



NEWS

William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

State House, Room 337
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Contact: Debra O'Malley
Telephone: 617-727-9180

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OAKHAM CENTER 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 village center of Oakham 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. “Oakham Center still conveys the feeling of a rural 19th-century New England village, and its listing in the National Register reinforces its importance as the town’s core.”

Oakham Center 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.

Oakham, sparsely settled in the 18th century, developed a distinctive town center in the early 19th century as the population rose. The locus of commercial and institutional activity in the town, Oakham Center retains a significant number of 19th-century buildings dating to its original period of expansion and prosperity, and remains the cultural and institutional center of town. With few buildings dating after the 19th century, the center is a substantially intact New England village center in a still predominantly rural community.

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. 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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