

August 2008

Packet

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF FEDERAL HILL & FELL'S POINT ■ BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Upcoming Events in Fells's Point

July 26-August 3
Restaurant Week
Special Prix fixe meals at many participating Fells Point restaurants

Sat, Aug 2. 11am-5pm
SummerFest
Broadway Square

Sunday, Aug 3, 2-6 pm
CAPC
(Companion Animal Parasite Council)
Educational Tour
Broadway Square

Sat-Sun, Oct 4-5
11am - 7pm
42nd Annual Fells Point Fun Festival
Fells Point



42nd Annual Fun Festival Slated for Oct. 4-5, 2008

Forty-two years ago, a group of residents bent on saving Fells Point from "The Road" came up with a crazy idea. They decided that the best way to bring attention to Fells Point's historic buildings and waterfront was to have a festival. The very first Fells Point Fun Festival took place in 1967 as a way to raise awareness and funds to save Fells Point. It was the inauguration of the urban preservation movement in Baltimore. All of Baltimore was invited to come and see why Fells Point was so important to both its residents and the city itself. Residents even opened their homes and proudly allowed the public to view their rehabbed houses.

The first festival was a huge success and led to subsequent festivals, each one larger and better attended than the last. The festival succeeded in helping to promote and save Fells Point. One thing has remained constant through the years - the Fells Point Fun Festival celebrates city living and historic Fells Point. The 42nd Annual Fells Point Fun Festival continues to celebrate city life. Just a few of this year's festival features:

- * Five stages of entertainment ~ featuring blues, jazz, ethnic music and dance, and rock & roll
- * La Plaza Hispana ~ our own Fiesta on Broadway
- * Arts & Crafts Row ~ with over 100 vendors exhibiting handmade wares
- * The International Bazaar ~ featuring retail items from around the world
- * Arts on Parade ~ displays of fine art and photography
- * The Giving Place ~ where local non-profits reach out to you
- * Fun Fest Flea Market ~ hunt down your own "road show" antiques and treasures
- * The Carnival of Wonders ~ just for kids, and the young at heart!
- * Historic Ships ~ along the waterfront



So make plans now to attend the 42nd Annual Fells Point Fun Festival. Better yet, volunteer and help the Preservation Society put on a great festival. For more information call: 410-675-6756



The Wolfe Street Wooden Houses

The two late 18th century, wooden workers' houses at 612 & 614 Wolfe Street, owned by the Preservation Society, are inching along toward rehabilitation. The city permits for the amelioration work have been cut and that work will begin shortly. This includes erecting a new fence in the back of the properties to keep them secure, doing (required) archeology where the 10 post-holes for the fence supports will be dug, installing new doors on both properties, and doing some roof work. The properties have already been stabilized and are not in danger of collapse while awaiting future rehabilitation.

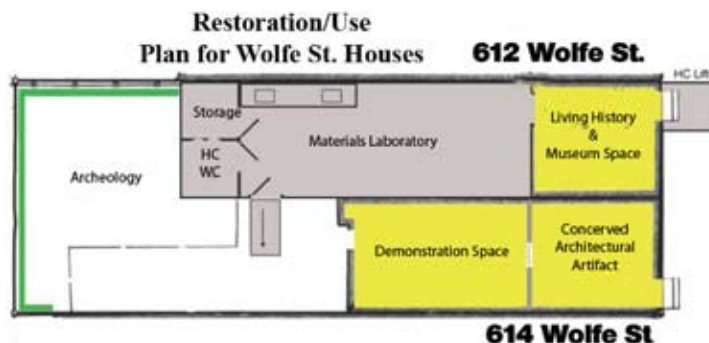


workers' houses and were occupied by African-American caulkers (a black trade) during the hey-day of schooner construction in Fell's Point. Title research by the Dell Corporation reveals the names of Richard Jones, Henry Scott and John Whittington – all African-American caulkers who lived in these houses in the 1840s and 50s. Further research about owners and inhabitants will undoubtedly yield more stories about these homes and the people who lived and worked in Fell's Point. The next step in the conservation process is to show the plans to CHAP and the Maryland Historical Trust for approval of the master plans for both sites as drawn up by architect Peter Pearre, AIA, with consultation by Bryan Blundell, president of the Dell Corporation and an expert on historic reconstruction.



These two properties are some of the last 18th century wooden houses in Baltimore – probably built in 1797. They are one room deep although both had additions added to the back at some point. They were built as

The future use of these historic buildings has been debated by the Preservation Society for some years. The current thinking is that the best and highest use would be for both to become education platforms. The southern property, 614 Wolfe Street, would remain as a “conserved artifact” – an “as is” structure in which school groups, from the elementary grades through graduate students, could study early working-class architecture and building techniques. The original front room of the northern property, 612 Wolfe Street, would serve as a living history museum, while a new addition on the rear would serve as a materials laboratory and exhibition space for the school groups. Watch for these properties to become popular historic attractions in Fell's Point in the near future.



Membership Form



You Win Some, You Lose Some...



Join Today and Help the Preservation Society Preserve our Endangered Urban Heritage

YES! I WANT TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE PRESERVATION SOCIETY TO MAKE MY VOICE HEARD FOR THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF OUR HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS.

Sign up for a 100% tax deduction at any of the Membership Levels below.

YES my company has a matching contribution program.



Basic: \$30 year/ \$55 2-year

Contributing: \$50 year/ \$85 2-year

Harbor Hundred: \$100 year/ \$185 2-year

Captain's Circle: \$250 year

Corporate: \$500 year

Total: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Credit card Visa MC # _____ Exp _____

Complete & mail or fax this Form with your donation to
Preservation Society, 812 S. Ann Street, Baltimore, MD 21231
FAX: 410.675.6769



View from Ann Street

By Executive Director Ellen Von Karajan

Exciting news for all of Baltimore and especially for us is that the legislation creating the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail was signed into law in May. We are supporting the units of the National Park Service (Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine and the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network) that are likely to be tasked with the next major step in the implementation of the Trail – that is, the preparation of a Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP). We ask you to join our staff and Board and other historic organizations throughout the City (and State) by sending an email to the Secretary of the US Department of the Interior with a copy to the National Park Service. Express your concern that the Department and the Park Service provide adequate funding for the Comprehensive Management Plan and sufficient Trail staff in the current federal funding year (FY 2009). The Park Service is not likely to give the Trail high priority unless we communicate a sense of urgency. And unless the Comprehensive Management Plans is written this year, we are not likely to see resulting projects “in the ground” until after the 1812 Bicentennial period.



You can send emails to Dirk Kempthorne, Secretary of the US Dept. of Interior, exsec@ios.doi.gov, and to Mary Bomar, Director, National Park Service, mary.bomar@nps.gov. There are sample letters for you to copy or excerpt on the Preservation Society’s web site: www.preservationsociety.com. Funded projects mean more dollars, promotion, and business in our community as well as a once-in-a-century opportunity to tell about Fell’s Point’s unique, vital, and largely unknown role in the War of 1812.

If you need a quick refresher course in Fell’s Point’s role in the War of 1812, I highly recommend Town Crier Jack Trautwein’s lecture series (6 sessions beginning Oct 13, 2008. Mondays & Wednesdays at 7:30 pm, 808 S. Ann St). The *Secrets of a Seaport* walking tour each Saturday at 10 am also offer an excellent insight into Fell’s Point’s role.

We continue to move forward step by step in tightly defined phases with work on the historic properties donated to us by the Dashiell Marine family and Lu Fisher (as you can see from other articles in this newsletter.) We have accelerated our fund raising efforts

so that we can move smoothly into Phase 2 work on all of the buildings. This capital program will give us many opportunities to participate more fully in 1812 Bicentennial activities.

In the interim, we seek a short term tenant (12-24 months) for the office space in the former Maritime Museum at 1724-26 Thames Street. Please call me for more information at 410-675-6750 ext. 14. Got any hot leads?



Meet the Wolfe Street Team

The Preservation Society has assembled an award-winning team to guide the restoration of the historic wooden, working-class houses on Wolfe Street,

The primary consultant, contractor, and cost estimator is Bryan Blundell, President of the Dell Corporation, a general contracting firm based in Rockville, MD, that specializes in historic renovation and preservation. Bryan is an expert on historic construction techniques and has consulted and worked on properties for the US Departments of State, Education, Agriculture, and Justice. The Dell Corporation, which he heads, has also worked on restoration projects for Ft. McHenry, the Washington Monument, the Library of Congress, Fenwick Island Lighthouse, the *Brig Niagara*, the Smithsonian Institution, as well as a host of other historic homes and museums.

The architect for the project is Peter Pearre, AIA, of the firm of Trostle and Pearre. Mr. Pearre was the architect for the restoration of the Robert Long House, headquarters of the Preservation Society, several years ago. He has also served as architect on The Wye House near Easton, the Enoch Pratt House in Baltimore, Almodington in Somerset Co, and the Captain’s House in Talbot Co. In addition to the Wolfe St. houses, he is currently working on the Daniel McMeal House in Fell’s Point. Mr. Pearre has written about art and architecture in Maryland, Hampden-Woodberry, the architecture of Baltimore, and the architecture of the old South.

Together with the Preservation Society’s Executive Director and its Building Committee, the team will restore these working-class houses in a way that all of Fell’s Point can be proud.

Leeke Academy ~ And the Good News is...

The Preservation Society has scored another \$100,000 grant towards the rehabilitation of the two properties it is currently restoring on Aliceanna St. - the wooden, 18th century Leeke Academy at 1729 Aliceanna, and the adjacent early 19th century Captains Hotel at 1731-33 Aliceanna. These are some of the oldest buildings in Baltimore and certainly worthy of preservation. The grant, from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, is dedicated to the Phase II elements of the project. This new grant of \$100,000 along with in-hand grants totaling \$125,000, should just about cover the costs of rehabilitating the properties.



Progress is being made on this project – particularly the older, wooden Leeke Academy which is in more dilapidated condition. A standardized AIA list of proposed construction costs with a projected schedule has been drawn up by the project architect, Richard Wagner,

AIA, of David H. Gleason, Inc. The project timetable calls for the Academy building to be roofed and sealed before the coming snow season.



Society Being Sued

Samuel “Bo” Forrest, the owner of a property on Thames Street, is suing the Preservation Society alleging that one of the Society’s buildings encroaches on his property. The suit is scheduled for trial in Baltimore City Circuit Court in January 2009.

Heritage Area Office to Install Wayfinding Signs Throughout Fell’s Point

The Baltimore City Heritage Area Office, in cooperation with a host of Fell’s Point organizations including the Preservation Society, the Fell’s Point Development Corporation, and the Fell’s Point Task Force, are developing a Wayfinding sign system that will help visitors (and residents) find their way around the community and locate historic



Sample wayfinder sign

properties. The system, similar to that used throughout downtown, is being developed by Two Twelve Associates of New York City, one of the premier information design firms in the country. The Wayfinding system in Fell’s Point will consist of street corner signs in about 20 locations that will direct pedestrians to places of interest in the community.

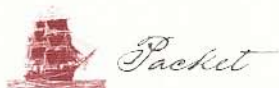


Sample CHAP sign

In addition to the Wayfinding signs, the Heritage Area is developing 10 plaque-type signs for historical properties that will have a descriptive commentary plus a historic or classic image. These “CHAP” plaques will be placed on such properties as the Merchant’s House on Thames St., the Captain John Steele House, the

London Coffee House, the Fell Family Plot, and other historic locations.

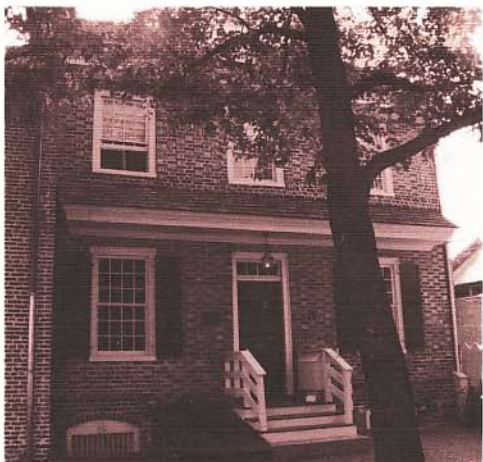
Watch for these informative and helpful signs to go up in the coming months – brought to you by the Mayor’s Heritage Area office with a lot of help from the Preservation Society.



**Society for the Preservation
of Federal Hill & Fell's Point**

812 South Ann Street
Baltimore, MD 21231

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The Robert Long House, at 812 S. Ann St. in Fell's Point, serves as the Preservation Society's headquarters. Built in 1765, it is Baltimore's oldest residential structure.



THE PRESERVATION SOCIETY ■ SAVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

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