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Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**SECRETARY GALVIN TO PRESENT 2013 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD TO  
SECOND BRAZER BUILDING, BOSTON**

Secretary of the Commonwealth William Francis Galvin, Chairman of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, announces the selection of the Second Brazer Building in Boston (Downtown) to receive a 2013 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 that significant historic resources are being preserved across the Commonwealth. The careful rehabilitation of the Second Brazer Building ensures that this significant and elegant property will continue to enhance the city for years to come.”

The eleven-story Second Brazer Building was designed by architect Cass Gilbert and constructed between 1896 and 1899. A Boston Landmark in addition to being listed in the National Register of Historic Places, this Beaux Arts-style structure is significant as Gilbert’s first major East Coast project and as one of the earliest steel-framed buildings in Boston. Prior to the rehabilitation project, much of the terra-cotta and limestone facing was deteriorated, cracked, or stained. At the northeast corner, there was movement and deterioration of stone and terra-cotta masonry, which had resulted from rusting of the underlying steel frame and anchorage components. The rehabilitation of the Second Brazer Building required repair and replacement of deteriorated terra-cotta and limestone facing on all four elevations. More than 800 terra-cotta units were replaced, and 200 more were repaired in place. New terra-cotta units were cast to match existing terra-cotta in coloration and detail. The northeast corner of the building underwent full reconstruction to address the deterioration of the underlying steel frame. The steel was waterproofed before limestone and terra-cotta claddings were reinstalled. Cracked limestone blocks were replaced with limestone quarried in Indiana and tooled to match the existing pieces. Deteriorated windows from the third through the ninth floors, as well as tenth-floor oval windows, were replaced with windows that were custom-designed to match existing windows in size and profile. The cast-iron elements of the ornamental cresting were removed, stripped, repaired, and reinstalled with new gold-leaf coating. Marble shields with the Brazer “B” emblem were refinished and sealed, and the historic building designation above the main entrance was restored and re-gilded.

This is the 35<sup>th</sup> 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 Individual Lifetime Achievement and Local Preservationist. Secretary Galvin serves as the chair of the 17-member Massachusetts Historical Commission.

Secretary Galvin will present the awards at an afternoon ceremony on May 23, 2013, at the Massachusetts Archives Building at 220 Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester. The Second Brazer Building restoration project is one of 12 projects, individuals, and organizations to be honored.

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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