



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

Contact: Brian McNiff
Telephone: 617-727-9180

January 12, 2016

**UNION STATION, WALPOLE, 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 approved Union Station in Walpole for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at a recent 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 Walpole’s Union Station in the National Register will help to preserve an unusual late 19th-century building, constructed to serve two railroad lines at their crossing, which has survived more than seven decades and the transition from use first for long-distance travel, then as a branch line, and finally for Boston-based commuter rail service.”

Union Station, 275 West Street, is located at the crossing of two railroad lines in a mixed-use area at the southwest edge of Walpole Center. The wood-framed building, constructed in 1893, occupies the foundation of an earlier station that had burned earlier that year; at the time, the adjacent railroads were operated by the New York & New England Railroad on the east-west route, and by the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad on the north-south route. The building’s Victorian Eclectic design was likely inspired by prominent architect Henry Hobson Richardson’s stone railroad stations, which makes it one of very few passenger stations surviving in Massachusetts that reflect this late 19th-century Richardsonian sensibility rendered in wood rather than masonry.

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State House, Room 337, Boston, Massachusetts 02133

The interior retains most of the original spaces associated with its use as a passenger station, including a large waiting room, restrooms at their original locations, and former ticket and baggage handling rooms. By the turn of the 20th century, the station no longer served more than one railroad company, with both lines operated by the New Haven Railroad, as the Midland Division on the east-west route, and as the Old Colony Division on the north-south route.

Sometime after passenger service ended on the north-south line in 1933, the station's south wing was partitioned into a long hallway and office storage space, currently occupied by Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) employees. The MBTA owns both Union Station and the adjacent east-west Boston commuter rail line, terminating at Franklin/Forge Park.

Union Station is one of six 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 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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