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Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**NASHAWANNUCK MILLS HISTORIC DISTRICT, EASTHAMPTON, APPROVED FOR
NOMINATION TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

Secretary of the Commonwealth William Francis Galvin is pleased to announce that the Massachusetts Historical Commission approved the Nashawannuck Mills Historic District in Easthampton for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at its September 10, 2014, 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 Nashawannuck Mills Historic District in the National Register will help to preserve this remarkably intact complex of mill buildings, which represents nearly a century of growth and development in Easthampton.”

The Nashawannuck Mills Historic District is a complex of 24 one- to five-story, red-brick mill buildings, constructed between 1850 and 1963 for the Nashawannuck Manufacturing Company and the Glendale Elastic Fabric Company, together the largest employers in Easthampton from the 1860s through the early 20th century. The Glendale Elastic Fabric Company buildings occupy the western half of the 4.41-acre complex, and the buildings historically associated with the Nashawannuck Manufacturing Company make up the eastern half of the property. Along with the mill buildings, most of which feature Italianate architectural features, the historic district includes four structures associated with mill operation: the eastern millrace, western millrace, dam, and a portion of Cottage Street immediately above the dam.

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Although Easthampton native Samuel Williston established both companies, they operated as separate entities and the complexes were not interconnected until the two companies merged in 1912, at which time the complexes were connected at Mill 3 (now known as Building 5). The company then operated under the Glendale Elastic Fabrics Company name until 1927, when it merged with several other elastic manufacturers as the United Elastic Corporation (UEC), a major producer of a variety of goods including suspenders, elastic webbing, shoe gorings, and other vulcanized rubber products. UEC moved all rubber thread production to its newly enlarged Southern Division in Virginia in 1966, marking the first time in more than 100 years that rubber thread was not produced in Easthampton.

The western portion of the complex has housed various smaller organizations, such as Riverside Industries, Inc., and the Cottage Street Studios, which provided space for artists and craftsmen for several decades. Riverside Industries—a nonprofit organization that works with individuals with disabilities—continues to operate, and has leased space to tenants such as the Warwick Press and other artisans. The Easthampton Dye Works, which occupied several of the buildings on the eastern half of the property beginning in the 1970s, closed its doors in the 1980s, leaving those buildings vacant. A proposed renovation of the eastern portion of the complex would adapt several of the buildings for use as affordable housing. The buildings currently owned and occupied by Riverside Industries will not be included in the scope of this work.

The Nashawannuck Mills Historic District is one of 8 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.

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The National Register is the nation's official listing of significant historic resources. In Massachusetts, there are over 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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