



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**SECRETARY GALVIN TO PRESENT 2008 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD TO
THE HARVARD PUBLIC LIBRARY, HARVARD**

Secretary of the Commonwealth William Francis Galvin, Chairman of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, announces the selection of the Harvard Public Library in Harvard to receive a 2008 Massachusetts Historical Commission Historic 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 is recognizing this year are particularly diverse and represent the many creative ways significant historic resources are being preserved across the Commonwealth. I commend the town of Harvard for preserving this important historic landmark building and returning it to use as a library, which will greatly benefit the community.”

The new Harvard Public Library is located in the heart of the town center in Harvard in the former Bromfield School building. Designed by the prominent architectural firm of Peabody and Stearns and built in 1877, the Bromfield served as a schoolhouse until 2003, when structural instability forced it to close. The rehabilitation project restored the Romanesque Revival-style architectural details inside and outside the building, repaired woodwork of the floors and shelves, and replicated original light fixtures. New features include the creation of new community spaces, additional shelving, and a climate-controlled genealogy room in the refinished basement. A large new addition was sensitively designed to complement the historic building and its historic landscape. The Bromfield School building is located in the Harvard Center National Register Historic District.

Secretary Galvin will present the awards at an early evening ceremony on Thursday, May 29, 2008 at the Massachusetts Archives Building at 220 Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester. The Harvard Public Library project is one of 11 projects and individuals to be honored.

This is the 30th 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, and Landscape Preservation. Individuals are considered in the categories of Individual Lifetime Achievement and Local Preservationist. Secretary Galvin serves as the chair of the 17-member Massachusetts Historical Commission.

The Massachusetts Historical Commission is the office of the State Historic Preservation Officer and the State Archaeologist. It was established in 1963 to identify, evaluate, and protect important historical and archaeological assets of the Commonwealth. Visit our website to learn more about the Commission’s programs (www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc).

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