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**MACY-COLBY HOUSE, AMESBURY, 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 Macy-Colby House in Amesbury for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at its March 12, 2008 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 this property on the National Register will help to protect our heritage for generations to come.”

The ca. 1745 Macy-Colby House, located near Amesbury’s commercial downtown area, is a salt-box-form Colonial house with many well-preserved architectural features done by skilled 18<sup>th</sup> century craftsmen. While the existing cellar of the house likely includes the remains of the ca. 1652 house of Thomas Macy, Amesbury’s first Town Clerk and a founder of the settlement on Nantucket, the house is historically significant primarily for its association with eight generations of the locally prominent Colby family. The Colby owners and occupants were yeoman farmers, town and colony magistrates, church deacons, and blacksmiths through the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and in the 19<sup>th</sup> century they included merchants, small farmers, and a sea captain, as well as the longtime editor of one of the most influential spiritualist journals in the United States, “The Banner of Light.” In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century the building took on added significance as a house museum managed by the Daughters of the Revolution, one of the lesser known heritage organizations formed during the late 19<sup>th</sup>-century antiquarian movement. Today, the house remains a museum, now run by The Friends of the Macy-Colby House.

The Macy-Colby House is one of 8 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 65,000 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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