



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL PARISH HISTORIC DISTRICT, TRURO, 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 First Congregational Parish Historic District in Truro for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at its December 11, 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. “Inclusion of the First Congregational Parish Historic District in the National Register recognizes the significance of these intact resources for the town.”

The First Congregational Parish District contains three resources: the First Congregational Church, the Congregational Cemetery, and Snow Cemetery. Together, they represent the most-intact concentration of 19th-century civic and religious institutions in Truro. The First Congregational Church, built in 1827, was the town’s third meetinghouse and is the oldest surviving church in the town. It is an excellent example of an early 19th-century Federal/Greek Revival-style institutional building. The Congregational Cemetery, which surrounds the church, is an integral part of the church’s setting and contains grave markers and monuments associated with significant 19th-century individuals, particularly those associated with maritime activities. Snow Cemetery, located immediately south of the Congregational Cemetery, is significant as the town’s only cemetery that was not started in association with a church, having started as a family burying ground in the early 1800s. It was later opened to the public in the 1930s.

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State House, Room 337, Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Snow Cemetery has an association with prominent 19th-century Truro families as well as the 20th-century development of the Outer Cape artist community. Among those buried in Snow Cemetery are Charles Hawthorne, founder of the Cape Cod School of Art, writer Katherine Dos Passos, and artist and teacher Hans Hoffman.

The First Congregational Parish Historic District is one of 10 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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