



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

Contact: Brian McNiff
Telephone: 617-727-9180

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**UPTON STATE FOREST – CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS RESOURCES HISTORIC
DISTRICT, UPTON, 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 Upton State Forest – Civilian Conservation Corps Resources Historic District in Upton 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 Upton State Forest’s CCC-built resources in the National Register will help to protect a remarkable survivor of an important period in our nation’s history.”

The Upton State Forest was established in 1935 as part of the Massachusetts state forest and park system. The town of Upton lies in Worcester County, about 15 miles southeast of the city of Worcester. Between 1935 and 1938, the Civilian Conservation Corps made improvements at Upton State Forest. The Civilian Conservation Corps, also known as the CCC, was a federal program established during the Depression to provide employment opportunities for young men and to improve the nation’s forests and recreational resources. The CCC was active in Massachusetts from 1933 to 1941, and at its peak, there were 51 camps in the state, enrolling some 10,000 men. Upton’s CCC Camp is the only extant camp in Massachusetts, and one of the few surviving examples of this type in New England.

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State House, Room 337, Boston, Massachusetts 02133

This nomination includes two contiguous areas, a total of 89 acres, out of the 2,660-acre state forest: the CCC camp area and the Park Loop Road area. Characterized by a rustic style and use of local materials, the camp area was organized like a military camp, with a parade ground, headquarters building, barracks, and infirmary. While the barracks are gone, the other buildings and the parade ground remain to give a sense of the camp. The Park Loop Road was a recreational road built by the CCC with scenic overlooks and picnic areas; it passes a rustic dam, also CCC built, that created a lake for swimming and fishing, and several water holes created by the CCC as storage areas used for firefighting.

The Upton State Forest – Civilian Conservation Corps Resources 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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