



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**GOVERNOR SHIRLEY SQUARE HISTORIC DISTRICT, BOSTON (ROXBURY), 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 Governor Shirley Square Historic District, located in the Roxbury neighborhood of Boston, for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at its March 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 Governor Shirley Square Historic District in the National Register will help to preserve a collection of historic buildings and structures that reflect Roxbury’s turn-of-the-century transformation from a rural farming community to a streetcar suburb of Boston.”

The Governor Shirley Square Historic District is located just southeast of Dudley Square in Roxbury’s Mount Pleasant neighborhood. Shirley Square, located at the intersection of Dudley Street, Hampden Street, and Blue Hill Avenue, serves as the neighborhood’s principal hub. Although the Governor Shirley Square area historically served as an important crossroads, beginning in the 17th century, the area remained sparsely developed, with only a few scattered farms, until 1833, when the 26-acre White farm was subdivided into 71 lots to create the Mount Pleasant residential subdivision.

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The neighborhood—with expanded streetcar lines allowing for easy transportation to downtown Boston—attracted upper middle-class merchants, professionals, and industrialists. Boston’s annexation of Roxbury in 1868, and the resulting improvement and expansion of municipal services in the area, further spurred residential development and population growth.

Today, the district includes Victorian-era municipal, residential, and institutional buildings. A cohesive collection of well-preserved, late 19th- and early 20th-century buildings, the district represents designs by ten Boston architects, including the well-known firms of William Pitt Wentworth, Nathaniel Bradlee, Frederick A. Norcross, and Edward P. Morse. The historic buildings, constructed between about 1870 and 1935, showcase a number of architectural styles including Italianate, Second Empire, Victorian Gothic, Panel Brick, Colonial Revival, Classical Revival, Craftsman, and Art Deco.

The Governor Shirley Square Historic District is one of six 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).

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