

Preservation is Revolutionary

ANNUAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

June 11, 2026 | 521 Overlook at Fenway Park



2026 People's Preservation Choice Award Nominee

Newell & Weld Boathouses

The Newell and Weld Boathouses are not just historic buildings; they are living symbols of more than a century of athletic tradition and community pride. Situated on opposite shores of the Charles River, these two grand structures frame the most celebrated stretch of competitive rowing water in the country. Both designed by Peabody & Stearns, the Newell (1901) and Weld (1906) Boathouses are contributing buildings to the Charles River Basin Historic District and are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Prior to this restoration project, neither building had undergone a comprehensive renovation since its construction. The design and preservation approach identified the strongest organizing elements of Peabody & Stearns' design intent, removed decades of incremental alterations, and made careful, selective insertions of new interior architect where the programs required it.

Exterior restorations required exceptional craft and attention to detail. At Newell, the original red and green slate facade, brown mahogany windows, and copper trim were renewed in kind, with patinaed custom-molded copper shapes removed and reinstalled wherever possible. At Weld, a deteriorating terracotta entrance pediment was laser-scanned, molded, and reconstructed by a specialist fabricator to preserve an intricate Viking ship-and-shell motif. Both buildings received upgraded training spaces, locker rooms, and rebuilt docks, and were reprogrammed to ensure the men's and women's teams had equitable facilities.

Following the restoration, both buildings are accessible for the first time in their 120-year histories. The design team studied and identified strategic locations to thread elevator access between existing spaces and structures, without affecting the historic interiors. The second-floor balcony at Weld, a key timing station for the Head of the Charles Regatta, was also made accessible for the first time in its history. Construction was phased so that both rowing programs remained active and no athlete missed a competitive season.

The Newell and Weld Boathouses are used daily by student athletes and are visible to thousands of spectators every year. This once-in-a-century restoration makes them more functional, accessible, and sustainable, without compromising the unique historic character of each structure.