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**FOUR APARTMENT BUILDINGS IN SPRINGFIELD 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 Adams, Evans Court, Ivernia, and Hancock apartment buildings in Springfield for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

The nominations 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 these four apartment buildings in the National Register will help to preserve an important part of Springfield’s early 20th-century heritage.”

The four nominated buildings are the Adams Apartments and Evans Court Apartments in Springfield’s South End neighborhood, the Ivernia Apartments in the Six Corners neighborhood, and the Hancock Apartments in the Old Hill neighborhood.

The Classical Revival-style buildings all reflect development patterns in early 20th-century Springfield, which were influenced by the adoption of a building code, the city’s expansion of the streetcar system, and a significant population rise due to employment opportunities in local industries and increased immigration.

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By the end of the 19th century, Springfield was home to more than 500 manufacturing companies, producing items such as railroad cars, lawnmowers, and textiles, and representing ten percent of the overall production for the state. The population of the city reached 102,971 by 1915. Immigrants made up about one-quarter of the population—most were from Ireland, but many others were French Canadian, Italian, or Eastern Europeans of Jewish heritage.

The Adams, Evans Court, Ivernia, and Hancock apartments not only housed a variety of immigrants, but were also developed and constructed by immigrant groups: Adams, Evans Court, and Ivernia by a small but prolific group of French Canadian immigrants working in the building trades, and the Hancock Apartments by Eastern European Jewish immigrants.

Evans Court, one of the first apartment blocks constructed in the South End neighborhood, was built in 1910 and designed by J. A. Angers & Brother. The firm of Gagnier and Angers designed the Ivernia Apartments, also constructed in 1910, for carpenter Joseph Gaudette. Founded by French Canadian immigrants, Gagnier and Angers developed more than 830 buildings in Springfield, and also designed the Adams building, constructed in 1912 for French Canadian immigrant Anatole Payette.

Also constructed in 1912, the Hancock Apartments were designed by B. Edward Geckler and built by mason Oscar Jurist as an investment property for Tessie Schaffer & Company, a group of newly arrived Eastern European Jewish immigrants. In 2011, the Adams and Evans Court apartment buildings suffered significant tornado damage to their roofs, windows, and interiors. In 2014, all four buildings underwent rehabilitation utilizing state and federal historic rehabilitation tax credits.

Together, the apartment buildings make up four of the five historic resources 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 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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