



NEWS

William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

State House, Room 337
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Contact: Debra O'Malley
Telephone: 617-727-9180

June 18, 2019

SECRETARY GALVIN PRESENTS 2019 PRESERVATION AWARD TO TOPSFIELD TOWN HALL

Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin, Chair of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, has announced that Topsfield Town Hall 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 Topsfield Town Hall, a remarkable Victorian building, is a great success story for the town of Topsfield.”

Topsfield Town Hall was designed by noted Boston-based architectural firm Lord and Fuller and constructed by local builder John Potter. The Victorian Eclectic Town Hall has served its original purpose since it opened in 1874. While it was in great need of rehabilitation as well as expansion to meet 21st-century needs, plans were twice rejected at Town Meeting before a project was finally approved. A 2015 study led to the development of a rehabilitation project for the building to address accessibility, code requirements, and life-safety needs while incorporating a complementary new addition to the rear. The proposals were approved at town meeting, and local funds were appropriated to implement the project.

Historic features inside and out were restored as part of this project, including the restoration of the auditorium, one of the key spaces in the building, which had been carved up into offices. The new addition was separated visually and physically from the original Town Hall by being constructed at the rear, set back about 40 feet from the front of the main building, and connected by a recessed glass-and-wood link, giving it the appearance of a distinct edifice. While the addition does not replicate the original building design, it is compatible in massing, size, and scale. The rehabilitated Topsfield



NEWS

William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

State House, Room 337
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Contact: Debra O'Malley
Telephone: 617-727-9180

Town Hall combines modern amenities with beautifully restored historic features to guarantee that it remains a vital and fully functioning center of the community.



Secretary Galvin is pictured presenting the award for the Topsfield Town Hall at an afternoon ceremony on June 6, 2019, at the Massachusetts Archives Building at 220 Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester (left to right: John Sayre Scibona, Ben Nutter, Gregor Smith, Secretary Galvin, Wendall Kalsow, Anthony Serrano, and Bob McBride. Photo by Goodnough Photography.).

###