



NEWS

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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN SOUTH HADLEY 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 First Congregational Church of South Hadley for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at its March 13, 2019 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. “The First Congregational Church is one of the more visible buildings in South Hadley Center and an interesting example of Romanesque Revival architecture.”

The First Congregational Church is one of six historic resources around the Commonwealth approved for nomination to the National Register by the Massachusetts Historical Commission at this meeting. Galvin serves as chair of the 17-member board, which meets regularly and considers historic resources eligible for the National Register four times per year.

The First Congregational Church, the fifth meetinghouse in South Hadley Center constructed since 1733, was completed in 1895 to the designs of Henry J. Preston, a Boston-based architect born in South Hadley. The building remains substantially as built at the end of the 19th century, with a few later additions extending off the back that do not compete with the original building. The church houses the Bible of Mary Lyon, founder of Mount Holyoke College across the street.

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.



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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 may be found at www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc.

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