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Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**BULLARD HOUSE, BERLIN, 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 Bullard House in Berlin for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at its June 8, 2011, meeting. The nomination will 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 architectural, cultural, archaeological, and historic resources,” Secretary Galvin said. “Inclusion of the Bullard House in the National Register will help to preserve the building’s historic character.”

The Bullard House is located at 4 Woodward Avenue, in the heart of Berlin’s historic town center. As a result of at least six building phases, the Bullard House is a complex building of many parts, exemplifying both its long history and the variety of uses that it served over several historic periods. The long, side-gabled, double saltbox began as a two-story house, built ca. 1780, and evolved with various additions in the 1790s, 1850s, 1920s, and 1940s. The house is the oldest known residence in the town center and was the home, for 125 years, of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century Bullard family and their descendants. The building also served, at various times, as Berlin’s first store, a tavern (complete with ballroom), a boardinghouse, a post office, a barber shop, at least two meeting halls, an early 20<sup>th</sup>-century meat market, and a 1920s firehouse. The ballroom’s outstanding feature is a high, plastered cove ceiling, a type common in Federal-period inns and taverns, and its survival is remarkable given the many alterations the building has undergone. When the tavern moved in 1813, the building was sold in two parts, and remained divided into two tenements for the next century and a half. In 1996 the Town of Berlin bought the house for use as a local museum of history and art, under the charge of the Berlin Historical Commission. Since purchase by the town, frequent events and private fundraising have provided support for the building. Dedicated volunteers contribute much of the labor needed to carry out the goals of the 2005 Bullard House Preservation Plan; listing in the National Register is another step toward ensuring the building’s preservation.

The Bullard House is one of 6 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.

The National Register is the nation’s official listing of significant historic resources. In Massachusetts, there are over 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

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historical and archaeological assets of the Commonwealth. Visit our website to learn more about the Commission's programs ([www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)).

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