



**William Francis Galvin**  
Secretary of the Commonwealth

Contact: Brian McNiff  
Telephone: 617-727-9180

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**JONATHAN BOURNE PUBLIC LIBRARY, BOURNE VILLAGE SCHOOL, BOURNE HIGH SCHOOL, AND BOURNE TOWN HALL 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 four town-owned properties in Bourne—the Jonathan Bourne Public Library, Bourne Village School, Bourne High School, and the Bourne Town Hall—for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at its September 12, 2012, meeting. The nominations 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 Bourne’s first public library, town hall, and two of its early schools in the National Register will help to preserve these important features of the town’s civic and educational history.”

The Jonathan Bourne Public Library (30 Keene Street), now known as the Jonathan Bourne Historical Center, is the oldest of the four nominated properties and the town’s first major civic building. Constructed in 1896, twelve years after Bourne had separated from the town of Sandwich, the building originally served a dual role as the library and town offices until the present town hall building was constructed in 1914. Nationally prominent Boston architect Henry Vaughan designed the library in the Colonial Revival style, and funds for its construction were provided through a gift from Emily Howard Bourne as a memorial to her father Jonathan Bourne, the town’s namesake. In the 1970s the need for a larger and more convenient library came under serious consideration by the town, and in 1984 the contents of the library were moved to the former Bourne Grammar School at nearby 19 Sandwich Road. Since 1986, the building has housed the town archives and historical documents, as well as administrative offices for the Bourne Historical Commission and Bourne Historical Society.

The Bourne Village School (29 Herring Pond Road) was designed in the Victorian Eclectic style by a local building committee made up of M. C. Waterhouse, F. O. Smith, and Seth Holway, and built by local carpenter Emory Ellis. Constructed in 1897 to replace an earlier school on the site, which had been completely destroyed by fire the year before, the building served as a school for grades 1-8 until its closing in 1925. The Bourne Village School was the last one-room schoolhouse built in Bourne, and is one of few remaining examples of the type, which had been constructed in substantial numbers throughout the area during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The former school is still owned by the town and houses the Bourne Civic Association, which formed ca. 1925 to focus on neighborhood beautification efforts and other civic improvements and has continuously maintained and used the Bourne Village School since that time.

The Bourne High School (85 Cotuit Road), also known as the Kempton J. Coady Jr. High School, was built in 1905 and designed in the Colonial Revival style by the firm Parker and Thomas. The building was erected as the town’s first separate public high school; following the construction of a new high school in 1961, the building served as a public junior high school until 1991. In 1934 the town constructed a gymnasium addition designed by S. W. Haynes Associates, who at that time also designed the reconstruction of the second story, which had been damaged by fire. The building is significant as

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one of the first schools on Cape Cod to reflect the modern public education trend of moving away from the district system and toward school consolidation. Since 1992 the building has been leased to the Waldorf School of Cape Cod, a private educational institution.

The Bourne Town Hall (24 Perry Avenue) is located in the village of Buzzards Bay, historically the commercial center of the town. The building was constructed in 1914 as Bourne's first town hall, and has served as such since that date. Designed by Boston architect James Purdon, the town hall is an exceptional local example of Classical Revival architecture, consisting of a two-story, hipped-roof, rectangular main block flanked by two one-story wings, which were added in 1937. The town hall features classical ornamentation, including brick pilasters and round-arched windows set beneath keystones. Also contributing to the property's significance are the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument, a cylindrical granite Civil War monument erected directly in front of the building in 1914; a 1 ½-story, wood-frame garage with two sections, the earlier of which appears to have been constructed in 1937; and a World War I monument, consisting of a large boulder with a bronze plaque, added to the property in 1918. Veterans Park, a landscaped area of the grounds containing several later war monuments, was created ca. 1969

Bourne High School, Bourne Town Hall, Bournedale Village School, and Jonathan Bourne Public Library are four 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](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)).

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