



**William Francis Galvin**  
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**SECRETARY GALVIN TO PRESENT 2008 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD TO  
NEWBURYPORT CITY HALL, NEWBURYPORT**

Secretary of the Commonwealth William Francis Galvin, Chairman of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, announces the selection of Newburyport City Hall in Newburyport 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. The town of Newburyport is to be commended for its strong efforts to maintain the architectural significance of city hall and its use as the seat of municipal government.”

Newburyport City Hall was built in 1851 and has been continually used as the city’s center of political and civic activity. The building was constructed of Portland Connecticut Brownstone, a very popular building material at the time, but one that was later recognized to be easily damaged by the absorption of water. In recent years the building’s exterior had become worn, with cracked, delaminated, and loose brownstone elements; the windowsills and hoods were particularly deteriorated. The rehabilitation project repaired all exterior damage, replaced late 20<sup>th</sup> century front entrance doors with historically appropriate wood doors, and installed a sensitively designed accessible ramp. The rehabilitation of Newburyport Town Hall has helped to preserve the historic character of Newburyport and to revitalize the city’s downtown. Newburyport City Hall is located in the Newburyport 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 Newburyport City Hall 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](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)).

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