



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

Contact: Brian McNiff
Telephone: 617-727-9180

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**WORCESTER STATE HOSPITAL FARMHOUSE 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 has approved the Worcester State Hospital Farmhouse, 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. “The Worcester State Hospital Farmhouse is an important building well worth recognizing in the National Register.”

The farmhouse at the Worcester State Hospital was born out of a need for the hospital to be self-sufficient, as well as to provide therapeutic activity for its patients. Designed by the Worcester architectural firm of Fuller & Delano, the red-brick farmhouse is an example of the Georgian Revival style, with decorative brickwork, Tuscan-style posts, and featuring a large verandah and a two-story turreted bay window.

Worcester State Hospital was established at this location in 1877, and by the 1890s, more than 900 patients were housed on the campus. The hospital’s own farm provided produce and meat. Superintendent John Park proposed that a separate facility be constructed for patient agricultural laborers, whose care and treatment could benefit from a working environment.

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The farmhouse was constructed in 1895 and used by patients for almost 60 years. Keeping patients engaged with activities and an established routine would assist in their recovery. The farm continued in operation until 1969, despite declining enrollment; patient housing in the farmhouse ended in the 1950s, after which the building was renovated for use as staff dormitories.

Similar farmhouses were also constructed at other Massachusetts state hospitals, including Medfield, Danvers, and Westborough.

In the 1980s, the building was converted to medical office space. A tax-advantaged rehabilitation completed in 2014 has preserved the farmhouse's historic features, including its impressive veranda.

The Worcester State Hospital Farmhouse is one of five 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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