



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**SECRETARY GALVIN TO PRESENT 2013 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD TO
CALVIN SWALLOW HOUSE, BOSTON**

Secretary of the Commonwealth William Francis Galvin, Chairman of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, announces the selection of the Calvin Swallow House in Boston (South End) to receive a 2013 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. After many years of vacancy and deterioration, the rehabilitated Calvin Swallow House has helped to revitalize and restore the character of this highly visible corner of Boston’s South End neighborhood.”

Located in the South End Landmark District and the South End National Register Historic District, the Calvin Swallow House was constructed in 1874 and designed in the Second Empire style. Calvin Swallow, the first owner of the property, lived here from 1874 to 1890, when the second, third, and fourth floors served as a single-family residence. In 1874, the property showed three addresses, indicating that the building originally housed two commercial spaces on the first floor. In 1908, residential floors of the building were occupied by the Home for Aged Men, now known as the Rogerson Communities. The property served in this capacity until at least 1938. City records suggest that the building and surrounding area fell into decline in the 1970s. Prior to restoration, the building was in a state of disrepair, having been abandoned for at least a decade. Residential units on the upper floors had been gutted. At the exterior, the street-level bricks had been painted, and storefront windows were infilled and grated. Dormers and cornice elements were deteriorated, and the roof framing had been damaged by fire. After a comprehensive rehabilitation project that utilized state historic rehabilitation tax credits, the Calvin Swallow House now accommodates three active businesses and six residential units. The masonry was repaired and repointed, and paint was removed from first-floor bricks. Roof shingles were repaired or replaced as needed, and gutters and downspouts were installed. New 2/2 and 1/1 windows are in place, along with new storefront windows. Original Italianate doors and the second-floor Italianate oriel were repaired. On the interior, the original gracefully curved main staircase, balusters, carved railings, and newel posts were restored and repaired.

This is the 35th 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 23, 2013, at the Massachusetts Archives Building at 220 Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester. The Calvin Swallow House restoration project is one of 12 projects, individuals, and organizations to be honored.

State House, Room 337, Boston, Massachusetts 02133

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).

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