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**BRIGGS CARRIAGE COMPANY, AMESBURY, APPROVED FOR
NOMINATION TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin is pleased to announce that the Massachusetts Historical Commission approved the Briggs Carriage Company in Amesbury for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at a recent 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 Briggs Carriage Company factory in the National Register will help preserve an important part of Amesbury’s industrial past, particularly its significance as a center for the production of transportation-related vehicles.”

The Briggs Carriage Company consists of two industrial buildings at 14 and 20 Cedar Street in Amesbury. Built in 1885 and 1890, respectively, they are the largest and only intact survivors of the company’s four major factory buildings. In addition, they are among the most intact industrial buildings in the city. Production at the Briggs Carriage Company paralleled the evolution of transportation vehicles in America, beginning in the mid 19th century with carriage making, transitioning to streetcar production and, eventually, to automobile body manufacturing.

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Serving as a tribute to Amesbury's industrial prosperity, the Classical Revival-style buildings also embody distinctive characteristics of late 19th-century American industrial architecture, as well-preserved examples of timber-frame, slow-burning construction. Their design followed guidelines that emerged after about 1860 in response to the development of heavy manufacturing machinery and efforts to limit loss due to fire.

The Briggs Carriage Company factory buildings embody the new standards in their use of brick exterior walls tied into heavy wood beams and columns. Other features include very shallow-pitched roofs with overhanging eaves, segmental-arched windows with double-hung sash, corbelled brick cornices, and multi-layered hardwood floors.

The Briggs Carriage Company is one of five 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 more than 75,000 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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