



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**SECRETARY GALVIN TO PRESENT 2011 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD TO
SALEM JAIL COMPLEX, SALEM**

Secretary of the Commonwealth William Francis Galvin, Chairman of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, announces the selection of the Salem Jail Complex in Salem, 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 rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of the Salem Jail Complex will help to ensure the preservation and enjoyment of this important historic resource.”

The original portion of the Salem Jail and the Federal-style, brick Jail Keeper’s House were constructed between 1811 and 1813. The Jail Keeper’s House is attributed to Salem’s famous native architect and wood carver Samuel McIntire. The jail, constructed of Rockport granite, was substantially enlarged in 1884-85. Gridley J. F. Bryant, who also designed Boston’s Old City Hall, Arlington Street Church, and Charles Street Jail, designed the addition. Bryant’s innovative design revolutionized the general layout of jails across the country, with all cell blocks placed in a central core, using borrowed light and ventilation from the outer shell of the building. Following its closing in 1991, the property fell into disrepair. After a destructive 1996 fire in the Jail Keeper’s House, the City of Salem gained ownership of the complex from the state and, with the assistance of an MPPF grant, stabilized the building by installing a new roof and securing all openings. The city then selected New Boston Ventures to develop the complex into 23 units of housing, a restaurant, and an active, landscaped site. The adaptive reuse project included refurbishment of cupolas and ventilators, masonry restoration, repair and replacement of missing and damaged slate, and re-creation of the metal arched entrance gate and the circular floating staircase in the Jail Keeper’s House. Doors and windows from the jail cells were used throughout public corridors, and an original granite-slab door was retained as a prominent design element in the restaurant.

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 Salem Jail Complex adaptive reuse 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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