



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**SECRETARY GALVIN PRESENTS 2018 PRESERVATION AWARD
TO THE FITCHBURG YARN WORKS**

Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin, Chair of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, has announced that the Fitchburg Yarn Works in Fitchburg 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 rehabilitation of the vacant Fitchburg Yarn Works mill complex and conversion into housing truly represents a success story.”

The Fitchburg Yarn Works complex was built in stages between 1907 and 1940 and was a center of Fitchburg industry until the mid-20th century. After ceasing to produce yarn in 1979, the mill buildings remained in use as manufacturing space until 2005, when the last industrial tenant moved out.

The complex sat vacant until 2013, when it was purchased with an eye toward conversion into housing. Utilizing both state and federal historic rehabilitation tax credits, the developer sensitively adapted the building for use as apartments. Masonry was cleaned, repaired, and repointed and all 280 windows were replaced with historically appropriate replicas. Beadboard paneling and wooden stairways inside were restored. Interior renovations left features of the mills, such as the wood decking, wood columns, and steel beams, in place to recall its history as a manufacturing space.

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A notable challenge was to address the complex's location in a 100-year floodplain due to close proximity to the Nashua River. Flood mitigation measures included the installation of spill boxes to allow floodwater to flow and escape underneath the building and lessen the impact of floodwaters. Of the 96 units created, 39 are affordable, adding much-needed housing for the local community and contributing to its revitalization.

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 Fitchburg Yarn Works at an afternoon ceremony on May 16, 2018, at the Massachusetts Archives Building at 220 Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester (left to right: Lawrence Curtis, WinnDevelopment Co.; LeAnn Hanfield, WinnDevelopment Co.; Secretary William F. Galvin; Adam Stein, WinnDevelopment Co.; Robert Verrier, The Architectural Team; Scott Maenpaa, The Architectural Team. Photo by Wyeth Lilley).



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