



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**HIGHLAND SCHOOL, WINTHROP, 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 Highland School in Winthrop 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 Highland School in the National Register will help to preserve an architecturally and historically significant building that served the town as a public elementary school for more than 80 years.”

The Highland School (36 Grovers Avenue), now known as the Arthur W. Dalrymple School, is located in the Winthrop Highlands neighborhood at the northeast corner of town. Construction of the school began in 1920, after a fire on January 17, 1920, destroyed the first Highland School, which had been located nearby on Almont Street. The brick, concrete, and cast-stone building is a good example of a 1920s municipal school that combines the Classical Revival style with Patterned Brick architectural details, which were popular during this era.

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The Highland School has four parts, which are all connected and comprise one building: the main block, the auditorium, and the boiler room, all completed in 1921, and the north addition constructed in 1929. The two-story main block contains classrooms and offices; both the auditorium and the boiler room are one story in height. Coleman Brothers of Boston and Chelsea, Massachusetts, constructed the building, which is also significant as an intact example of the work of Willard M. Bacon, a Boston-based architect and Winthrop resident. Bacon designed most of Winthrop's turn of the 20th-century municipal buildings, as well as upper-middle-class residences in Winthrop, Boston (Dorchester), Cambridge, and throughout the Boston area.

The school initially served 290 students. But as Winthrop developed from a summer community to a suburb of Boston, population increases led to overcrowding in the town's schools, necessitating the Highland School's 1929 north addition of six rooms. In the 1930s, the school was substantially renovated and redecorated with Economic Recovery Act and Works Progress Administration (WPA) funds. By 1990, the building had been renamed after retired School Superintendent Arthur W. Dalrymple. In 2011, the East Boston Community Development Corporation purchased the building, which is currently vacant, from the town. The corporation plans to rehabilitate the building for use as twenty-seven affordable apartments for seniors. The assembly hall will remain as common space in the building, and will be available to the community to use as a meeting space through arrangement with the owner.

The Highland School 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.

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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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