



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**CLINTON AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH, GREAT BARRINGTON,
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 Clinton A.M.E Zion Church in Great Barrington for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at its March 12, 2008 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 architectural, cultural, archaeological, and historic resources,” Secretary Galvin said. “Inclusion of this property on the National Register will help to protect our heritage for generations to come.”

The Clinton A.M.E. Zion Church is located on the west side of Elm Court in the downtown section of Great Barrington. It is historically and architecturally significant for its association with the religious and cultural heritage of African Americans in Berkshire County and as a distinctive example of late-19th-century vernacular church architecture in the region. Though it was not the first African-American church to be built in Berkshire County, the Shingle Style Clinton A.M.E. Zion Church, which opened its doors in 1886, has been the most enduring of all black churches in Berkshire County. Associated with post-Civil War migrants from the South and the large northern-born kin network of which W.E.B. Du Bois, a Great Barrington native, was part, Clinton A.M.E. Zion Church managed to sustain itself amid an always small African American population. As is true of many African American churches in the North, this church served not only as a religious center but also as a cultural, political, and charitable institution for local African Americans.

The Clinton A.M.E. Zion Church 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.

The National Register is the nation’s official listing of significant historic resources. In Massachusetts, there are over 65,000 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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