



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**SECRETARY GALVIN PRESENTS 2016 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD TO
FOGG LIBRARY IN WEYMOUTH**

Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin, Chairman of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, announces the selection of the Old Berkshire Athenaeum, Pittsfield, to receive a 2016 Massachusetts Historical Commission Historic Preservation Award.

Secretary Galvin presented the award at a recent ceremony in the Massachusetts Archives Building, Dorchester. The Fogg Library is one of 12 projects, individuals, and organizations to be honored.

“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. This sensitive rehabilitation project has allowed Fogg Library to offer 21st-century library programs and services to the residents of Weymouth while preserving its historic character.”

Constructed in 1897 with funding donated by John S. Fogg, a successful businessman who resided in South Weymouth for most of his career, the Fogg Library is located in Columbian Square in the village of South Weymouth, and is individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Worcester architects Cutting, Carleton & Cutting designed the building in the Renaissance Revival style, and the stained-glass panels in the tops of the reading room windows were fabricated by Reading, Baird and Company of Boston.

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State House, Room 337, Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Prior to its recent rehabilitation and restoration, the library had suffered from building envelope deterioration that allowed significant water infiltration, to the extent that the town closed the library in 2005. The town conducted extensive surveys to analyze the problems, and used Community Preservation Act awards, Community Development Block Grant funds, and other sources of funding to rehabilitate the building.

From 2009 to 2010, exterior repairs included stone removal, cataloging, and replacement; new back-up walls and structural improvements in the attic; and a new slate roof with new copper flashing and gutters. The exterior retains much of its historic fabric, with materials replaced in-kind only when necessary. From 2012 to 2014, the town followed up with extensive interior and window repairs, utilizing a Massachusetts Preservation Project Fund grant. Wood window frames and sills were restored and stained glass repaired. Basic restoration achieved operable, weather-tight windows, and historic window hardware was refurbished.

The window restoration also included historic paint analysis and repainting of exterior sash and casings, as well as interior sash. Interior restoration included repair of heavily damaged plaster and wood paneling, with significant plasterwork at areas affected by long-term water penetration.

The library's built-in furnishings remain unchanged, and the main floor and second-floor stack area retain their original plans. The basement was renovated to incorporate meeting rooms, restrooms, and staff areas, and a fully accessible entrance, elevator, and restrooms were added.

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*L to R Robert MacLean, James F. Clarke, John MacLeod, Secretary William F. Galvin,
Cathy Torrey, Gail Trachtenberg, Edward Walker*

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