



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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SOUTH SCHOOL, SHUTESBURY, 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 South School in Shutesbury 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 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 South School is one of two surviving one-room schoolhouses in Shutesbury. While it is no longer in use as a public school, it is a good example of a vernacular one-room, wooden, district schoolhouse that stands on its original site and retains its original side-gable form, and its original entry on the building’s long wall. Intact side-gabled, one-room district schoolhouses are relatively rare survivals in Massachusetts. The simple trim, windows set at the cornice line, and side gable form place the building into the vernacular Federal style that was typical of modest residences and schoolhouses during the first three decades of the 19th century. The school served the children of Shutesbury farmers, sawmill owners, and furniture makers for approximately 100 years, and was then sold into private hands.

The South School 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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