



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**SHERMAN APARTMENTS HISTORIC DISTRICT, BOSTON, 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 Sherman Apartments Historic District in Boston (Dorchester) for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at its September 12, 2012, 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 historic, architectural, archaeological, and cultural resources,” Secretary Galvin said. “Inclusion of the Sherman Apartments Historic District in the National Register will help to preserve Codman Square’s historic character, while revitalizing the community by ensuring the buildings’ use for years to come.”

The Sherman Apartments Historic District consists of one wood-frame building and three masonry buildings located in Codman Square, a major commercial core in the Dorchester section of Boston. The Greek Revival-style, wood-frame building (18 Lyndhurst Street), which is the oldest in the district, was constructed in 1831 to house the Dorchester Academy, a private school for boys. The former school was converted to residential use by ca. 1850. The remaining three buildings in the district, located at 544-546 Washington Street and 4-6 and 12-14 Lyndhurst Street, were developed as six-family apartment buildings by local builder William U. Sherman. Between 1904 and 1906, when the three masonry buildings were constructed, Sherman owned and resided in the former schoolhouse, which had been turned 90 degrees and moved 75 feet to allow the new buildings to be grouped together. Other than its relocation, the academy building has been changed little since it was moved in the early 20th century, and it is the only building with a monumental temple front known to exist in Dorchester. The exteriors of the Classical Revival-style masonry apartment buildings are largely intact and, although some interior features have been altered as a result of converting the six-family buildings into twelve-family buildings, much of their interior historic fabric also remains. The Sherman Apartments Historic District is significant for its association with the development of Dorchester at the turn of the 20th century, when the electrification of the streetcar, which provided reliable transportation into the city, brought about the development of many apartment buildings in the area designed for middle-class families. This development was a major shift in the architectural character of the neighborhood, which up until the late 19th century had been largely occupied by single-family houses; the trend also took hold in many outlying neighborhoods of the city of Boston, and had a profound effect on how the city looks today. As part of an effort to revitalize the neighborhood, the buildings at 544-546 Washington Street and 4-6 Lyndhurst Street are undergoing substantial rehabilitation projects to provide 20 units of affordable housing. The projects will utilize state and federal historic rehabilitation tax credits, and will include rehabilitation of the exterior masonry, replacement of windows with historically appropriate windows, roof replacement, and rehabilitation of the interior units and stairways.

The Sherman Apartments Historic District 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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