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Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**COLUMBIA ROAD – DEVON STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT, BOSTON,  
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 Columbia Road – Devon Street Historic District, in the Dorchester section of Boston, 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 Columbia Road-Devon Street district in the National Register will help to raise awareness of this historic area of Boston’s Dorchester neighborhood.”

The Columbia Road – Devon Street Historic district is a collection of eight apartment buildings at 193-231 and 200-204 Columbia Road, built between 1900-1910, that mirrored the development of Dorchester as an urban neighborhood. These buildings were constructed by speculative developers looking to capitalize on the improvements to public transit with the widening of a major boulevard to accommodate streetcar travel.

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Their construction coincided with the movement of Jewish immigrants into Dorchester, which retained its strong Jewish identity into the 1960s, when Dorchester's demographics changed to reflect a growing number of African-American and Hispanic residents.

The majority of the district's buildings were designed in the Colonial Revival style, and reflect a hopeful enthusiasm by an immigrant community for traditional American values. The recent rehabilitation efforts at the Mary Rubenstein Building, one of the district's apartments and located at 217-219 Columbia Road, have been done with the help of historic tax credits by the property owner, Cruz Development Corporation.

The Columbia Road – Devon Street district 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 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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