



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**HOOKER APARTMENTS (BORINQUEN APARTMENTS), SPRINGFIELD, 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 Hooker Apartments, now known as the Borinquen Apartments, in Springfield for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at its June 12, 2013, 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. “The recent rehabilitation of the Hooker Apartments has preserved a building with links to Springfield’s vibrant immigrant history while providing much-needed affordable housing in the city, and inclusion of the building in the National Register will help to further protect it.”

The Hooker Apartments, located on the southwest corner of Main Street and Greenwich Street in Springfield’s North End, is an outstanding example of the high-end multifamily structures developed in the city’s urban neighborhoods during the early 20th century. The yellow-brick building’s graceful bow front and classical doorways reflect the Classical Revival style, while heavy brown sandstone trim and arched windows reflect a Romanesque Revival influence.

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Local developers William H. Dexter and Joseph Angers constructed the twenty three-unit building in 1908, using designs by Springfield carpenter and architect Arsidas “Albert” Ostiguy. The mid- to late 19th century brought a number of new ethnic groups to Springfield, and the owners and tenants of the Hooker Apartments over time reflect Springfield’s ethnic heritage, with first- and second-generation immigrants occupying the apartments throughout its history. The building’s tenants in the 20th century represented Springfield’s ethnic mix of Yankee, Irish, French Canadian, Russian and European Jews, Italian, Greek, Polish, Portuguese, and Latino residents.

In the 1950s, a survey of residential properties in the North End found that more than half the structures were “substandard,” resulting in the replacement of many structures with new buildings. In spite of urban renewal’s promises of a revitalized city, by the 1970s neglect, vandalism, and arson had caused serious damage to many urban neighborhoods, including the North End.

The Hooker Apartments stands out in a streetscape that has lost many of its historic buildings to urban renewal. Although some of the interior features were modified in earlier renovations and a portion of the structure was damaged by fire in 2004, the four-story, L-shaped building has retained its historic appearance. In 2010, the Hooker Apartments underwent a complete rehabilitation into low- and moderate-income rental apartments using state and federal tax credits, and is now known as the Borinquen Apartments.

The Hooker Apartments is one of 5 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.

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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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