



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**SECRETARY GALVIN TO PRESENT 2011 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD TO
PHILIP MUNROE HOUSE, CAMBRIDGE**

Secretary of the Commonwealth William Francis Galvin, Chairman of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, announces the selection of the Philip Munroe House in Cambridge, 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 restoration of the Philip Munroe House is a great example of how private owners of rental properties can use state tax credits to help protect the Commonwealth’s historic properties.”

Built in 1887 for grocer Philip Munroe, this Second Empire-style, two-family residence was designed by Cambridge architect James Fogerty. The building is a contributing resource of the Maple Avenue National Register Historic District, known for its restored historic buildings. Prior to its restoration and rehabilitation, the house was in significant disrepair due to decades of neglect: the site was overgrown, many basement and first-floor structural components had been damaged by termites, and hasty repairs over time had led to the degradation of the building’s historic character. Extensive exterior rehabilitation in 2010 included restoration of the slate roof, the Queen Anne-style front porch, and the stained-glass front entry doors. Vinyl windows were replaced with historically accurate wood windows, the original color scheme was reinstated, large obstructive bushes were removed, and asbestos siding and rotted wood sheathing were replaced with new but appropriate wood clapboards. Chimneys were repointed and reconstructed where necessary. Interior restoration preserved the original floor plan, the architecturally significant stairwells, and marble fireplace mantles. While lead paint was removed, historic interior doors were saved and restored, and original trim was saved where possible. The project utilized both the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Tax Credit and the Federal Historic Tax Credit and also earned a Silver rating under the LEED for HOMES green rating program.

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 Philip Munroe 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).

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