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Cemetery rehab project honored

May 15, 2009

The Buckhead Heritage Society was set to receive an award for excellence in rehabilitation May 15 from the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation for its restoration of Harmony Grove Cemetery in Buckhead.

"This award recognizes the many organizations and volunteers who have partnered with us to complete a professional-level restoration project with limited private funds," said Christine McCauley, the executive director of Buckhead Heritage. She noted the support of the city of Atlanta, the Buckhead Rotary Club, New South Associates, Robert & Co., ArborMedics and Greenwood Cemetery.

Harmony Grove Cemetery is at the southwest corner of West Paces Ferry and Chatham roads. Dating to at least 1870, the cemetery has 41 marked graves and approximately 130 unmarked or roughly marked graves, some of which have been identified by mortuary archaeologists as possible slave graves.

The Buckhead Heritage Society began restoring the overgrown cemetery three years ago. The group conducts educational tours at the cemetery and plans to install interpretive signage in the near future.

"This restoration has resulted in additional green space, fostered a greater appreciation for Buckhead's history among its residents and produced an extensively researched written history of the cemetery that will be invaluable to future generations," Buckhead Heritage board member Tamara Bazzle said.

For an extensive photo gallery of Harmony Grove Cemetery, visit www.buckheadheritage.com.

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