



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

Contact: Brian McNiff
Telephone: 617-727-9180

May 23, 2011

**SECRETARY GALVIN TO PRESENT 2011 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD TO
PROVINCETOWN TOWN HALL**

Secretary of the Commonwealth William Francis Galvin, Chairman of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, announces the selection of the Provincetown Town Hall to receive a 2011 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. The very well-researched restoration of the Provincetown Town Hall ensures its continued importance to the local government and community for generations to come.”

The Provincetown Town Hall was constructed in 1886, after the first town hall was destroyed by fire in 1877. Designed by John A. Fox of Boston, known for design and supervision of numerous public buildings throughout Massachusetts, the Town Hall has operated continuously as the seat of local government since its construction. It is a contributing property of the Provincetown National Register Historic District, and is also located within the Provincetown Local Historic District. Its second-floor auditorium has been the political and cultural center of the community as a venue for town meetings, concerts, dances, graduations, festivals, and other significant events. The first phase of the restoration and rehabilitation project, completed in 2009, included structural and exterior repairs as well as restoration of the original windows, the addition of storm windows for energy efficiency, and reinstatement of the original Victorian exterior paint scheme. Phase two focused on interior repairs and restoration, as well as replicating the stairs that once flanked the main entrance, which were removed in the 1950s or '60s. A Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund grant from the MHC helped to fund restoration of the missing, historic auditorium ceiling, chandelier, and wall sconces, which were recreated using historic photographs. The color scheme of the auditorium was also restored, and state-of-the-art sound and lighting systems added. The Provincetown Historical Commission also recognized the achievement with a 2010 Excellence in Preservation Award.

This is the 33rd 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 May 25, 2011, at the Massachusetts Archives Building at 220 Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester. The Provincetown Town Hall restoration project is one of 9 projects, individuals, and organizations to be honored.

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. Visit our website to learn more about the Commission's programs (www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc).

-End-