

Preservation is Revolutionary

ANNUAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

June 11, 2026 | 521 Overlook at Fenway Park



2026 People's Preservation Choice Award Nominee

The Residences on Appleton

For generations, the brick mill buildings along Appleton Street reflected Holyoke's rise as an industrial center. Once home to the Farr Alpaca Mill, the complex employed thousands of workers and shaped the city's economy and identity. After manufacturing ended in the mid-20th century, the buildings stood largely vacant for decades. Today, those same buildings are once again in daily use.

The Residences on Appleton rehabilitated three historic mill buildings into 88 affordable homes for older adults while retaining the features that define the site. Brick walls, heavy timber framing, and large industrial windows remain central to the resident experience. Those character-defining elements remain legible throughout the rehabilitated buildings, preserving the mill's physical identity while supporting contemporary use.

By returning a long-vacant mill to occupancy, the project has strengthened downtown Holyoke and reaffirmed the value of its historic resources. The community provides housing stability for older adults who want to remain in the city, offering a strong connection to place.

The Farr Alpaca Mill once represented opportunity for thousands of workers and families. Today, its preserved buildings again support community and continuity. The Residences on Appleton demonstrates that preservation can extend the life of historic places by putting them back to work