



NEWS

William Francis Galvin
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CATAUMET SCHOOLHOUSE IN BOURNE APPROVED FOR NOMINATION TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin has announced that the Massachusetts Historical Commission has approved Cataumet Schoolhouse in Bourne for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. 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. “The Cataumet Schoolhouse is a well-preserved 19th-century building that is an important surviving piece of Bourne’s history. Its listing in the National Register documents its significance for posterity.”

The Cataumet Schoolhouse is one of six historic resources around the Commonwealth approved for nomination to the National Register by the Massachusetts Historical Commission at a recent meeting. Secretary 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 one-room Cataumet Schoolhouse was built in 1894 and is a fine example of vernacular late 19th-century institutional architecture in Bourne. It served as a public school until 1930 and then served as a community center from 1934 to 1960. It currently functions as a public meeting space and retains its character-defining features, including separate entrances for boys and girls, ample windows for natural illumination, decorative hoods over doors and windows, and, on the interior, original or early window sash, doors, wainscoting, plaster, and chalkboards. The non-profit organization that operates and maintains the schoolhouse today is dedicated to preserving the building and using the site to promote the history of Cataumet Village and of the town of Bourne as a whole. Educational and cultural programming is active throughout the year.



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

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