



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**SECRETARY GALVIN PRESENTS 2018 PRESERVATION AWARD
TO THE ESSEX TOWN HALL AND T.O.H.P BURNHAM LIBRARY IN ESSEX**

Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin, Chair of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, has announced that the Essex Town Hall and T.O.H.P. Burnham Library in Essex has received a 2018 Massachusetts Historical Commission Preservation Award.

“The Massachusetts Historical Commission is proud to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of this year’s awardees,” said Galvin. “The projects the Commission recognizes this year are particularly diverse and represent the many creative ways that significant historic resources are being preserved across the Commonwealth. The preservation of the Essex Town Hall and T.O.H.P. Burnham Library truly represents a success story.”

The imposing Shingle Style library and town hall building was designed by Boston-based architect Frank Weston and built in 1893 on a hilltop near the town center. The most prominent element of the building is the clock tower, featuring conical turrets at its corners and large wooden clocks on each of the four faces.

After years of deferred maintenance and accessibility issues, the town embarked on a rehabilitation of the building in 2016. As part of the project, the exterior was brought back to its original appearance, a project that included restoring historic windows, where possible, or replacing lost originals with appropriate new wood windows. In addition, the clock faces and clockworks were restored and the original wood-shingle pattern was reproduced on the façade.

The building was made ADA compliant through a sensitive conversion of a window in the porte-cochère to an accessible entrance and a carefully inserted elevator, providing access to all four floors. Work on the interior included a restoration of the original grand stair and stage

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and conversion of an unused space above the second-floor offices into a large meeting room. The revitalized building, still used for its original purposes, is a prominent preservation success story for the Town of Essex.

This is the 40th 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 Lifetime Achievement and Local Preservationist. Secretary Galvin serves as the chair of the 17-member Massachusetts Historical Commission.

Secretary Galvin is pictured presenting the award to the Essex Town Hall and T.O.H.P. Burnham Library at an afternoon ceremony on May 16, 2018, at the Massachusetts Archives Building at 220 Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester (left to right: Greg Campbell, Campbell Construction Group; Ryan Foster, McGinley Kalsow Associates, Architects; Deborah French, Burnham Library; Secretary William F. Galvin; Susan Gould Coviello, Essex Heritage; Wendell Kalsow, McGinley Kalsow Associates, Architects; Lisa O'Donnell, Town of Essex; Nat Crosby, Essex Historical Commission. Photo by Wyeth Lilley).



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