



NEWS

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ASCENSION-CAPRONI HISTORIC DISTRICT IN BOSTON APPROVED FOR NOMINATION TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin has announced that the Massachusetts Historical Commission has approved the Ascension-Caproni Historic District in the Boston neighborhood of Lower Roxbury for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. 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. “The Ascension-Caproni Historic District in Lower Roxbury contains an eclectic mix of historic buildings, some of which have been rehabilitated with the help of historic tax credits. Its listing in the National Register documents its importance for posterity.”

The Ascension-Caproni Historic District is one of six historic places around the Commonwealth approved for nomination to the National Register by the Massachusetts Historical Commission at a recent 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 per year.

The Ascension-Caproni Historic District in Lower Roxbury is comprised of institutional, religious, and commercial buildings built between 1859 and 1930. Included in the district are buildings that were once part of the Pietro P. Caponi and Brother Casting Company, an international leader in high-quality plaster casts between 1892 and 1952, supplying replicas of Classical, Renaissance, Gothic, and Modern sculptures to museums, institutions, and private individuals. A number of casts by this company survive in niches in Boston’s Symphony Hall.

Two other notable buildings in the district are the Church of the Ascension and the Emmanuel Memorial House. The former was originally constructed as a mission



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chapel for the Emmanuel Church on Newbury Street in Boston; the latter served as a settlement house, a social-service center for the neighborhood, and is now an apartment building.

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 on Galvin's website at www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc.

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