



# NEWS

**William Francis Galvin**  
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December 21, 2020

## **ELM HILL PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT IN ROXBURY NOMINATED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin has announced that the Massachusetts Historical Commission approved the Elm Hill Park Historic District in the Boston neighborhood of Roxbury for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at a recent meeting. The nomination will 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. “Elm Hill Park Historic District is an interesting example of a cohesive development of apartment buildings and multi-family houses built by one developer between 1901 and 1904. The National Register nomination documents that history for posterity.”

The district is one of seven nominations for resources around the Commonwealth approved for nomination to the National Register by the Massachusetts Historical Commission at this meeting. Galvin serves as chair of the 17-member board, which meets regularly and considers historic resources eligible for the National Register four times per year.

Elm Hill Park Historic District is the work of a single architect-builder, Alexander C. Chisholm, who developed this small, dense neighborhood around a linear park between 1901 and 1904. This development, which also incorporated a few earlier buildings that had been built when Roxbury was still predominantly rural, was a speculative development tied to improvements in transportation and housing demand that made this part of Roxbury increasingly desirable by the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. While originally housing middle-class families from a range of backgrounds, by the 1910s, it was predominantly Jewish, and by the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, had become predominantly African American.



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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. Additional information about the Commission's programs is available at [www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc).

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