



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**SECRETARY GALVIN TO PRESENT 2013 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD TO
FREDERIC C. ADAMS PUBLIC LIBRARY, KINGSTON**

Secretary of the Commonwealth William Francis Galvin, Chairman of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, announces the selection of the Frederic C. Adams Public Library in Kingston, now known as the Adams Heritage Center, to receive a 2013 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 Frederic C. Adams Public Library ensures the continued use of this significant architectural and cultural feature of the town’s historic center.”

In 1895, Kingston businessman Frederic C. Adams bequeathed funds to the town for the construction of a public library, and his family donated the land on which the library was to be built. The Frederic C. Adams Public Library, designed in the Colonial Revival style by Boston architect Joseph Everett Chandler, was dedicated in 1898. Almost a century later, in 1994, the library moved to a new facility, and the vacant Adams Library fell into disrepair. In 1999, Preservation Massachusetts listed the building as one of the state’s most endangered historic resources. In that year, the Frederic C. Adams Heritage Center Development Committee was organized, with representatives from the Kingston Historical Commission, Master Plan Implementation Committee, Cultural Council and Kingston Public Library, as well as the Town Planner and two citizens-at-large. The committee commissioned a pre-development study funded in part by a Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund (MPPF) grant. Work on the building, which also utilized Community Preservation Act funds, proceeded in phases and took more than a decade to complete, from 2001 to 2012. In 2002, the Friends of Kingston’s Heritage was established as a nonprofit entity; the volunteer group worked closely with town committees and officials to provide supplemental funding for the renovation of the building. Phase One, which utilized a second MPPF grant, included roof replacement, gutter repair, repointing of chimneys, and stabilization of the slate roof. Columns were replicated and replaced at the rear of the building. Full accessibility was achieved for the first time through a sympathetic addition, built of glass with brick panels and set back from the façade. Interior renovations restored concealed, missing, and altered features. The circular Trustee’s Room was returned to its original configuration, and woodwork was restored. Removal of acoustic panels revealed ceilings whose delicate plaster ornaments were restored, or in some places re-created. The Adams Heritage Center, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, now houses storage space for the town’s historic documents.

This is the 35th 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 23, 2013, at the Massachusetts Archives Building at 220 Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester. The Frederic C. Adams Public Library restoration project is one of 12 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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