



NEWS

William Francis Galvin
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GEORGE CLOSE COMPANY BUILDING IN CAMBRIDGE APPROVED FOR NOMINATION TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin has announced that the Massachusetts Historical Commission approved the George Close Company Building in Cambridge for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at its December 12, 2018 meeting. The nomination will now be submitted to the National Register of Historic Places at the National Park Service in Washington, D.C., for final consideration and designation.

“The Massachusetts Historical Commission is dedicated to preserving the Commonwealth’s rich historic, architectural, archaeological, and cultural resources,” Galvin said. “Inclusion of the George Close Company Building in the National Register is an important addition for Massachusetts, as it is a significant former manufacturing facility that converted into housing. The latest rehabilitation, supported through state historic rehabilitation tax credits, provides much-needed affordable housing in Cambridge.”

The building is one of six 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 George Close Company Building was built as a candy-manufacturing facility in 1910 and was part of the growth of candy production in Cambridge, which reached its peak in the 1920s. It is a notable work of Classical Revival architecture by the firm Densmore and LeClear. The George Close Company, which closed in 1939, was known for penny candy and baseball cards. From 1941 to 1971, the building housed Macalaster Bicknell Company, producer of specialized laboratory supplies. The building was slated



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for demolition in 1971, but was saved by a neighborhood group and converted into apartments. It is now undergoing rehabilitation.

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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