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**EUSTIS ESTATE HISTORIC DISTRICT, MILTON, 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 recently approved the Eustis Estate in Milton for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. 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 Eustis Estate Historic District in Milton in the National Register will help to preserve a distinct collection of important buildings set within an equally important designed pastoral landscape.”

The Eustis Estate Historic District encompasses the late 19th-century W.E.C. Eustis House and surrounding estate, including a gatehouse and barn, the later Frederic A. Eustis House and its associated garages, and the C. Vincent Vappi house, constructed around 1950. Prominent architect William Ralph Emerson designed the estate’s principal house, which displays qualities of the Richardsonian Romanesque and Queen Anne styles, for notable Boston businessman William Ellery Channing Eustis.

Owner of the Eustis Mining Company of Boston, W.E.C. Eustis developed the land within the district as his permanent residence beginning in 1878 and maintained ties to both city and country throughout his productive career.

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Eustis's development of the estate illustrates the late 19th-century trend of wealthy individuals seeking the benefits of a rural lifestyle by establishing opulent residences in naturalistic settings while commuting to work in nearby cities. This trend gained favor among the wealthy in response to the Industrial Revolution, and served as an undercurrent in the early evolution of suburbs in the United States.

In keeping with this pursuit of pastoral, park-like residential landscapes, the Eustis Estate is significant for its association with prominent landscape architect Ernest Bowditch. Beginning in 1879, Bowditch, working with his brother James Bowditch and with W.E.C. Eustis, designed the property as a series of formal and informal vistas.

Eustis himself was an amateur architect, and is credited with the design of the estate's 1892 gatehouse and 1896 barn, both of which still stand on the property. Frederic A. Eustis, son of W.E.C. Eustis and Edith Hemenway Eustis, acquired former Hemenway-family land nearby in 1909, and moved a three-story, Colonial Revival-style house to the site from Hyde Park a year later.

The Frederic Eustis house has an attached, three-bay garage on its north side and a detached one-bay garage, both constructed shortly after the move. In 1932, Frederic inherited much of the Eustis Estate's land, including agricultural fields, while his twin brother, Augustus Hemenway Eustis, inherited the Eustis House and gatehouse.

Around this time, Frederic began leasing the agricultural lands and subdividing parcels for sale, including a 2.3-acre lot purchased by local builder C. Vincent Vappi. Around 1950, Vappi designed and constructed an L-shaped, Ranch-style house on the lot, which is included in the Eustis Estate Historic District.

In addition to the previously mentioned buildings, the Eustis Estate Historic District also includes a ca. 1900 rubblestone potting shed and a ca. 1930, wood-frame equipment shed.

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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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