



NEWS

William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

State House, Room 337
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Contact: Debra O'Malley
Telephone: 617-727-9180

July 28, 2020

UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES GRANT AWARDED TO MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION & PORTER-PHELPS- HUNTINGTON FOUNDATION

Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin has announced that the Massachusetts Historical Commission has been awarded an Underrepresented Communities grant by the National Park Service. The grant for \$19,050 will be used to update the National Register nomination for the Porter-Phelps-Huntington House in Hadley, now a museum, and expand the nomination to include the nearby Phelps Farm.

“The Massachusetts Historical Commission is dedicated to preserving the Commonwealth’s rich historic, architectural, archaeological, and cultural resources,” Secretary Galvin, who serves as chair of the MHC, said. “This grant will broaden existing National Register documentation for the museum property to include information on those who worked there in the 18th century -- enslaved people, indentured servants, and others. The result will be a far more inclusive history of the site.”

The grant will be administered by the MHC in coordination with the Porter-Phelps-Huntington Foundation in Hadley, which owns and operates the mid-18th century house and farm as a museum. The nearby, privately owned Phelps Farm was built in 1816 by Charles Porter Phelps on land once part of the larger farmstead; it will be included in the National Register documentation.

The project is one of eighteen selected nationwide under the Underrepresented Communities grant program. The program focuses on documenting properties associated with people who played a significant role in national history, but whose experiences have been little recognized. The program’s goal is to diversify the nominations submitted to the National Register of Historic Places to include communities that are currently underrepresented. Funding for the Underrepresented Communities grants is through the federal Historic Preservation Fund, most of whose income comes from federal gas and oil revenues, and the program is administered by the National Park Service, Department of Interior.



NEWS

William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

State House, Room 337
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Contact: Debra O'Malley
Telephone: 617-727-9180

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of significant buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts worthy of preservation. 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 at www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc.

###