



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**SECRETARY GALVIN TO PRESENT 2013 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD TO
LINWOOD MILL APARTMENTS, NORTHBRIDGE**

Secretary of the Commonwealth William Francis Galvin, Chairman of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, announces the selection of the Linwood Mill Apartments in Northbridge 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 Linwood Mill has strengthened the area’s unique historic identity, while serving the community and creating new business opportunities.”

Located in the Linwood National Register Historic District, the Linwood Cotton Mill was built ca. 1866 and operated by the Whitin family. A fine example of Italianate design and mid 19th-century mill construction, the brick building rises 3 ½ stories under a slate mansard roof. Linwood Mill stopped cotton textile production in 1940, but the mill was active in various manufacturing capacities until the 1980s, when it was vacated and used primarily as an office storage facility. Prior to the project, the building had severely deteriorated. An adaptive reuse project, which utilized state and federal historic rehabilitation tax credits and was completed in July 2012, transformed Linwood Mill into 75 affordable rental apartments for seniors, with 20,000 square feet of ground-level retail space. The mansard roof, dormers, trim, and historic bell tower were all repaired and reconstructed. A functioning bell was added to the tower, and the original weathervane was replicated. At the main entrance, accessibility was made possible by raising the existing grade to meet the historic entry. This required construction of new retaining walls, which are not visible from the main road. To preserve the mill’s historic profile, the design team took measures to conceal rooftop units and other mechanical equipment from view. Some larger equipment was located within one of the existing outbuildings, and elevators were located within the building to avoid additional rooftop structures. At the interior, the design exposed as much brick as possible. Commercial areas and residential common areas have exposed brick and repurposed historic fire and elevator doors. Residential units include exposed original columns, beams, and decking. In the engine house, the floor was raised in a portion of the room to provide accessibility; the space is now a library for residents.

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 Linwood Mill 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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