



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION 50-YEAR HIGHLIGHTS
OUTLINED AT HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONFERENCE**

The Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund, a grant program administered by the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC), has awarded 765 grants to 544 historic resources in 193 communities of the Commonwealth, the 2013 Massachusetts Historic Preservation Conference was told at its recent annual meeting in Lexington.

The \$47 million state grant, matched at the local level, represents a total investment in historic resources of more than \$94 million, Assistant Secretary of the Commonwealth Michael A. Maresco told the opening session of the conference in Isaac Harris Cary Memorial Hall.

Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin, chairman of the MHC, also attended the conference during its day-long session.

The MHC has a state inventory of historic properties and sites, over 250,000 of them, which are accessible online through the Mass. Cultural Resources Information System (MACRIS) on the MHC website.

MHC also administers the state historic rehabilitation tax credit program which has awarded over \$240 million in credits to 332 projects throughout the Commonwealth, projects that have created more than 17,000 temporary and 9,000 permanent jobs. The projects have also created 6,000 units of affordable rental housing.

With more than 75,000 properties and 1,700 districts on the National Register of Historic Places, Massachusetts is second in the nation with listings on the Register.

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MHC also recognizes both people and projects with the annual Preservation Awards which have been bestowed on 440 historic preservation projects since the awards were introduced in 1979.

Assistant Secretary Maresco noted that many at the conference are members of their local historical commissions which were enabled by the legislation that created the Massachusetts Historical Commission 50 years ago. He observed that MHC shares an anniversary year with the Town of Lexington, incorporated 300 years ago and the site of many important historic sites.

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