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**NORTH TOWN HALL, CHELMSFORD, 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 recently approved North Town Hall in Chelmsford for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

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 Chelmsford’s North Town Hall in the National Register will help to raise awareness of this significant community resource, which has recently been carefully restored, ensuring that it will continue to serve the community in the future.”

North Town Hall is a 3 ½-story civic building and meeting hall in this former mill village of Chelmsford. North Town Hall occupies a prominent hilltop setting and fronts on the heavily-travelled Princeton Street/MA Route 4, which skirts the southern bank of the Merrimack River.

The wood-frame, Greek Revival-style town hall is clad in wooden clapboards and has an asphalt roof. Local masons and carpenters from Chelmsford and Lowell constructed the building in 1853.

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It was the first stand-alone town hall built in the town, when North Chelmsford became the only neighborhood outside the town center to successfully lobby for its own town hall. Even after a new town hall was built in 1879, town meetings were held at North Town Hall in alternate years until 1885, and the building served as a polling place until 1965.

The town significantly expanded the hall from a square, two-story building by lifting it and inserting a new ground floor in 1886. At this time the building was also extended in length and a small, two-story ell was added to the rear. The ground floor of the building contains offices to the rear and an open, central meeting room. The two-story main auditorium above contains a raised stage and dressing room, as well as a full-length rear gallery/balcony.

Throughout its history, the building also served as a community center for the neighborhood, hosting community meetings, social functions, local clubs, benefits, plays, lectures, family reunions, and dances. After three decades of vacancy, the building was carefully restored and updated in 2012, and once again serves the public as the North Chelmsford Community Center.

North Town Hall 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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*Local children at the North Town Hall, Chelmsford, in 2009, as part of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's "This Place Matters" campaign. The building has since undergone restoration and rehabilitation as a community center after three decades of vacancy.*