

MORE IRISH HERITAGE LANDMARKS

In the months ahead, BITA plans to add new stops along the trail in Boston and the neighborhoods. In addition, we are creating an inventory of greater Boston landmarks that includes Cambridge, Brookline, Quincy, Milton and Canton, and a directory of Irish landmarks across the entire Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Here are some examples of new sites being added to the Irish Heritage Trail project between 2024 and 2026.

BOSTON



Swan Boats

Public Garden
Boylston + Arlington Street

The majestic swan boats in the Public Garden lagoon were created in 1877 by Irish immigrants Robert Paget and his wife Julia (Coffey). A boat builder by trade, Robert developed a catamaran propelled by foot pedals to cruise around the scenic lake. Four generations later, the swan boats are still operated by the great-grandchildren of Julia and Robert Paget and are more popular than ever.

NEIGHBORHOODS



Flynn Cruiseport Boston

Seaport Boston

Flynn Cruiseport is named for South Boston native Ray Flynn, who established the Cruiseport in 1986 when he was mayor of Boston. The Cruiseport is a popular gateway each season for cruise ships exploring the New England and Canadian coasts and beyond. Flynn, who was also named US Ambassador to the Vatican, comes from a family of longshoremen. The Cruiseport is part of the Ray Flynn Marine Industrial Park.

CAMBRIDGE



The Sphinx Monument

Mount Auburn Cemetery

Considered one of America's most distinctive civil war memorials, the Sphinx Monument in Mount Auburn Cemetery was created by Irish sculptors Martin Milmore and his brother Joseph who emigrated from Co. Sligo. Unveiled in 1872, the Sphinx was carved from a single slab of granite weighing 70 tons. It was described as "an exquisite work of art" and as a "fabulous feminine monster."



Edgar Allan Poe Statue

Boylston + Charles Street

Edgar Allan Poe, the famous 19th century writer of short stories and novels, was born in Boston on January 19, 1809, to parents who were actors at the Federal Street Theatre. His father's ancestors trace their Scots-Irish roots to County Cavan in the Ulster province of Ireland. In 2014, Boston honored Poe with a life-sized statue close to where he was born.



St. Stephen's Church

401 Hanover Street, North End

Originally designed by architect Charles Bulfinch in 1802, St. Stephen's became a Catholic Church in 1862, a parish for Irish refugees who settled in the North End after fleeing Ireland's famines. President Kennedy's mother Rose Fitzgerald was baptized here. Outside the church is a plaque honoring Rose, and also, a plaque dedicated to Irish immigrant Ann Glover, falsely hung as a witch in 1688.



Tip O'Neill Mural

Cambridge Public Library
70 Rindge Avenue

Thomas P. 'Tip' O'Neill was a legendary politician from Cambridge, elected as US Congressman and later as Speaker of the House. A mural in his honor was dedicated in December 2012 on the centenary of his birth, at the public library in North Cambridge, not far from Barry's Corner, where Tip was raised. His famous phrase, 'All Politics is Local' still rings true today.

• Pittsfield

Northampton

Cambridge

Boston

Hull

Framingham

Newton

Brookline

Milton

Quincy

Cohasset

Scituate

Chicopee

Worcester

Milford

Canton

Duxbury

Springfield

BROOKLINE

QUINCY/CANTON

MASSACHUSETTS



John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site

83 Beals Street, Brookline

President John F. Kennedy was born on May 29, 1917 in the Kennedy family home and had fond memories of growing up there. When he was elected president in 1960, the Town of Brookline erected a marker commemorating his birth in 1961. The Kennedy family repurchased the home in 1966 and turned it over to the National Park Service.



Robert Burns Statue

Granite Street & Bergin Parkway, Quincy

The statue of Scottish bard Robert Burns was unveiled in Quincy in 1925, part of the city's tercentenary celebrations. It was created by sculptor John Horrigan, born in Vermont in 1864 to Irish immigrant parents. Horrigan moved to Quincy in 1887 and became noted as a master sculptor specializing in granite. His son Gerald also became an accomplished sculptor and assisted his dad.



Henry Knox Cannon Trail

Historic Markers in Massachusetts From Ticonderoga to Cambridge

The Knox Trail contains nearly 60 historical markers representing the arduous journey of Scots-Irish hero Colonel Henry Knox, whose troops dragged 59 cannons and artillery 300 miles in the dead of winter from Ticonderoga, NY to Cambridge, MA. The cannons were then used at Dorchester Heights in South Boston, forcing British troops to evacuate on March 17, 1776, ending the Siege of Boston.



Boston College

John J. Burns Library
Chestnut Hill

Founded in 1863 by Irish immigrants John McElroy and Andrew Carney, Boston College was initially a commuter school for local Irish children. BC's John J. Burns Library has valuable collections on Irish writers such as W.B. Yeats and Samuel Beckett and women writers such as Louise Imogen Guiney. The library's Traditional Irish Music Archives has numerous Irish recordings with particular emphasis on Boston musicians.



Irish Cultural Centre

Route 138, Canton

Opened in 1989, the Irish Cultural Centre of Greater Boston is a gathering place for the region's Irish-American community. The 46 acre Centre contains playing fields, walking trails, an authentic Irish cottage and a building with a banquet room, library, classrooms, and an Irish pub. The Centre offers year round concerts, festivals, educational courses, dance lessons and is the home field for the Gaelic Athletic Association each summer.



Anne Sullivan Park

Feeding Hills, Agawam

Sullivan was born on April 14, 1866 in Feeding Hills, Agawam, MA, the daughter of impoverished Irish immigrants. After graduating from Perkins School for the Blind, Anne became known as the Miracle Worker for teaching the deaf and blind, including star pupil Helen Keller. In 1992, a statue by sculptor Mico Kaufman was dedicated in Agawam. There are other Anne Sullivan memorials in Watertown, Cambridge and Tewksbury.

IrishHeritageTrail.com