



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

Contact: Brian McNiff
Telephone: 617-727-9180

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**SECRETARY GALVIN TO PRESENT 2008 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD TO
THE APARTMENTS AT BOOTT MILLS, LOWELL**

Secretary of the Commonwealth William Francis Galvin, Chairman of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, announces the selection of the Apartments at Boott Mills in Lowell to receive a 2008 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 significant historic resources are being preserved across the Commonwealth. I commend the Boott Mills Project for its creative transformation of a historic mill into an apartment complex.”

Located on the Merrimack River in Lowell, the Boott Mills complex was the center of the world’s cotton textile industry from the mid-1830s into the 20th century. The mill permanently closed in 1955 when the demand for cotton and textiles decreased. The complex is composed of nine buildings built over the course of 100 years since the mill’s opening in 1835. The mill’s clock tower, which originally served to summon mill employees to work, is one of the most identifiable architectural landmarks in Lowell. The Boott Mills complex has been converted into mixed-income housing. The rehabilitation required extensive exterior restoration, as well as the installation of a new cogeneration system to provide electricity. The signature clock tower was leaning off-center more than 2 feet and needed to be completely reconstructed. The Apartments at Boott Mills project allowed for the continued use of one of the most architecturally significant mill yards in the United States. The Boott Mills complex is a National Historic Landmark and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Secretary Galvin will present the awards at an early evening ceremony on Thursday, May 29, 2008 at the Massachusetts Archives Building at 220 Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester. The Apartments at Boott Mills project is one of 11 projects and individuals to be honored.

This is the 30th 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, 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.

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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