



**William Francis Galvin**  
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**SECRETARY GALVIN PRESENTS 2018 PRESERVATION AWARD  
TO THE EUSTIS ESTATE AND MUSEUM IN MILTON**

Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin, Chair of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, has announced that the Eustis Estate and Museum in Milton 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 Eustis Estate and its conversion into a state-of-the art museum by Historic New England truly represents a success story.”

The 80-acre Eustis Estate dates to the late 19th century and was built at a time when vast park-like estates were being erected by wealthy families in the towns around Boston. The centerpiece of the property is an exceptional 34-room Queen Anne mansion designed by distinguished architect William Ralph Emerson, set in a landscape designed by prominent turn-of-the-20th-century landscape architect Ernest Bowditch.

The property remained in the Eustis family until acquired by Historic New England in 2012, a move that preserves one of the last substantially intact historic estates in the Boston area in perpetuity. Following acquisition, Historic New England began a project to conserve, restore, and document the property before opening it as a museum. Work included a 3-D laser scan of all structures on site; an archaeological investigation; a detailed finishes analysis; conservation of historic light fixtures, floors, tiles, and stained-glass windows; the construction of an accessible

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route from the parking lot to the house as well as through the house; and sympathetic upgrades to utility systems. In order to better engage museum visitors, an innovative new guide-free system features touch-screens and tablets in each room along with Wi-Fi access and period-appropriate seating that can be used by guests. In the library, visitors are encouraged to explore the collection of books on architecture, historic preservation, and local history.

The property opened to the public in May 2017, with a study center scheduled to open in 2019. The magnificent restoration of the house and estate allows access to one of the few properties Emerson designed in stone and one of a small number of properties designed by the architect open to the public.

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 Eustis Estate at an afternoon ceremony on May 16, 2018, at the Massachusetts Archives Building at 220 Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester (left to right: Trinh Chu, Austin Architects; Amy Cole-Ives, Sutherland Conservation and Consulting; Skip Burck, Richard Burck Associates; Secretary William F. Galvin; Diana Viera, Historic New England; Jonathan Austin, Austin Architects. Photo by Wyeth Lilley).



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