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**STONE’S BRIDGE, FRAMINGHAM AND WAYLAND, 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 Stone’s Bridge, spanning the Sudbury River between Framingham and Wayland, 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 bridge in the National Register will help to raise awareness of this remarkable historic structure.”

This east-west crossing of the Sudbury River is accessed by Old Stonebridge Road in Wayland, a dead-end road that branches off of the present-day Stonebridge Road. The Sudbury River forms the boundary between Wayland and Framingham. Stone’s Bridge is on the 14.9-mile segment of the river that was designated a Wild and Scenic River in accordance with the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968.

The bridge is constructed entirely of dry-laid stones without the use of mortar, and consists of four barrel-vault arch spans. It is currently accessible only from the Wayland side of the river, thanks to the 1957 excavation of the shoreline to allow the river to pass around the Framingham end of the bridge.

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The name of the bridge is derived from its association with the Stone family, who lived in the area from the late 17th to the 20th centuries. Its name is not related to the building material used on the bridge. It is significant both for its construction method and for its associations with the historical development of Framingham and Wayland.

Built around 1858 to replace wooden structures that dated back to the 1600s, Stone's Bridge is located at a river crossing that was used by Revolutionary War soldiers, and was noted in Henry David Thoreau's writings. During the Revolution, British spies crossed a bridge at this site while planning routes to march regulars into the country. When transferring cannons from Fort Ticonderoga to General George Washington in Cambridge in the winter of 1775-1776, General Henry Knox and his team of oxen passed over a wooden bridge at this crossing. A commemorative marker of this event has been installed at the east end of the bridge.

After flood damage caused by Hurricane Diane in 1955, the river was rerouted, and a new crossing constructed upstream. At this time the bridge was truncated, ending in the middle of the river. It has been used as a fishing and passive recreation location ever since. Its 1957 stabilization with a stone-faced abutment exhibits the importance of monuments to the past when it would have been so easy to simply demolish the bridge that no longer carried traffic across the Sudbury River.

Stone's Bridge 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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