



NEWS

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LAWRENCE AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT IN DORCHESTER NOMINATED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin has announced that the Massachusetts Historical Commission approved the Lawrence Avenue Historic District in the Boston neighborhood of Dorchester 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. “Lawrence Avenue Historic District is a well-preserved collection of buildings spanning the 1870s to the 1970s, with a development history mirroring that of greater Dorchester.”

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.

Lawrence Avenue Historic District developed as part of the transformation of Dorchester as a suburb of Boston in the second half of the 19th century. Subdivision of large parcels—agricultural land and estates—created densely packed neighborhoods like that on Lawrence Avenue by the turn of the 20th century. Following urbanization, the neighborhood became predominantly Jewish; by the mid-20th-century, it had become predominantly African-American. The district includes works by architect Denis Blackett dating to the early 1970s, representing a neighborhood revitalization effort in response to urban renewal, which disproportionately affected African-American areas of Boston.

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. Additional information about the Commission's programs is available at www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc.

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