



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

Contact: Deb O'Malley
Telephone: (617) 878-3135

September 24, 2019

**JEWETT PIANO COMPANY BUILDING 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 Jewett Piano Company Building in Leominster for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at its September 11, 2019 meeting. 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 Jewett Piano Company Building is one of the few piano factory buildings surviving in Leominster, once a center of piano manufacturing. With the assistance of historic rehabilitation tax credits, this building has been converted into housing. Its nomination to the National Register documents its industrial importance for posterity.” The building is one of seven historic resources around the Commonwealth approved for nomination to the National Register 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.

Constructed about 1892 for the Jewett Piano Company, the building was erected at the peak of Leominster’s history as a piano and piano-case manufacturing center and is a rare surviving example of late 19th-century wood-frame industrial architecture. The Jewett factory continued to manufacture pianos and piano cases until 1931, when the company closed, after which, for several decades beginning in 1934, it manufactured plastic novelty products. Piano making and plastics were two of the major industries in Leominster in the 20th century. Recently, the building was converted into 40 units of rental housing through the support of historic rehabilitation tax credits.

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. Visit our website to learn more about the Commission’s programs (www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc).

-End-