



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

Contacts: Brian McNiff
(617) 727-9180

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**EAST ROCHESTER CHURCH AND CEMETERY APPROVED FOR NOMINATION TO THE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth, is pleased to announce that the Massachusetts Historical Commission approved the East Rochester Church and Cemetery 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 East Rochester Church and Cemetery in Rochester have been the symbolic public center for a linear rural neighborhood since 1828, when the cemetery was established. Erected in 1857, this wood-frame Greek Revival church building has been known, variously, as the Methodist Protestant Church, Pierceville Meeting House, and, since 1892, East Rochester Congregational Church.

The East Rochester Church and Cemetery 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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