



NEWS

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OLD TOWN HALL HISTORIC DISTRICT IN DUXBURY NOMINATED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin has announced that the Massachusetts Historical Commission the Old Town Hall Historic District in Duxbury 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. “The Old Town Hall Historic District encompasses three properties representing the historic public core of Duxbury—the town hall, the Mayflower Cemetery, and the First Parish Church.”

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.

Old Town Hall Historic District includes two commandingly sited, high-style Greek Revival buildings—the Old Town Hall and First Parish Church—as well as the sizable Mayflower Cemetery, Duxbury’s largest and third-oldest. The cemetery contains an impressive range of gravestones representing key features of funerary art from the late 18th through the 20th centuries. The Old Town Hall and First Parish Church both date to 1840, at the peak of the town’s prosperity as a shipbuilding and trading town and representative of the separation of church and state, which had been mandated in 1833. In addition to the historic resources, the district contains Duxbury’s New Town Hall, built in 1975 in a complementary Greek Revival style.

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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