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**SARGENT-ROBINSON HOUSE, GLOUCESTER, 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 Sargent-Robinson House in Gloucester for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at a recent 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 Sargent-Robinson House in the National Register will help to preserve a rare surviving example of an iconic, 18<sup>th</sup>-century, regional building type of the Cape Ann area.”

The Sargent-Robinson House, 972 and 974 Washington Street, is one of the best existing examples of an 18<sup>th</sup>-century regional building type, known as the “Cape Ann cottage,” which typically presents as a 1 ½-story, gambrel-roofed house. Jonathan Sargent, the third-generation owner of the property, built the Sargent-Robinson House around 1760, on part of the 1695 land grant from the town of Gloucester to his grandfather, Samuel Sargent.

Samuel’s homestead farm was the earliest in the area, and the foundation of his First Period house appears to be extant, incorporated into the cellar of the Sargent-Robinson House. As Jonathan Sargent and his second wife grew older, the building clearly functioned as a two-family house, with two newer bake ovens, one in each first-story room.

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The two-family function continued for at least two generations more, as the building was shared until 1864 by the households of an older generation in one part, and a younger, growing family in the larger northeast end. The house was owned by six generations of one connected family—who made only minor changes—until 1969, when it was bought by the parents of the present owner, who undertook a careful restoration of the chimneystack and the 18<sup>th</sup>-century finishes. The 1969 rehabilitation included masonry work, uncovering two fireplaces, and restoration of the original bake oven in one of the fireplaces.

The Sargent-Robinson House 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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