



NEWS

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July 9, 2019

BEVERLY POWDER HOUSE 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 Beverly Powder House 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 Beverly Powder House is a remarkable little building, a rare surviving early 19th-century powder house, and the only example of municipal Federal-period construction remaining in the city. Its listing in the National Register documents its significance for posterity.”

Beverly Powder House is one of six historic resources 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.

Built in 1809 for use by Beverly’s militia, it is the only octagonal powder house surviving in New England. Its only use in wartime was during the War of 1812. Put out of service in 1840 when the Massachusetts Militia reorganized as the much smaller Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, the building was maintained by volunteers and the city despite the residential development of the land around it in the later 19th and 20th centuries. In recent years, the City of Beverly has committed to its preservation and restoration, and the National Register nomination is part of that process.

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



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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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