



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

Contact: Brian McNiff
Telephone: 617-727-9180

December 14, 2007

WESTFORD TOWN FARM 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 Westford Town Farm for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at its December 12, 2007 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 architectural, cultural, archaeological, and historic resources,” Secretary Galvin said. “Inclusion of this property on the National Register will help protect our heritage for generations to come.”

The Westford Town Farm, a Federal-Greek Revival-style building erected in 1837 and enlarged ca. 1840 and ca. 1900, is located in a rural area with fields, open land, and the former Boston and Maine Railroad right of way to the south. Social reformer Dorothea L. Dix visited the Westford Town Farm in the early 1840s as part of her research across the Commonwealth on the treatment and living conditions of the mentally ill held in public institutions. The Westford Town Farm was used as a home for the town’s poor and indigent residents until 1959, which is later than most others in the state. It is a prime example of the town’s social safety net during the 19th and 20th centuries.

The Westford Town Farm 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 65,000 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).

-End-