



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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EGLESTON SUBSTATION, BOSTON, 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 Egleston Substation in Boston for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at its September 8, 2010, 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 architectural, cultural, archaeological, and historic resources,” Secretary Galvin said. “Inclusion of the Egleston Substation in the National Register will help to protect this excellent example of rapid transportation history and architecture.”

Egleston Substation, 3025 Washington Street in Roxbury, was constructed in 1909 in the Italian Renaissance Revival Style. Prominent features of the building are its compound round arches at the north and south elevations, which frame tall round-arched windows in the upper sections and entrance doors below. Other visible original features include the steel structure of I-beams and H-columns, glazed buff brick on the exterior walls at the north and south vestibules, and an original rolling crane used to move rotary converters and other heavy equipment. The Boston Elevated Railway Company (BERY), predecessor of the MBTA, built the substation to convert alternating current (AC) to direct current (DC) electricity, for use by its street railway and elevated cars. The Egleston substation was the first in a series of substations designed by a team composed of Robert S. Peabody (Peabody & Stearns), Stone & Webster Engineering Corporation, and BERY architect Frederic F. Low. Built as an experiment in converting AC to DC power for transit use, and operating from 1909 to 1987, Egleston Substation was among the oldest operating transit substations in the United States and played an integral role in the history of Boston’s public transit. In the spring of 2008, the building was rehabilitated by Boston Neighborhood Network Television, a public access media arts center, as its television studios and offices.

The Egleston Substation is one of 8 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.

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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