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EMBARGO: May 15, 2009

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Photos of the Cemetery and/or Awards Ceremony Available

Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation Honors Buckhead Heritage for Rehabilitation Work

Buckhead Heritage will receive an award for Excellence in Rehabilitation on May 15 from the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation for its restoration of Harmony Grove Cemetery. The awards ceremony will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Sacred Heart Cultural Center in Augusta, Ga.

Located in Atlanta, Harmony Grove Cemetery is a restoration project of the Buckhead Heritage Society, a non-profit organization that was formed three years ago to identify, protect, and promote Buckhead's historic resources.

The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation's mission is to promote an appreciation of Georgia's diverse historic resources and provide for their protection and use to preserve, enhance and revitalize Georgia's communities. The 2009 Georgia Preservation Awards illustrate the best preservation activity in the state.

"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, executive director of Buckhead Heritage. She noted the support of the City of Atlanta, the Buckhead Rotary Club, New South Associates, Robert & Company, ArborMedics and Greenwood Cemetery.

Harmony Grove Cemetery is located at the southwest corner of West Paces Ferry and Chatham Roads in the Buckhead neighborhood of Atlanta. 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," added Buckhead Heritage board member Tamara Bazzle.

For more information and to view an extensive photo gallery of Harmony Grove Cemetery, visit the Buckhead Heritage Society Web site, www.buckheadheritage.com.

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