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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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www.historichousetrust.org

HISTORIC HOUSE TRUST HOSTS 1ST ANNUAL HISTORIC HOUSE FESTIVAL *Opening Doors to History at 22 Historic Houses in the Five Boroughs*

The Historic House Trust of New York City is proud to announce the first Historic House Festival on Saturday and Sunday, September 20 and 21, 2008. In celebration of the Trust's 20th Anniversary, the festival will feature history-related events, exclusive tours, performances, lectures, workshops and more at the 22 historic house sites in its collection. From modest farmers' cottages to grand mansions, these sites are located in parks across the five boroughs and chronicle 350 years of New York City history, culture and architecture.

The Historic House Festival will include annual favorites like blue ribbon contests at the *Queens County Fair* at the Queens County Farm Museum, tours of Manhattan's only lighthouse at the *Little Red Lighthouse Festival*, and quilt making at Morris-Jumel Mansion Museum's *Battle of Harlem Heights Remembered*, as well as new events, concerts, workshops and lectures. Harvest potatoes at Prospect Park's Lefferts Historic House; enjoy outdoor concerts at Dyckman Farmhouse Museum or Conference House Park; or learn about Thomas Jefferson at Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, archaeology at King Manor Museum, colonial instruments at the Old Stone House or woodworking at Historic Richmond Town.

The festival will also provide an opportunity to tour houses or rooms that usually have limited access to visitors such as: Gracie Mansion, Hendrick I. Lott House, Seguine Mansion, Lewis H. Latimer House, the servants' quarters at the Merchant's House, backstage at the Swedish Cottage Marionette Theatre and the Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum's attic and cellar. Most events are free or require a nominal fee; some require reservations. For a complete calendar of events, please visit www.historichousetrust.org.

The Historic House Trust is a nonprofit organization founded in 1989 to help the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation preserve its collection of historic houses. The Trust works with Parks and the nonprofit boards of each house to restore, interpret, and promote the sites. In

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History Begins at Home. Historic House Trust is a not-for-profit organization operating in tandem with the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation. Our mission is to provide essential support for houses of architectural and cultural significance, spanning 350 years of New York City life. These treasures reside within city parks and are open to the public.
WWW.HISTORICHOUSETRUST.ORG

honor of its yearlong Anniversary celebration, the Trust is hosting several special events, lectures and promotions, including the Historic House Festival, which is modeled after a similar festival that was held when the Trust was first created. The Trust thanks *The New York Times* Community Affairs Department for being the Historic House Festival's media sponsor.

The Historic House Trust's collection includes: Bronx: Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, Edgar Allan Poe Cottage, Valentine-Varian House, Van Cortlandt House Museum; Brooklyn: Lefferts Historic House Museum, Hendrick I. Lott House, Old Stone House, Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum & Education Center; Manhattan: Dyckman Farmhouse Museum, Gracie Mansion, Little Red Lighthouse, Merchant's House Museum, Morris-Jumel Mansion Museum, Swedish Cottage Marionette Theatre; Queens: King Manor Museum, Kingsland Homestead, Lewis H. Latimer House Museum, Queens County Farm Museum; Staten Island: Alice Austen House Museum, Conference House, Historic Richmond Town, Seguine Mansion.

- 30 -

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