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Hi-res photos available upon request

Maryland Historical Trust Announces 2009 Maryland Preservation Award Recipients

CROWNSVILLE, MD (June 1, 2009) — The Board of Trustees of the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) presented the 34th Annual Maryland Preservation Awards at a ceremony on Friday May 29 at 6:00 in Old St. Paul's Church at 225 N. Charles Street in Baltimore. The award ceremony was held in conjunction with Maryland's Annual Preservation and Revitalization Conference, sponsored by Preservation Maryland, the Maryland Department of Planning, the Maryland Historical Trust and many cosponsors. Sixteen individuals and projects received awards, including two for *Preservation Service*, two for *Educational Excellence*, three for *Heritage Books*, five for *Project Excellence*, two for *Stewardship of MHT Easement Properties*, and recipients of two new categories created in 2009. The new categories are *Preservation Partnerships* and *Stewardship of Historic Properties by a Government Agency*; there was one recipient in each of these new categories.

The awards are given by the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Historical Trust, which is appointed by the Governor and represents all parts of the state. The Maryland Historical Trust, an agency of the Maryland Department of Planning, is dedicated to preserving the legacy of Maryland's past. Through research, conservation, and education, the Trust assists the people of Maryland in understanding their historical and cultural heritage. In selecting the winners the Board considers a variety of factors including community impact, adherence to best practices, and innovation, but all winners are considered to be exemplary role models. "These individuals and projects represent the best in heritage education, community revitalization, and volunteerism in Maryland" said Harrison B. Wetherill, Jr., of Annapolis, Chairman of the Board of Trustees. "Each award highlights an important and unique aspect of historic preservation and the important and powerful ways that historic places can impact our lives and communities" said Wetherill.

St. Mary's County

- **PROJECT: St. John's Site Museum, Historic St. Mary's City**

AWARD CATEGORY: Educational Excellence

RECIPIENTS: Historic St. Mary's City Commission, Bohlin Cywinski Jackson, Hadley Exhibits, Konvoer Construction,

The St. John's Site Museum at Historic St. Mary's City is a \$10 million exhibit that both preserves an extremely significant archeological site, and uses it to teach visitors about Chesapeake building traditions, the origins of representative government in the United States, the pursuit for racial and gender equality, and the archeological process itself. St. John's was the site of the first meetings of the General Assembly, is where Mathias de Sousa became the first person of African descent to participate in government, where Margaret Brent became the first woman to request the vote, and was the home of several members of the Calvert family. The exhibit features a partially reconstructed 17th century heavy timber dwelling that covers the excavated remains of the house's foundations. A significant part of the museum is a series of free-standing exhibit panels which focus on the overarching theme that Maryland's first settlement oversaw the beginning of certain ideas, trends, and concerns that still have relevance today. The themes highlight key elements of Maryland's heritage.

Talbot County

- **RECIPIENT: R. Flanigan "Polly" Shannahan, Easton**

AWARD CATEGORY: Preservation Service

Known as Polly to her friends, Mrs. Shannahan has been a leader in the historic preservation movement in Talbot County, and her hometown of Easton for nearly 60 years. Born in Baltimore, Mrs. Shannahan was the first female commissioned officer from Maryland to join the United State Naval Reserves during World War II. She moved to Easton after the war and began a long career of civic service, having led or served on virtually every preservation organization in Talbot County. She was a longtime director of the Historical Society of Talbot County, and participated in the founding of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michaels. She has led the boards of the Talbot County Historic Trust, Historic Easton, and the Talbot County