



# Packet

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

## Upcoming Events

### Sat-Sun

#### August 11-12

Estate Sale, furniture, glassware, ephemera. Captain's Hotel, 1629-31 Alice-anna St., 8 AM-3 PM.

### Thurs thru Sat

#### Sept 20-22

New Old Theater presentation of Evening of Victorian Theater featuring *The Stage Struck Yankee* (a one-act comedy) and other tidbits. Robert Long House garden, 8:30 PM. Tickets: [www.newoldtheater.org](http://www.newoldtheater.org). \$5-10-12.

### Fri, Oct 5.

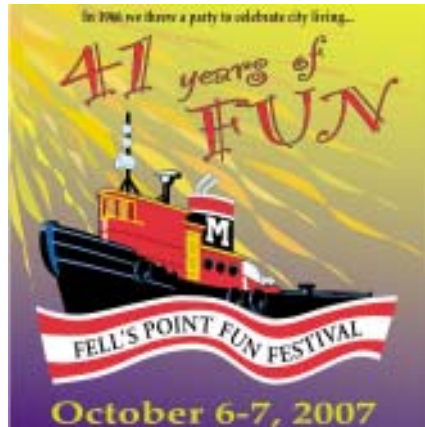
Harbor Ball. 7 PM – midnight. Frederick Douglass Isaac Myers Maritime Park, 1417 Thames St. Tickets: VIP Reception - \$200; General Admission - \$50. To reserve tickets: [www.missiontix.com](http://www.missiontix.com)

### Sat-Sun

#### Oct 6-7

41<sup>st</sup> Annual Fell's Point Fun Festival. 11 AM to 7 PM. Streets of Fell's Point. Free.

## 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Fun Festival, Oct 6-7, 2007 to Turn Spotlight onto Fell's Point



The 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Fell's Point Fun Festival brings new features as well as old favorites to the historic streets of Fell's Point on October 6-7, 2007, from 11 am – 7 pm. Presented by the Society for the Preservation of Federal Hill and Fell's Point to showcase the traditions as well as current activities of the historic waterfront neighborhood, the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Fell's Point Fun Festival will offer an eclectic collection of entertainment, exhibits, food and children's activities.

More than 750,000 people are expected to participate in the free, outdoor festivities during the two day festival. Visitors of all ages and interests are sure

to find something appealing, with five entertainment stages, historic ships, children's area, more than 200 arts and craft vendors, International Bazaar, 50 plus food vendors, fine art displays, carnival rides and amusements, Fun Fest Flea Market, and La Plaza Hispana.

According to Festival director, Denise Whitman, "The Fell's Point Fun Festival provides an opportunity for all community members to experience and enjoy the spirit and diversity that has made Fell's Point a destination for fun."

The Fell's Point Fun Festival began as an effort to raise funds and draw attention to the area when it was slated for demolition due to highway construction. The Festival has become a favored Baltimore tradition and continues efforts to promote and preserve Baltimore's historic waterfront.

The Preservation Society is a non-profit 501 (C) (3) historic preservation membership organization serving Baltimore's two oldest maritime communities - Federal Hill and Fell's Point.

The Fell's Point Fun Festival takes place rain or shine. For more details, visit [www.preservationsociety.com](http://www.preservationsociety.com).

### Estate Sale! Aug 11-12.

The Preservation Society is cleaning out its attic! You can be the beneficiary if 19<sup>th</sup> century chairs, historic bric-a-brac, or antique fixtures are your thing. Come and see what's on offer. Saturday and Sunday, August 11-12, from 8 AM to 3 PM at the Captain's Hotel (first floor), 1629-31 Aliceanna St. The sale will include many items left by former tenants of the property, as well as other treasures accumulated by the Society over the years. Don't miss this once-only event!





## The Harbor Ball Enjoys a Resurrection, Friday, Oct 5

After a 30 year hiatus, the Harbor Ball returns to the waterfront. The 2007 edition will be held on Friday, October 5 (the evening before the Fun Festival), between 7 PM & midnight. The Ball will be held at the Frederick Douglass Isaac Myers Maritime Park, 1417 Thames Street. Tickets are \$200 for the VIP Reception which will be held in the Founder's Room on the third floor of the Museum building. General admission tickets are \$50 which entitles the bearer to drinks and dancing from 9 till midnight under a tent on the museum plaza. All ticket holders are welcome to tour the Museum itself. The dress is "creative black tie" – so don your finery and come bogie!

This Harbor Ball is being sponsored by the Fell's Point Residents' Association to benefit the Preservation Society's renovation of the Merchant House at 1732 Thames St. The event will also honor those who helped "Stop the Road" – a turning point for this waterfront community.

To reserve tickets, go to [www.missiontix.com](http://www.missiontix.com). See you at the Ball!

## *Preservation Society to Nominate Two Properties for Landmark Status*

The Preservation Society has announced that it will nominate two properties to the Baltimore City Commission on Historic Architecture and Preservation (CHAP) for City Historical Landmark status. The properties are the Captain John Steele House, 931 Fell Street, owned and renovated by Jean Hepner, and the Merchant's House, 1732 Thames St, donated to the Preservation Society by Lucretia Fisher. The Landmark designation, which must be approved by the full CHAP Commission, recognizes and promotes the significance of the property and gives it some protection against future demolition. Fell's Point is fortunate in having a number of properties that either have been or could be recognized with CHAP Landmark designation.



## View from Ann Street – Executive Director's Report

*By Ellen von Karajan*

The Preservation Society is updating its Strategic Plan again to define how it will go about preserving, protecting, and interpreting Fell's Point and Federal Hill in the face of new developments and old challenges. In our traditional role, we have strengthened our partnerships to bolster our role in advocacy and are fully supporting the work of the Baltimore Historic District's Council. We have also improved many aspects of our architectural Design Review program.

But these past few months have been a time of analysis, study, and intense preparation for some roles that are new to us precipitated by the need to plan for the Washington Rochambeau Trail, the War of 1812 Bicentennial.

There are other new opportunities and challenges on the horizon as well – specifically, our decision to begin the restoration of the Merchant's House at 1732 Thames donated by Lucretia Billings Fisher; our acquisition in 2006 of two other properties; the donation of an archive of Fell's Point documents; and the unprecedented donation of an irreplaceable collection from the family of privateer and 1812 militia-man, Captain Henry Dashiell. All of these events present opportunities as well as challenges.

Not all historic properties, no matter how significant, can or should become museums. The question for the Preservation Society has been how to balance a program of income generating adaptive reuse with interpretive programs. One the one hand, we need to create and maintain a series of "pocket" museums and other interpretive programs, while on the other we also need to generate a reliable source of earned income and operating funds to cover their expenses.

To gain some perspective, we have participated in the Conservation Assessment Program. The site visit has just been completed by two experienced consultants, and we are seeking additional expertise to enable us to make optimal decisions about our properties. We'll keep you posted on the outcomes of this work.

Finally, I would like to trumpet again that our history is rich in maritime achievements and colorful with maritime lore. Accordingly, the Preservation Society is seeking ways, with a variety of partners, to continue to have a maritime museum in the neighborhood.

# Membership Form

## Help the Preservation Society Prevent

This

&

This



*Site of the former Franciscan Friary. Ann Street at Aliceanna.*

*Site of the former 18th century mansion demolished to make way for a 95' parking garage with condos above. Fleet St.*

***The Preservation Society works hard to preserve the built environment of our historic neighborhoods.***

Sometimes we win; sometimes we don't. Sometimes we are out-spent, out-manuevered, and out-lawyered by property owners that want to extract the last dollar from their property, by developers who want to tear down everything in sight, and by city bureaucrats who can't see beyond tomorrow's bottom line. **WE NEED YOUR HELP.** Your membership can make the voice of the Preservation Society louder; it can help insure that we're there to speak up and protest when you can't be. With your help, maybe we'll win next time.

***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.

One Year ~ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ Two years ~ \$150 \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete & mail this Form to  
Membership ~ Preservation Society  
812 S. Ann Street  
Baltimore, MD 21231

# Inventory of Properties

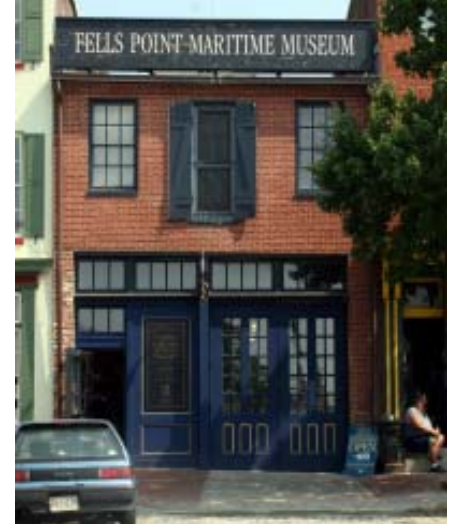
In the last several years, the Preservation Society has become a major property owner in Fell's Point. It has done so reluctantly, sometimes as an "owner of last resort" - just ahead of the wrecking ball or as a receiver of the donation of a historic property in hopes that the Society, with its many connections, would be able to raise the funds for its restoration. Here is an inventory of the properties currently owned by the Preservation Society.



**812 S. Ann St, the Robert Long House.** Constructed in 1765, this is reputedly the oldest surviving residential structure in Baltimore. The house was carefully restored to its original 18<sup>th</sup> century appearance by the Society in 1985 and now serves as its headquarters.



**808 S. Ann St, the Conference Center of the Preservation Society.** This structure is newly built and serves as the primary meeting room and public facilities for the Society.



**1724-26 Thames St, Fell's Point Maritime Museum.** Formerly the block-long trolley barn, this restored property is operated as the Fell's Point Maritime Museum by the MD Historical Society.



**1627 Aliceanna St, the Leeke Academy.** This small frame structure once housed the

Leeke Academy where Frederick Douglass was refused admission. Asset transfer from the Fell's Point Cultural Program and Museum.



**1732 Thames St, the Merchant's House.** This magnificent early 19<sup>th</sup> century property was once the shop and home of a merchant during the War of 1812. It was deeded to the Society some years ago by Lucretia Fisher and is still in need of extensive restoration. This is the next focus of the Society and will be restored beginning with funds raised from the upcoming Harbor Ball, sponsored by the Fell's Point Residents' Association.



**1629-31 Aliceanna St, the Captain's Hotel.** These large adjoining structures were once the highest quality brothel in Fell's Point, catering to ships' captains and other quality gentlemen. The properties were long owned by the Dashiell family whose collection of paintings, memorabilia, first day covers, and miscellany dates back to 1797. Part of the asset transfer from the Fell's Point Cultural Program and Museum.



**612-14 Wolfe St, Artisan Houses.** These twin 18<sup>th</sup> century wooden houses are examples of the frame homes once owned and occupied by Fell's Point shipyard workers. They are two of the six remaining 18<sup>th</sup> century frame homes in the city and are Baltimore Historical Landmarks. Part of the transfer from the Fell's Point Cultural Program and Museum.



## Preservation Society Undergoes Intense Conservation Assessment

For two days in July, two highly qualified assessors evaluated the Society's collections, procedures, and buildings against national norms for museums and historic buildings. The assessors were funded by Heritage Preservation through a cooperative agreement with the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services. Their task was to give the Society guidance as to how best to care for its collections and buildings. The assessors were Brain Ramer of Aiken and Ramer, conservation consultants, and conservation architect Thomas McGrath, AIA

The assessors had some expected preliminary recommendations – install a new roof on the Merchant's House, reduce the fire load of all properties, focus on the Ann/Thames St. campus, and “clean out the attic!” Their final report, which will guide the Society in coming months, will be issued in September.

The good news is that the Society was awarded a \$15,000 project challenge grant from the Museum Program of the Maryland Historical Trust to implement the findings of the assessors. In addition, the following grants were received for the this purpose: Preservation Maryland - \$3,000 in matching funds; the Fell's Point Museum and Cultural Program - \$1,000; and Heritage Preservation - \$7,800. Watch for improvements in the Society's collections and building practices in the near future.

### Short Takes

- ◆ Window Repair Workshop, Saturday, Aug 11. SOLD OUT. Presented by Preservation Maryland. (This popular workshop will be repeated in the fall.)
- ◆ Ghostwalk Tour, every Friday & Saturday, 7:30 PM.
- ◆ Secrets of the Seaport Tour, every Saturday, 10 AM
- ◆ Immigration History Tour, every Saturday, 12 Noon. All Tours meet at 1732 Thames St. \$12.00.
- ◆ New Old Theater presents *An Evening of Victorian Theater* featuring the *Stage Struck Yankee* and other period tidbits. 19th century plays performed in period costume with Victorian elocution and style. Robert Long Garden, Thur thru Sat, Sept 20-22, 8:30 PM. Tickets: [www.newoldtheater.org](http://www.newoldtheater.org). \$5-10-12.

## Cultural Tourism - It's Big Business

by Jerome Bird

What can older communities like Baltimore, and specifically historic districts like Fell's Point and Federal Hill, offer to make themselves economically viable and worthy of preservation? The long-term answer, according to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is Cultural Tourism.

**What it is.** Cultural tourism means traveling to experience the places and activities that authentically represent the stories and people of the past and present. It includes irreplaceable historic, cultural, and natural resources.

**Benefits.** Tourism is Big Business. In 2004, travel and tourism directly contributed \$600 billion to the US economy. According to a 2003 national research study, 81% (or 118 million) US adults were considered cultural heritage travelers. These travelers included historical or cultural activities on almost 217 million person-trips. Visitors to historical sites and cultural attractions stay longer and spend more money than other kinds of tourists. For instance, these visitors spend, on average, \$623 per trip, compared to \$457 for all US travelers.

**Challenges.** One challenge of heritage tourism is ensuring that tourism does not destroy the very heritage that attracts visitors in the first place. Tourism is generally a clean industry - no smokestacks or dangerous chemicals. But it does put demands on infrastructure – on roads, airports, water supplies, and public services like police and fire protection.

**What communities and organizations can do to position themselves to take advantage of Cultural Tourism.** They can become familiar with, and become users of, the National Trust's Heritage Tourism Program. The Heritage Program provides technical assistance in strategic planning, preservation, tourism development, interpretation, and marketing on a fee-for-service basis. For more information, check out: [www.nationaltrust.org/heritage\\_tourism](http://www.nationaltrust.org/heritage_tourism).

Or more simply, become a Cultural Tourist yourself - to your own community and historic neighborhoods in Baltimore. There are plenty of attractions, museums, and sights that you probably haven't visited in years. They're still there, beckoning you, as well as visitors from across the land, to immerse yourself in the colorful history and culture of the area.



AUGUST 2007

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

812 South Ann Street  
Baltimore, MD 21231

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Baltimore, MD  
Permit No. 4533



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.

Address Service Requested



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**Staff**

Executive Director: Ellen von Karajan  
Festival Coordinator: Denise Whitman  
Visitor Center: Barbara Cromwell

**Phone:** 410.675.6750

**Email:** info@preservationsociety.org

**Web site:** www.preservationsociety.com

**The Packet** is published three times a year - in August, December, and April. Editorial comments and contributions can be emailed to the editor at: j.bird1@verizon.net