



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, 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 Union Congregational Church in Amesbury for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at its June 11, 2014, 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 Union Congregational Church in the National Register will help to preserve a building that has been treasured by neighborhood residents for nearly 180 years.”

The Union Congregational Church (350-354 Main Street) is a Greek Revival-style, 2 1/2-story building topped by a three-tier steeple. The church’s attached vestry was built in 1894, and a wing was added circa 1892, together with a small hyphen that connects the wing to the church. The building is situated at the junction of the Merrimack and Powow Rivers, in an area that was part of the neighboring town of Salisbury when the church was built and is known today as Salisbury Point or Point Shore.

Amesbury extended eastward by annexing sections of Salisbury in 1844 and 1866. An 1873 remodeling project included replacement of the original box pews with the current bench pews, as well as the addition of the elaborate tin ceiling. The church’s surviving George Holbrook bell, which weighs 1,043 pounds and was cast at the well-known Holbrook Foundry in East Medway, Massachusetts, was installed in the belfry in 1851. A group of passionate residents recently initiated preservation efforts that are currently underway.

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The Union Congregational Church 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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