Chapman Arms is dedicated

State Secretary of Communities and Development Amy S. Anthony last week participated in dedication ceremonies marking the completion of Chapman Arms, a historic 50-unit apartment complex in Cambridge. The building, which has been completely rehabilitated with public and private funds, will provide 50 rental units. Twenty-five of the units will be rented to low-income citizens, with the remaining units made available to citizens of moderate income.

The Chapman Arms complex, formerly called Craigie Arms, was redeveloped by Housing Associates, a Cambridge development firm. The building, constructed in 1898, was designed by Josephine Wright Chapman, one of the nation's first female architects. Prior to the renovation, the former Mount Auburn Street landmark was badly deteriorated, with major structural problems.

The Chapman Arms redevelopment effort was financed through a $4.1 million loan given through the state's SHARP (State Housing Assistance for Rental Production) Program. Additional public support for the project includes the commitment of Section 8 rehabilitation funds from the Cambridge Housing Authority.

Anthony commended developer Robert H. Kuehn, Jr. of Housing Associates for "turning a vacant, dilapidated building into decent and affordable housing for low and moderate income Cambridge residents. In an era of condominium conversions and escalating rents, the Chapman Arms development will provide an important resource for those Cambridge residents who have been priced-out of the rental market."

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