



NEWS

William Francis Galvin
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SECRETARY GALVIN PRESENTS 2019 PRESERVATION AWARD TO THE FOWLER-CLARK-EPSTEIN FARM IN MATTAPAN

Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin, Chair of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, has announced that the Fowler-Clark-Epstein Farm in the Boston neighborhood of Mattapan has received a 2019 Massachusetts Historical Commission 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 recognizes this year are particularly diverse and represent the many creative ways that significant historic resources are being preserved across the Commonwealth. The rehabilitation and restoration of the historic Fowler-Clark-Epstein Farm, the only existing farm in Boston, is truly a success story.”

The Fowler-Clark-Epstein Farm is a rare surviving wood-frame, Federal-period vernacular farmhouse and mid-19th-century carriage barn within the city limits of Boston. Located on an acre of land in Mattapan, the house and barn survived the transformation of the area from a rural, farming landscape to a dense urban neighborhood over the course of the 19th century, a time when most other farmhouses were demolished.

The Boston Landmarks Commission designated the property as a local landmark in early 2006 to prevent demolition. After the landmarking, the buildings were not maintained, and they deteriorated substantially in the ensuing years, appearing on Historic Boston Inc.’s (HBI) “watch list” of endangered properties several times. The property was seized by the city of Boston for unpaid back taxes and subsequently sold to HBI in 2015. HBI’s plan for the property was to rehabilitate the two buildings and convert open land into a community garden and farm in partnership with the Urban Farming Institute and the Trust for Public Land.

The rehabilitation project, which was supported by state and federal historic rehabilitation tax credits, brought new life to the dilapidated buildings. This exceptional



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project combined historic preservation and farming with community involvement to create a resource for generations to come.

This is the 41st 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 for the Fowler-Clark-Epstein Farm at an afternoon ceremony on June 6, 2019, at the Massachusetts Archives Building at 220 Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester (left to right: Michael Mawn, Kathy Kottaridis, David Hurst, Secretary Galvin, Patricia Spence, Michael Burrey, Stephen Messinger, Jason Panos. Photo by Goodnough Photography.).