



MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY

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NEWS:

For Immediate Release

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MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY WINS NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD

*Trust recognizes 175 Years of Excellence in Caring for
One of Nation's Most Significant Cultural Landscapes*

WATERTOWN / CAMBRIDGE, MA - OCTOBER 2007 – Mount Auburn Cemetery, located in Cambridge and Watertown, Mass., announced today it has received the prestigious **Trustees' Emeritus Award for Excellence in the Stewardship of Historic Sites** from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Mount Auburn is one of 21 national award winners the National Trust for Historic Preservation honored during its week-long **2007 National Preservation Conference** in the Twin Cities of Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

Established in 1831 nearly four miles outside of Boston, Mount Auburn Cemetery is not just a burial ground. As the first of its kind in North America—no space combining burials with picturesque landscaping existed in either the United States at the time— it is also a natural oasis for hundreds of thousands of visitors a year who come to enjoy the cemetery's vast greenery and array of artwork.

Today, Mount Auburn Cemetery stands as an international model of stewardship, interpretation, and programming. According to the Trust, adroit fundraising and sound management have made it the best-endowed historic cemetery per acre in the country. Staff cares for 175 acres, 5,000 trees, thousands of shrubs and herbaceous plants, more than 40,000 monuments, and scores of important historical records while operating a still-active burial ground.

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The breadth of its resources contributes to the wide array of interpretative materials and programming the cemetery offers throughout the year. Hosting 200 tour groups and presenting more than 70 public lectures annually, the cemetery is also regularly used by neighboring schools as an outdoor classroom for lessons in natural history, art, and literature.

“Unlike many preservation showplaces, Mount Auburn doesn’t lend itself to dramatic before-and-after images,” said Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. “Instead, the story here is about wise stewardship and an enduring determination that this historic place will remain what it has always been: a place of honor for the dead, a place of beauty and inspiration for the living.”

Mount Auburn is the resting place for 94,000 people, including Isabella Stewart Gardner, Winslow Homer, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, many politicians including Henry Cabot Lodge, Sr., Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., and more recently sportscaster Curt Gowdy, and historian Arthur Schlesinger, Jr.

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The National Preservation Awards are bestowed on distinguished individuals, nonprofit organizations, public agencies and corporations whose skill and determination have given new meaning to their communities through preservation of our architectural and cultural heritage. These efforts include citizen attempts to save and maintain important landmarks; companies and craftsmen whose work restores the richness of the past; the vision of public officials who support preservation projects and legislation in their communities; and educators and journalists who help Americans understand the value of preservation.

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