



NEWS

William Francis Galvin
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FOWLER-CLARK-EPSTEIN FARM IN MATTAPAN 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 Fowler-Clark-Epstein Farm in the Mattapan neighborhood of Boston 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 for final consideration and designation.

“The Massachusetts Historical Commission is dedicated to preserving the Commonwealth’s rich historic, architectural, archaeological, and cultural resources,” Galvin said. “The Fowler-Clark-Epstein Farm is a rare 18th-century farmhouse in Boston that has been rehabilitated to serve as the centerpiece of a working farm to benefit the local community. Its nomination to the National Register documents its importance for posterity.”

The building is one of five historic resources around the Commonwealth approved for nomination to the National Register by the Massachusetts Historical Commission at this 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 a year.

Constructed around 1786, the house was built at a time when Mattapan was a rural farming community. While most other early buildings succumbed to the large-scale development of the area that began in the last decades of the 19th century, the Fowler-Clark-Epstein Farm and its mid-19th-century barn survived the transition from rural to urban landscape. It is a rare survivor of the Boston area’s early agricultural history.

After a period of abandonment and neglect, the property was purchased by Historic Boston Inc. in 2015. The organization rehabilitated the property and transformed the land into a community garden and farm in partnership with the Urban Farming Institute and the Trust for Public Land, supported by state and federal historic rehabilitation tax credits.



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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, www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc.

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