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Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**CHESHIRE TOWN HALL COMPLEX 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 Cheshire Town Hall Complex, Cheshire, 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 the Cheshire town hall complex in the National Register will help to raise awareness of this important property.”

The Cheshire Town Hall complex, located on a triangular parcel of land in the center of this Berkshire County community, is a cluster of three buildings and related monuments that together express economic vitality and civic optimism at the turn of the 20th century.

The combination Town Hall and Library was designed by architect Emory A. Ellsworth and was built in 1898. Ellsworth designed many buildings throughout western Massachusetts, including several on the campus of UMass, then the State Agricultural College. The Town Hall, a two-story brick and sandstone building, reflects elements of the Renaissance and Colonial Revival styles, and like many small towns, it serves several functions. Adjacent to the Town Hall on the triangular lawn are several examples of public art, including a 1914 fountain, war memorials, and a flagpole.

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The adjacent hipped-roof building was originally built as a trolley station and waiting room for the Berkshire Street Railway, and subsequently served as a post office in 1937. It is now used for town offices. The power house (1906) is a two-story facility that supplied electricity to the trolley line and is now used as the Cheshire Police Station and headquarters for the local historical commission.

The Town Hall Complex 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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