



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**GENERAL JOHN & MARY FELLOWS FARMSTEAD IN SHEFFIELD 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 General John and Mary Fellows Farmstead in Sheffield for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at its June 13, 2018 meeting. The nomination will now 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 Fellows Farmstead in the National Register will help to raise the profile of this historically significant farmhouse in Sheffield.”

The Fellows Farmstead is one of nine historic resources around the Commonwealth approved for nomination to the National Register 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 General John and Mary Fellows Farmstead dates to the 1760s and is an early surviving house in the southern Berkshires. Its first owners, John and Mary Fellows, were prominent local figures: John served as a delegate to the First and Second Continental Congresses and was an officer in the Revolutionary War, ending his service as a brigadier-general. His wife Mary was the daughter of Colonel John Ashley, a prominent citizen who led the local militia during the French and Indian War and whose house, now owned by the Trustees of Reservations, is the oldest in Sheffield and was listed in the National Register in 1975.

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State House, Room 337, Boston, Massachusetts 02133

The Fellows Farmstead was purchased by the Ward family in 1814 and has been owned by descendants ever since. It is a well-preserved Georgian house on substantial acreage, much of which is preserved.

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. More information about the Commission's programs may be found at www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc.

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