax credits in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation* for conversion to residential use. As a result of its rehabilitation and adaptive reuse, there are now approximately 150 more apartments near Rockland center, a potentially significant source of economic stimulus for the town.

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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State House, Room 337, Boston, Massachusetts 02133