



**William Francis Galvin**  
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**SECRETARY GALVIN PRESENTS 2016 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD TO  
DRURY ACADEMY / COLEGROVE PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN NORTH ADAMS**

Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin, Chairman of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, announces the selection of the Drury Academy / Colegrove Park Elementary School, North Adams, to receive a 2016 Massachusetts Historical Commission Historic Preservation Award.

Secretary Galvin presented the award at a recent ceremony in the Massachusetts Archives Building, Dorchester. Drury Academy is one of 12 projects, individuals, and organizations to be honored.

“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 of Drury Academy is an excellent and rare example of a city preserving an historic school building and keeping it in its original use.”

The site of the Drury Academy / Colegrove Park Elementary School has been occupied by three school buildings over the last two centuries. The first, constructed in 1843, was replaced in 1867 by the four-story, Second Empire-style Drury Academy building. By 1914, the town’s growth into a city led to the construction of Drury High School, a large addition at the front of the 1867 building. The 1914 addition, constructed of buff brick and cast stone, was designed by notable Springfield architects Eugene and George Gardner in the Renaissance Revival style.

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State House, Room 337, Boston, Massachusetts 02133

The combined buildings were listed in the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Monument Square-Eagle Street Historic District. In 2008 the school was closed, and subsequently only partially used.

An extensive rehabilitation and restoration project recently preserved the building's significant historic fabric, including exterior granite and marble stairs; cast-stone features such as the ornate column caps, frieze panels, and a curved parapet detail; and colorful, glazed terracotta insignia panels. Exterior masonry was thoroughly cleaned and repaired. Historically inappropriate, modern windows were replaced with new, double-glazed sash, with muntins closely replicating historic configurations. Preserved interior historic fabric included Corinthian columns with gold-leaf decoration and scrolled brackets, marble wainscoting, cast-bronze honorary wall plaques, and original stained-glass windows.

The project team also restored terrazzo flooring, slate stair treads and metal railings, maple floors, and plaster walls and ceilings. Construction uncovered historic features such as windows that now look onto the new gymnasium, two sections of the 1867 academy's exterior wall, and an aggregate of the original foundation wall in the new basement corridor; these elements were preserved and left exposed to view. Exterior window openings, enclosed in the new front lobby, were glazed with fixed glass and retained for views. Additionally, roughly 300 feet of slate chalkboard was repurposed as a wall finish.

The rehabilitated building now operates as a state-of-the-art K-7 elementary school, serving 325 pupils and renamed for the adjacent Colegrove Park. Unlike so many historic school buildings elsewhere, which have been either demolished and replaced, or adapted to other uses, the preserved Drury Academy is able to open its doors to new generations of North Adams schoolchildren.

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*L to R: Justyna Carlson, Jack McCarthy, Secretary William F. Galvin, Jim Monteparre,  
Mayor Richard J. Alcombright, George Dole*

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