



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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NORTH STREET FIRE STATION, SALEM, APPROVED FOR NOMINATION TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Secretary of the Commonwealth William Francis Galvin is pleased to announce that the Massachusetts Historical Commission approved the North Street Fire Station in Salem for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at its December 12, 2012, 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 North Street Fire Station will help to preserve a significant institutional building that continues to serve and enrich its community.”

The North Street Fire Station, 142 North Street, is a Queen Anne-style, two-story brick structure located in a primarily residential neighborhood. The well-preserved building retains much of its original fabric, including exterior decorative brickwork, the original bell, and a vertical-board double door that once accommodated horses. Constructed in 1881, the fire station is significant as a rare example of late 19th-century civic architecture in Salem and as the city’s oldest fire station still serving its original purpose. The fire station was constructed to replace an earlier, wood-frame building on the site, illustrating the growing sophistication of the local fire department as well as the continued development of North Salem as a suburban neighborhood during this period. Local architect William D. Dennis designed the fire station. In the late 19th century, Dennis was Salem’s leading architect—for nearly his entire career, which spanned more than thirty years, he was the only regular professional architect who kept an office in the city. For much of its history the North Street Fire Station not only served as a headquarters for firefighters, but also as a civic center for residents of Ward 6, incorporating a ward room used for voting until very recently. The building also served as a site for community gatherings, including an annual Fourth of July open house. The building has seen few alterations over the years and Engine 2 still responds to emergencies from this station today, more than 125 years after its construction.

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State House, Room 337, Boston, Massachusetts 02133

The North Street Fire Station is one of 6 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 over 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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