



**William Francis Galvin**  
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**SECRETARY GALVIN PRESENTS 2018 PRESERVATION AWARD  
TO THE JOSEPH SIMES HOUSE IN PLYMOUTH**

Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin, Chair of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, has announced that the Joseph Simes House in Plymouth 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 Joseph Simes House and its conversion into a community center and affordable housing truly represents a success story.”

The Second Empire-style Simes House was built by wealthy Boston tea and coffee dealer Joseph Simes in 1863 as the centerpiece of a 100-acre estate extending from the village center of Manomet to the coast. After passing out of Simes family ownership in 1890, the estate was subdivided and the house passed through several uses, including an inn and a camp. Later in the 20th century, the house once again became a private home, but was acquired by the Town of Plymouth in a severely deteriorated state in payment for back taxes in 2009.

Despite the house being in an advanced state of decay, the Town of Plymouth was committed to restoring it and putting it to community use for the Village of Manomet. A two-phase project guided by a historic structure report restored the house, retaining historic fabric while repurposing the building for new uses. The completion of the restoration project in 2017 produced a new community center as well as two units of fully accessible affordable housing. Despite being on little more than an acre of a formerly large estate, the Joseph Simes House still

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stands out as one of the most prominent houses in the Village of Manomet. With its new lease on life, it will remain a prominent fixture of the village for many years to come.

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 Joseph Simes House at an afternoon ceremony on May 16, 2018, at the Massachusetts Archives Building at 220 Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester (left to right: Randy Parker, Simes House Foundation; Martha Lyon, Martha Lyon Landscape Architecture LLC; Secretary William F. Galvin; Karle Packard, Red Hawk Studios Architects. Photo by Wyeth Lilley).



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