



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**SECRETARY GALVIN PRESENTS 2015 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD TO
LORD JEFFERY INN, AMHERST**

Secretary of the Commonwealth William Francis Galvin, Chairman of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, announces the selection of the Lord Jeffery Inn, Amherst, to receive a 2015 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 sensitive rehabilitation and restoration of the Lord Jeffery Inn has returned a local landmark to its former glory.”

Secretary Galvin presented the award recently at the Massachusetts Archives Building, Dorchester. The Lord Jeffery Inn, Amherst, is one of 11 projects, individuals, and organizations to be honored.

A cherished landmark of Amherst College and the town for more than 80 years, the Lord Jeffery Inn, constructed in 1926, faces Amherst Common. The Boston architectural firm of Putnam and Cox designed the building in the Colonial Revival Style. Lord Jeffery Inn, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Amherst Central Business District, is also significant as a favored destination for prominent American poet Robert Frost, who frequented as a guest from 1949 to 1963.

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The whitewashed-brick inn features an array of porches, enclosed galleries, iron balconies, side gables, dormer windows, and chimneys, and integrates wood detailing around windows, porches, and doors. Although the inn has been part of Amherst's town and higher education communities since its construction, it struggled financially through the later 20th century. In 2008, it closed for renovation. At the time, the college planned to demolish the east wing and build a large addition, while updating the remaining historic building with modern amenities.

Due to the economic downturn, however, the project was delayed, and the building sat vacant for more than a year before construction began. This resulted in revised plans for the inn's rehabilitation, which ultimately retained the original east wing, fully renovated the entire existing facility, and created a small addition in the former garden space at the rear. The project utilized federal historic rehabilitation tax credits. Ultimately, the inn's historic count of 49 guestrooms remained unchanged.

The \$14.7-million rehabilitation and restoration project was completed in 2012. Work included thorough cleaning and repair of the brick façade, restoration of historic windows and outdoor seating areas, and repairs to the slate roof and its copper flashing, gutters, and downspouts. The team researched historic photographs, postcards, magazine articles, and advertisements to ensure the building's careful restoration.

This research led to the restoration of the exterior brick's original lime-whitewash finish. The entire building envelope was restored, as was original exterior wood trim. All historic interior finishes were retained and restored, including the wood floors and trim and the plaster walls and ceilings. The original greenhouse dining room was also restored, and new HVAC, electrical, plumbing, and fire systems were installed throughout the building. The unobtrusive rear addition allowed for a new ballroom, a roof terrace with an outdoor fireplace, a fitness center, and a restaurant.

The project also improved accessibility with a new elevator. The rehabilitation's numerous environmentally friendly design features resulted in LEED Silver certification. The rehabilitation and restoration of the Lord Jeffery Inn has transformed it into a 5-star destination, ensuring its continued importance to the town and its educational institutions into the future.

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This is the 37th 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.



(left to right) Robert Reeves, General Manager of the Lord Jeffery Inn; Tom Davies, Director of Design & Construction, Amherst College; Scott Winkler, formerly of Northeast Collaborative; Mark Tassinari, Senior Project Manager, Amherst College; Secretary William F. Galvin; Michael Abbott, Northeast Collaborative; Jeff Caplin, Northeast Collaborative; and Robert Golde, Towers Golde Landscape Architects.(Photo by Wyeth Lilley)

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