



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

Contact: Debra O'Malley
Telephone: 617-727-9180

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**HAMPDEN COUNTY TRAINING SCHOOL IN AGAWAM 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 Hampden County Training School in Agawam for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at its June 13, 2018 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 Hampden County Training School, a recipient of historic rehabilitation tax credits, in the National Register helps to raise awareness of this former reform school in Agawam that has been converted into a facility for homeless veterans.”

The Hampden County Training School building is one of nine 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 Hampden County Training School was built in 1916 to address the problem of truant and disorderly juvenile boys in public school districts in Hampden County’s 23 cities and towns as well as in the nearby counties of Hampshire, Franklin, and Berkshire. Plagued by controversy over the course of its existence, the school closed in 1972 along with several others in the state

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amid accusations of political patronage, child abuse, and neglect. It then served as a training facility for the State Police before closing in 2005. In 2017, it was rehabilitated for use as veterans' housing with the assistance of state and federal historic rehabilitation tax incentives.

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. More information about the Commission's programs may be found at www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc.

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