



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**SECRETARY GALVIN TO PRESENT 2013 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD TO
CLARK BISCUIT APARTMENTS, NORTH ADAMS**

Secretary of the Commonwealth William Francis Galvin, Chairman of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, announces the selection of the Clark Biscuit Apartments in North Adams 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. The restoration of the Clark Biscuit Apartments provides much-needed quality affordable housing, while reviving the area’s connection to the North Adams downtown district and preserving a significant piece of the city’s history.”

The Clark Biscuit Apartments represent the adaptive reuse of the H. W. Clark Biscuit Company complex, a collection of buildings constructed in the early 20th century and listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Locally, Clark Biscuit was a major employer, and the Clark family was a generous benefactor of many charitable institutions. The Clark Biscuit Company closed its operations and sold the property in 1954, after which the buildings were owned by a series of manufacturing companies until 1990. After nearly two decades of vacancy, the city took possession of the property in 2004 and sold it to Arch Street Development in February of 2008. Renovation of the deteriorated buildings into 43 affordable apartments began in July 2008 and was completed in September 2009. The project included significant restoration of the historic masonry and concrete facades, installation of new roofing, and replacement of windows with historically appropriate, energy-efficient insulated windows. A complete build-out on the interior included a new central elevator, energy-efficient HVAC systems, and fire sprinkler service throughout. Brick, stucco, and wood walls and ceilings were retained. Two apartment units include original brick rotary ovens. A noncontributing garage addition was removed to make way for a pedestrian-friendly, landscaped entrance, and a deteriorated loading dock at the rear of the property was also removed, creating a new central courtyard. This project was funded in part through state and federal historic rehabilitation tax credits, low-income housing tax credits and HOME funds through the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development, and Affordable Housing Trust Funds provided by MassHousing.

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 Clark Biscuit Apartments restoration and adaptive reuse project is one of 12 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).

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