



NEWS

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ROXBURY'S HUMBOLDT AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT 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 Humboldt Avenue Historic District in the Boston neighborhood of Roxbury for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at a recent meeting. The nomination will now be submitted to the National Register of Historic Places at the National Park Service 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. “Despite its small size, Humboldt Avenue Historic District is an important reminder of the early 20th-century urbanization of Roxbury as transportation advances made the area increasingly desirable and accessible to downtown Boston.”

The district is one of four nominations for resources around the Commonwealth approved for nomination to the National Register by the Massachusetts Historical Commission at this meeting. Secretary Galvin serves as Chair of the 17-member board, which meets regularly and considers historic resources eligible for the National Register four times a year.

Humboldt Avenue Historic District consists of five apartment buildings dating to the 1910s and 1920s constructed by speculative developers capitalizing on the increasing urbanization of this neighborhood as the Jewish population migrated out of downtown Boston. By the middle decades of the 20th century, the neighborhood and the occupants of the buildings in the district were predominantly African-American.

As part of this transition from the 1950s to the 1970s, many formerly Jewish institutional buildings in Roxbury were sold to Black churches and cultural institutions, and continued to serve as community anchors for the new residents of the neighborhood. Among them was the Berea Seventh Day Adventist Church located in the former Young



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Men's Hebrew Association building at the end of Humboldt Avenue near Seaver Street, just outside the district.

One of the five buildings, the Frederick O. Marshall Apartments at 249 Humboldt Avenue, recently underwent rehabilitation for continued use as affordable housing using state and federal historic rehabilitation tax credits.

The National Register is the nation's official listing of significant historic resources. In Massachusetts, there are more than 75,000 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. Additional information about the Commission's programs is available at www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc.

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