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**OLNEY COOK ARTISAN SHOP IN MENDON 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 the Olney Cook Artisan Shop in Mendon 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 Olney Cook Artisan Shop is a rare, possibly unique, surviving 19th-century glazier’s shop. Its listing in the National Register documents its architectural and historical significance for posterity.” The shop 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 1839 by farmer and glazier Olney Cook, the small shop is a rare representative example of the cottage industries that were essential components of Mendon’s economy in the 19th century. The building is significant because it exemplifies the distinctive characteristics of small-scale industrial design in New England and specifically of window-glazing facilities. The shop was purpose-designed for window cutting and glazing and provided services to builders in the Mendon area. Very few small artisan shops from the 19th century are known to survive aside from smithies, and this may be the only 19th-century glazier’s shop left in Massachusetts.

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).

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