



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**SECRETARY GALVIN PRESENTS 2016 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD TO
GRANARY BURYING GROUND IN BOSTON (DOWNTOWN)**

Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin, Chairman of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, announces the selection of the Granary Burying Ground, Boston (Downtown), to receive a 2016 Massachusetts Historical Commission Historic Preservation Award.

Secretary Galvin presented the award at a recent ceremony in the Massachusetts Archives Building., Dorchester. The Granary Burying Ground is one of 12 projects, individuals, and organizations to be honored.

“The Massachusetts Historical Commission is proud to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of this year’s awardees,” said Secretary Galvin. “The projects the Commission is recognizing this year are particularly diverse and represent the many creative ways that significant historic resources are being preserved across the Commonwealth. The comprehensive rehabilitation of the Granary Burying Ground’s gate and fence has restored the prominent entrance of one of Boston’s most-visited and best-loved historic sites.”

Of the fifteen historic burial grounds in Boston, the Granary Burying Ground, established in 1660, is the oldest. It is also one of the most-visited historic sites on the Freedom Trail. The Boston Parks and Recreation Department’s Historic Burying Grounds Initiative maintains the cemetery, which holds 2,300 tombs and gravestones and more than 8,000 interments.

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These include some of Boston's most famous Colonial citizens – Samuel Adams, Paul Revere, Robert Treat Paine, and James Otis--as well as 266 Revolutionary War soldiers, and Elizabeth Vergoose, the author widely known as Mother Goose. In 1840, an older wooden gate and brick wall were replaced by the current entry gate, 300-foot-long cast-iron fence, and wall of Quincy granite. Isaiah Rogers designed the Egyptian Revival-style granite gate. The Granary Burying Ground is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Prior to the recent project, the burial ground's historic cast-iron fence displayed numerous incorrectly repaired or replaced components, and many pieces were missing entirely. The bases of most pickets and posts were so worn that they could be lifted and moved. Rust jacking and wall tilt contributed to cracked granite and caused the fence to lean. The granite wall and gate were dark with grime and rust. After a year and a half of research, design, and restoration, the historic fence is now set plumb to the adjacent sidewalk for the first time in decades.

The cast-iron fence components were cleaned to bare metal, restored, repainted, and reinstalled. Missing or non-historic elements were replaced with reproductions. About one-third of the 600 pickets were recast with either new pickets or finials. Although the granite wall had shifted over the years, it was structurally stable, so it was not reset. Instead, the team repaired cracks and replaced material in one area of significant granite loss, under a fencepost. Finally, the granite wall and monumental entry gate were cleaned of rust and grime, possibly for the first time since their installation in the 1840s.

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*L to R: Kelly Thomas, Kyle Zick, Danielle Desilets, Secretary William F. Galvin,
Suzanne Taylor, Peter Andruchow*

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