



**William Francis Galvin**  
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**SECRETARY GALVIN TO PRESENT 2011 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD TO  
COGGESHALL COUNTING HOUSE / BUZZARDS BAY CENTER, NEW BEDFORD**

Secretary of the Commonwealth William Francis Galvin, Chairman of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, announces the selection of the Coggeshall Counting House in New Bedford, to receive a 2011 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 environmentally conscious restoration of the Coggeshall Counting House will help to protect the historic and natural resources of the New Bedford waterfront.”

The Coggeshall Counting House was built in 1832, during the city’s famed whaling era, by New Bedford merchant and ship owner John Coggeshall, Jr. The four-story, commercial building is a contributing property of the Bedford Landing Waterfront National Historic Landmark District, and is also part of the New Bedford Whaling National Historic Park. Over its history, the building had been severely damaged by a succession of fires, including a particularly large conflagration in 1939 that destroyed the original hipped roof. The Coalition for Buzzards Bay, the only membership-based, non-profit organization dedicated to protecting Buzzards Bay and its watershed, rehabilitated the Coggeshall Counting House for its headquarters, the Buzzards Bay Center. Historic photos were used as a basis to replicate missing original doors and windows, as well as the lost original cornice. Exterior brick was repaired and repointed. The project also utilized several “green” principles, including the installation of innovative energy-efficient technology and a vegetated roof that absorbs half of the rain it receives during storms, helping to protect the bay from runoff pollution. The Buzzards Bay Center now honors the city’s maritime history, boosts economic development, and raises environmental awareness, while playing an important role in the ongoing revitalization of the New Bedford waterfront.

This is the 33rd 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 25, 2011, at the Massachusetts Archives Building at 220 Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester. The Coggeshall Counting House restoration project is one of 9 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](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)).

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State House, Room 337, Boston, Massachusetts 02133