



NEWS

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JACOB THOMPSON HOUSE IN MONSON 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 Jacob Thompson House in Monson 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. “The Jacob Thompson House is a fine example of a high-style Federal residence in Monson. Its nomination to the National Register documents its architectural significance 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.

The early 19th-century Jacob Thompson House is a well-preserved example of Federal-style architecture that employs high-style elements demonstrating the refined taste that characterized some residences built in rural villages in early 1800s Massachusetts. It was built by Jacob Thompson (1772–1863), who had moved to Monson after a successful career as a mill owner, landowner, and justice of the peace in nearby Holland, Massachusetts. His house is distinguished by its brick end walls and its delicate and elegant ornament that set it apart from its neighbors. The house is now owned by the Monson Historical Society and functions as a museum.

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



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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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