



# NEWS

**William Francis Galvin**  
*Secretary of the Commonwealth*

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January 14, 2020

## **SOMERSET VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT 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 Somerset Village Historic District 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,” Secretary Galvin said. “Somerset Village is the historic core of the town and its nomination to the National Register recognizes and documents its significance for posterity.”

The district 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.

Somerset Village, on the west bank of the Taunton River, developed as a maritime center in the 18<sup>th</sup> century after it was settled by shipbuilder Jonathan Bowers in 1694. Over time it became a profitable maritime port, with the village expanding as it developed. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it became the center of the Mount Hope Ironworks. The district retains examples of virtually all American architectural styles and types from the early 18<sup>th</sup> to the early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and is a remarkably intact village center.

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, [www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc).

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