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Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**HOWARD HOME FOR AGED MEN, BROCKTON, 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 Howard Home for Aged Men, Brockton, Massachusetts, for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at its September 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 Brockton’s Howard Home in the National Register will help to raise awareness of this remarkable historic building.”

The former Howard Home for Aged Men is located on the Brockton Veterans Administration Medical Center campus on Belmont Street in the southwestern section of the city. The building was constructed in 1924 in the Georgian Revival style and was designed by Ralph P. Jackson. It is a fine example of this style from the early 20th century, and has seen little change over the years, with the interior retaining its basic configuration and layout.

When the Howard Home was constructed, it was located in what was then a rural section of the city, characterized by farmland. Buildings constructed for the VA Medical Center in the 1950s now surround the home. It was originally built as a self-sustaining residence under the provisions of the will of Horace Howard, a West Bridgewater farmer and former Brockton resident, who left funds for several causes, including \$185,000 for the erection of a home for aged men. Residents lived and ate in the house and worked on the adjacent farm. A live-in caretaker and cook saw to the immediate needs of the residents.

The Howard Home continued to serve as a home for elderly men until the late 1940s, when the property was acquired by the Veterans Administration. Since then, it has been used as a nurse's dormitory, a day care center, and a substance-abuse treatment facility. The Howard Home is currently undergoing renovation utilizing State and Federal Historic Tax Credits to serve as veterans housing. Significant features, including the entry portico, the entrance with sidelights and arched transom with leaded glass tracery, and the Palladian window will be retained, as will the interior floor plan, fireplace mantels, and trim.

The Howard Home 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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