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**SANDY POND SCHOOL IN AYER 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 Sandy Pond School, Ayer, Massachusetts, 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 Ayer’s Sandy Pond School in the National Register will help to raise awareness of this remarkable historic building.”

The Sandy Pond School is a modest one-room, Greek Revival-style schoolhouse, constructed in 1868, that retains a high level of integrity. The school sits at the intersection of Sandy Pond and Westford roads, east of Ayer Center, in what was originally part of the town of Groton.

The school was built of brick and includes a wood-frame ell addition, originally a freestanding shed, that was attached to the school building in 1912. The interior holds a single classroom that served children of all ages. It has seen little change over the years, with the interior retaining its basic configuration and layout.

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The Sandy Pond School is notable for its late construction date as a one-room, mixed-grade facility, and for its association with the district system of education in which each neighborhood in a community had its own school. Although it ceased functioning as a school in 1906, the Sandy Pond School continued its strong connection to the community. In 1908, the Sandy Pond Association was created, and made the preservation of the building its priority by means of continuing alumni reunions that were held until 1957. The Association still maintains the building as a museum in order to preserve and interpret the story of the school and its role in Ayer's history.

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](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)).

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