William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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RICHARD PINKHAM HOUSE, MEDFORD, APPROVED FOR NOMINATION TO THE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth, announced that the Massachusetts
Historical Commission approved the Richard Pinkham House in Medford for nomination to the National
Register of Historic Places at its September 12, 2007 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 archaeological, architectural, cultural, 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 Richard Pinkham House in Medford Massachusetts was built between 1850 and 1855.
Richard Pinkham was a local housewright, and for his own home, he built a house blending several mid
19th-century styles: Greek Revival, Italianate, and the Octagonal Mode. Victorian homes evidencing all
three styles are virtually unknown, and the Richard Pinkham House is distinctive in this respect in the
Boston area. The Pinkham House’s integration of the octagonal mode is unique in Medford. The Pinkham
House first appears on the 1855 map of the City of Medford indicating that it was constructed before that
date. Richard G. Pinkham purchased the land in 1850, constructed the house (presumably) soon thereafter
and occupied it until at least 1905. The Pinkham House was recently rehabilitated following the Secretary
of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation.

The Richard Pinkham House is one of 10 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 cultural 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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