



NEWS

William Francis Galvin
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SECRETARY GALVIN PRESENTS 2019 PRESERVATION AWARD TO THE PLYMOUTH POST OFFICE BUILDING

Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin, Chair of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, has announced that the Plymouth Post Office 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 of the Plymouth Post Office, supported by historic rehabilitation tax credits, was an important project in downtown Plymouth.”

The Georgian Revival-style Plymouth Post Office was designed by Oscar Wenderoth, Supervising Architect for the United States Treasury, and built in 1914. It was individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1986. It is a fine example of the style, built of brick with limestone trim, and featuring a seven-bay portico and massive, multi-stage tower with belfry and clocks, surmounted by a low, gold-painted dome and Mayflower weathervane. Originally serving as a post office, mail-sorting facility, and customs office, it later housed civil services offices and an office for the FBI. By the early 1980s, however, the building was only partially occupied. It was converted to commercial use in the mid-1980s.

Despite the changes in use over the course of the 20th century, the building retained significant character-defining features inside and out. A new rehabilitation project supported by state and federal historic rehabilitation tax credits began shortly after the building was acquired by 1620 Capital, LLC.

The project included the restoration of all salvageable millwork. Vermont marble that had originally adorned basement walls, but later had been covered over, was removed and repurposed throughout the building for door thresholds, baseboards, and shower areas in new apartments. At the rear of the building, an 800-square-foot addition



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created more space while leaving the original cornice intact. On the roof of the addition, a new, discreetly placed deck was accessed via doors installed in original dormers. The tower, including its historic clocks and weathervane, was also restored. Now a mixed-use building, it continues to serve as downtown Plymouth's post office while also containing additional residential and commercial use.

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 Plymouth Post Office at an afternoon ceremony on June 6, 2019, at the Massachusetts Archives Building at 220 Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester (left to right: George N. Vasvatekis, Secretary Galvin, Yann N. Vasvatekis, Nikolaos Vasvatekis. Photo by Goodnough Photography.).

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