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Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**SECRETARY GALVIN PRESENTS 2017 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD
TO HAVERHILL BUILDING**

Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin, Chairman of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, announces the selection of The Apartments at 165 Winter Street, Haverhill, to receive a 2017 Massachusetts Historical Commission Historic Preservation Award.

“The Massachusetts Historical Commission is proud to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of this year’s awardees,” said Secretary Galvin. “The projects the Commission is recognizing this year are particularly diverse and represent the many creative ways that significant historic resources are being preserved across the Commonwealth. Having served the City of Haverhill over the past 160 years, the restored Winter Street School will now contribute in the future in its new role.”

The Apartments at 165 Winter Street, historically known as the Winter Street School, are located in what was a large industrial district on the northern edge of downtown Haverhill. Built in 1856, the red-brick school was designed originally in the Italianate style, with characteristic details such as deep eaves enriched with bold, carved-stone brackets. The Second Empire style of the school’s enlargement in 1873 is expressed in the mansard roof, with its carved-wood rope molding and floral ornament details, and the bold pediments at the dormers trimmed with scrolled consoles. Paired bays with round arches at the second story of the Winter Street façade, and flat arches on the secondary elevations and at the first story of the primary façade, add to the school’s architectural detailing.

The Winter Street School reflects Haverhill’s rapid population growth in the mid-19th century due to the success and expansion of its shoe industry and the arrival of immigrant workers for the factories. Originally a two-story building, the school had become inadequate by

the 1870s. In an 1873 expansion, a third floor with mansard was added and the large second-floor meeting room was subdivided into two classrooms. The school then accommodated thirteen classrooms, more than doubling its original six-classroom layout. By 1915, the school had almost 500 pupils; one of the most notable was Greek-born Euterpe Boukis, who would become the mother of Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis.

The Winter Street School continued to operate until the mid-1970s, after which it was leased for more than 30 years to an organization that provided work opportunities to people with developmental disabilities. After several years of vacancy, the City of Haverhill sold the property in 2012 to the Planning Office for Urban Affairs, which has converted the building into affordable housing.

The rehabilitation, which used state and federal tax credits, was completed in 2015 and resulted in the creation of twelve affordable apartments, transforming each classroom into a separate living unit. Extensive interior fabric and details were preserved, including wood floors and wainscoting; door and window surrounds; a section of blackboard in each apartment; pressed-metal ceilings in the corridors and stairs; and the existing stairs, railings, and balustrades. New windows with molding profiles based on the originals replaced inappropriate windows installed in the 1980s; brownstone hoodmolds were repaired and, where necessary, were replaced with cast stone; the rope molding, carved foliated ornament, and the scrolls on the dormers were all recreated to match the originals.

As a key building in the revitalization of Haverhill's Lower Acre neighborhood, the successful rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of the former Winter Street School into affordable housing contributes significantly to the revitalization of the neighborhood and provides a model for future efforts.

This is the 39th year of MHC's Preservation Awards program. Projects are considered annually for awards in the categories of Rehabilitation and Restoration, Adaptive Reuse, Education and Outreach, Archaeology, Stewardship, and Landscape Preservation. Individuals are considered in the categories of Individual Lifetime Achievement and Local Preservationist. Secretary Galvin serves as the chair of the 17-member Massachusetts Historical Commission.

Secretary Galvin will present the awards at an afternoon ceremony on November 2, 2017, at the Massachusetts Archives Building at 220 Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester. The Apartments at 165 Winter Street, Haverhill, is one of 11 projects to be honored.