



NEWS

William Francis Galvin
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THE ST. JAMES APARTMENTS IN SPRINGFIELD APPROVED FOR NOMINATION TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin has announced that the Massachusetts Historical Commission approved the St. James Apartments for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at its March 13, 2019 meeting. The nomination will now be submitted to the National Register of Historic Places at the National Park Service 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. “The St. James apartment building is a turn-of-the-20th-century apartment building in the Oak Hill neighborhood of Springfield along the old Boston Post Road, still a major east-west artery through Springfield. The rehabilitation of it and the nearby Wigglesworth Building provide highly visible preservation success stories for the city.”

The St. James Apartments are one of six historic resources around the Commonwealth approved for nomination to the National Register by the Massachusetts Historical Commission at this meeting. Galvin serves as chair of the 17-member board, which meets regularly and considers historic resources eligible for the National Register four times per year.

The St. James Apartments were constructed in 1902 in the Classical Revival style, part of the building boom in Springfield at the turn of the 20th century due to the large influx of immigrants arriving in the city to work at the Springfield Armory and the automobile and textile industries. The building’s masonry construction represents the shift away from wood-frame tenements typical of multi-family housing until this period. Springfield-based architect William Bell Reid designed a building characterized by bold details and rounded projecting bays.

The rehabilitation of the building, with the support of state and federal historic tax credits, allows it to continue its present use as affordable housing.



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

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