



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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BERLIN TOWN HALL, 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 Berlin Town Hall 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 Berlin Town Hall in the National Register will help to preserve both the building and its central role in the community.”

Located at 12 Woodward Avenue, the Berlin Town Hall is a long, rectangular, 2 ½-story gable-front building. The Town Hall was constructed in 1870 and displays a restrained version of the Greek Revival and Italianate styles popular in public buildings following the end of the Civil War. The building was the seat of the town’s government for 130 years, and was the site of town meetings, municipal offices, the town library, a schoolroom, and various gatherings and performances. The Town Hall was also built to house the Berlin Memorial Hall, an area dedicated to the memory of the town’s Civil War soldiers, which continues today as a memorial to those from Berlin who served in subsequent wars, as well. While it no longer functions as the town administration building, the Town Hall still occupies a commanding position overlooking the triangular Meetinghouse Common, at the main intersection at the center of town. The interior of the building has changed remarkably little, in either spatial arrangement or detailing, since its only major addition was constructed in 1904. Between 2000 and 2007, with the help of The Friends of the Town Hall, the building was repaired, upgraded, and made ready for a new life as a community center and event space. It retains a rare mid 19th century weights and measures cabinet and an original safe. The building was reopened to the public on November 17, 2007.

The Berlin Town Hall 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 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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