



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

Contact: Brian McNiff
Telephone: 617-727-9180

May 20, 2013

**SECRETARY GALVIN TO PRESENT 2013 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD TO
APPLETON MILLS, LOWELL**

Secretary of the Commonwealth William Francis Galvin, Chairman of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, announces the selection of the Appleton Mills in Lowell 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 dramatic transformation and restoration of Appleton Mills has paved the way for future revitalization in the Hamilton Canal redevelopment area.”

Appleton Mills represents the adaptive reuse of the remnants of the former Appleton Manufacturing Company property, located in the Lowell National Historical Park, the Downtown Lowell Historic District, and the Locks and Canals National Historic Landmark District. The site is significant for its association with the industrial development and growth of Lowell, and specifically that of the Appleton Manufacturing Company, one of the largest producers of textiles in the 19th century. Although the main millyard was once crowded with buildings, only three remained at the project’s inception in 2009: Mill #1, a six-story, red-brick building, constructed ca. 1915; the five-story ca. 1900 Company Office Building; and Mill #4, a five-story building constructed ca. 1900. Prior to the project, the buildings were in very poor condition due to neglect, water infiltration, fire, and vandalism. Several window openings had been bricked in. Upper floors, which had been open to the weather, were enclosed with vinyl siding as a mothballing measure. As part of the long-term project to redevelop the 15-acre Hamilton Canal area, Appleton Mills was rehabilitated into 130 live/work units of affordable housing with a preference for artists, utilizing state and federal historic rehabilitation tax credits. Restoration of the highly deteriorated structures required temporary, 60-foot-tall braces to avoid wall collapse. Extant exterior walls were restored, and new walls are clearly differentiated from the original fabric, clad with either corrugated metal or zinc shingles. New windows replicate the size and design of original windows. At the interior, steel columns and fasteners were preserved and heavy timber beams were replaced. New mill decking, visible throughout the structure, replaced the water-damaged floors. Former mill hoistways were re-created as contemporary decks, and “ghosted” overhead bridge remnants hint of the former mill environment. Oversized elevators, doorways, and hallways allow for transportation of artwork. The common areas of the building serve as a hub for artist gatherings, civic meetings, and other events that contribute to the rich cultural fabric of Lowell.

This is the 35th 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.

State House, Room 337, Boston, Massachusetts 02133

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 Appleton Mills restoration and adaptive reuse 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).

-End-