



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**SECRETARY GALVIN TO PRESENT 2008 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD TO
THE ROXBURY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BOSTON (ROXBURY)**

Secretary of the Commonwealth William Francis Galvin, Chairman of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, announces the selection of the Roxbury Presbyterian Church in Boston's Roxbury neighborhood of Boston 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 parishioners of the Roxbury Presbyterian Church for this enormous restoration project."

The Roxbury Presbyterian Church was built in 1891-1892 using locally quarried Roxbury puddingstone in the Victorian Gothic style. Half of the funding for the original construction of the church came from Robert and John Gilchrist, members of the parish and founders of Gilchrist Department Store. Located a few blocks from Dudley Square, the Roxbury Presbyterian Church is the only largely African-American Presbyterian church in eastern Massachusetts and one of the few churches in Roxbury with a continuous association with one denomination. The church has a long history of charitable work, including providing aid to those suffering during the Great Depression, and promoting civil rights. This longtime focus on service led to the creation of the current Social Impact Center, which required the refurbishment of the lower level of the church. The rehabilitation project, which was funded primarily by contributions of church members, improved the interior of the building to support its programs and at the same time made the church more sound structurally. Exterior renovation included the replacement of the roof and a large stained glass window, the restructuring of the deteriorating cupola, and repointing masonry. The rehabilitation of the Roxbury Presbyterian Church is an extraordinary grassroots community preservation achievement. The Roxbury Presbyterian Church 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 Roxbury Presbyterian Church 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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State House, Room 337, Boston, Massachusetts 02133