

Manhattan

NEIGHBORHOODS

GREENWICH VILLAGE
MORNINGSIDE HEIGHTS • HARLEM
WASHINGTON SQUARE
LOWER EAST SIDE
LITTLE ITALY • CHINATOWN

**FALL STUDY TOUR
& ANNUAL MEETING**
OCTOBER 5 - 8, 2017



1636 Sansom Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103



Manhattan

NEIGHBORHOODS

This fall the Victorian Society in America returns to its roots in New York City, where it was founded over a half century ago. The areas we have selected are neighborhoods where the built environment still evokes a sense of an earlier time and place, imparting to architecture and other cultural monuments a context that has regrettably been lost in so many other areas of the city.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5 | 6 P.M.
KEYNOTE ADDRESS & OPENING RECEPTION
JEFFERSON MARKET BRANCH LIBRARY

————— *Hors d'oeuvres, wine and soda, speaker* —————

Meet in the hotel lobby at 5:45 p.m. for a short walk to the magnificent High-Victorian Jefferson Market Branch of the New York Public Library (formerly Jefferson Market Courthouse, Vaux and Withers, 1874-77), the center of a major preservation controversy in the 1960s, and a catalyst for the founding of the VSA. Our speaker will be **Professor Andrew Dolkart** of the Columbia Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, whose talk will deal with the challenges of protecting and preserving nineteenth and early twentieth century Manhattan.



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6
GREENWICH VILLAGE



All meals on your own today

Our day will begin with a short walk from the hotel across Broadway into the East Village. There we will spend most of the morning touring the rarest of rarities, a Manhattan townhouse with its Victorian interior intact. **The Merchant's House Museum** (attributed to Minard Lefever, 1832), was built on spec in a then fashionable part of the city and acquired by merchant Seabury Tredwell. The last of his children lived in the house until 1933, and it was then bought with the family furnishings by a cousin and opened as an historic house.

We will then walk a few blocks north on Lafayette Street, passing the **Public Theater**, originally the Astor Library (1853-81, Alexander Saeltzer; Griffith Thomas; Thomas Stent) and what remains of **Colonnade Row** (attributed to Seth Geer, 1832-33), once among the most fashionable places to dwell. At Cooper Square the **Cooper Union Foundation Building** (Frederick A. Peterson, 1853-59) is the oldest extant edifice in America framed with steel beams, which is belied by its dour brownstone exterior.

Lunch will be on your own, to choose among the several eateries in the neighborhood, or to grab a sandwich to go and walk around the neighborhood.

The rest of the day will be spent with **Joyce Gold**, a renowned New York City guide specializing in the area. Among the sites on the tentative itinerary are **Grace Church** (James Renwick, Jr., 1843-46), **Church of the Ascension** (Richard Upjohn, 1840-41; interior remodeled 1885-89, McKim, Mead and White, with John La Farge and Augustus Saint-Gaudens)—and the essential **Strand Bookstore** and its famous “18 miles of books.”

The **West Village** incorporates the earlier independent settlement of Greenwich. By the early and mid nineteenth century, the area had been filled with **Federal and Greek Revival rowhouses**, and its preexisting diagonal grid meshed with the growing city's east-west grids, with some bizarre results (look for the spot where West 4th Street crosses West 12th Street—or the corner of Waverly Place and Waverly Place). Later additions include the monumental 1890s **Archives Building** (now apartments) and **Greenwich House** (Delano & Aldrich, 1917). In the now ultra-chic area of the **former Meatpacking District** is the southern terminus of the **High Line**, a landscaped elevated park along a former railroad spur; in your leisure time, come back and take a stroll on it and be amazed as it wends its way uptown around and through old and new buildings.

Breakfast on your own • Lunch and dinner provided

MORNINGSIDE HEIGHTS

Until the 1890s, Morningside Heights (the area on Manhattan's West Side between the Hudson River and Morningside Park running from 110th to 125th Street) was primarily rolling, partly forested land occupied by several large charitable institutions, including an orphanage and a hospital for the mentally ill, each on extensive grounds. By the end of that decade, these institutions had closed or moved elsewhere, and the area was rapidly being turned into the "Acropolis of New York." **Federico Suro**, a former diplomat, New York City guide and Columbia University alumnus, will explain how this played out—and we will survey the results. Sites we will visit will include the **Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine** (Heins and La Farge, 1892-1911, Cram & Ferguson, 1911-42; later additions), **Columbia University** (McKim, Mead & White, 1895-99; later additions), **Grant's Tomb** (John H. Duncan, 1891-97), and **Riverside Church** (Allen & Collens et al., 1926-30).



HARLEM

A special treat will be lunch at Harlem's **Sylvia's Restaurant**, justifiably world renowned for its mastery of soul food cuisine. **John Reddick**, an architect, preservationist, and Columbia Community Scholar, will join us there to be our mentor and guide for the remainder of the day. Even though Harlem is known today as primarily a center of African American arts and culture, this has not always been the case—in fact the first sizable number of black people did not move into the area until the early twentieth century. In addition to the richness of the neighborhood's African American heritage, we will explore with our guide the architecture and other imprints of the area's earlier residents. Included in the tour will be the **entertainment and commercial district of 125th Street**, the restored row houses of **Astor Place**, and the larger late nineteenth century residences of the **Mount Morris Park Historic District**.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7 AWARDS BANQUET THE SALMAGUNDI CLUB

By special arrangement, the **Salmagundi Club** (founded 1870) will be the site of the VSA's annual awards banquet. The club's building is a very rare survival, an 1850s Fifth Avenue town house (originally the Irad Hawley House). Our host this evening will be **Alexander Katlan**, art conservator, collector, writer, and Salmagundi member, who will deliver short remarks in the club's beautifully preserved double parlors, before we adjourn to its dining room for dinner and the award presentations.



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8 WASHINGTON SQUARE LOWER EAST SIDE, LITTLE ITALY, CHINATOWN

Breakfast and Dinner on your own • Lunch provided

WASHINGTON SQUARE AND ENVIRONS

Washington Square's history is long and complex. Beginning in the seventeenth century it went through successive phases as unused scrubland, squatter camp, paupers' cemetery, military drill ground, and, in the second quarter of the nineteenth century, one of the city's most fashionable residential districts. Before we reach our main destinations below Houston Street, we will pause to look closely at two major structures: McKim, Mead & White's **Cable Building** (1892-94) and Louis Sullivan's only New York commission, the **Bayard-Condit Building** (1897-99).

IMMIGRANT CITY

Just below Houston Street, we will pause outside **St. Patrick's Old Cathedral** (Joseph Mangin, 1809-15; Henry Engelbert, 1868) to discuss the subject of immigration to New York City in its various overlapping phases. The next major influx was Italian—hence the name Little Italy—and the Old Cathedral found itself in the middle of it. Highlights of **Little Italy** will focus on **vernacular architecture**, including the surviving devotional chapels, such as the **Church of the Most Precious Blood**, which Italians managed to establish in spite of a Vatican proscription against building new houses of worship so near the then cathedral. A visit to the **Italian American Museum** will follow. Lunch aplenty will be served at the venerable **Grotta Azzura** (established 1908).



Very few Italian Americans live in Little Italy today. This is by no means true of **Chinatown**, which continues to grow by leaps and bounds. We will visit the **Museum of Chinese in America** as well as a **Buddhist temple** and **traditional Chinese herbal pharmacy**. Interspersed in these areas are major buildings by "name" architects. Among these are the **Bowery Savings Bank** (McKim, Mead & White, 1893-99), **Old Police Building** (Hopkin & Cohen, 1905-09) and, just a block away in SoHo, the **Hughwout Building** (John Gaynor, 1856-57) and other cast-iron wonders. Our next, and last, trek will be across the Bowery to the formerly Jewish Lower East Side. On the way we will pause to admire—and gasp at—Carrere and Hastings's **Manhattan Bridge Arch and Esplanade** (1910-15), perhaps the city's most grandiose product of the City Beautiful Movement.

Behind the **Eldridge Street Synagogue** (Francis and Peter Herter, 1886-87) is an incredible, and recent, preservation fairy tale, where a wreck of a building with broken windows, pigeons and rats, has been restored to its original dignity and magnificence. After a tour of the building, **Joyce Mendelsohn**, grass-roots preservationist, author, and winner of numerous awards, will present a talk based on her book *The Lower East Side Remembered and Revisited*. We will return by chartered bus to our hotel and the end of the day's activities—and also the end of the study tour.

FALL STUDY TOUR REGISTRATION INFORMATION

BECAUSE SPACE IS LIMITED WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT ALL MEMBERS WHO PLAN TO ATTEND REGISTER WITH THE SOCIETY AND BOOK THEIR HOTEL BY AUGUST 20

The Study Tour Package includes site admission fees and bus transportation as described above; Thursday evening reception, Saturday lunch and dinner and Sunday lunch. Hotel accommodations are **NOT** included in the Annual Meeting Package. Transportation costs to and from New York are **NOT** included. If you have dietary restrictions, you **MUST** discuss these with us **BEFORE** you register.

Weather & What to Wear

Average October temperatures are in the 60s during the day and the 50s in the evening, but it is advisable to check the local forecast before departure and dress accordingly. Layers are always practical. Men are encouraged to wear jackets at the Saturday banquet.

Special Note

Bear in mind that there will be extensive walking so please bring comfortable shoes. We regret that we cannot provide alternate means of transportation for those who have walking or endurance difficulties. (Public transportation is available in some areas, but participants will be responsible for the cost.)

Eating Out in New York

There are dozens of restaurants—of myriad types, cuisines and price points—within walking distance of the hotel. Others are easily accessible by taxi, bus, or subway. A list of suggestions will be provided.

Hotel Information

Our headquarters hotel will be the **Washington Square Hotel**, 103 Waverly Place, New York NY 10011, at the northwest corner of Washington Square in Greenwich Village. Phone (212) 777-9515 for reservations, or email reservations@wshotel.com. Be sure to mention that you are with the Victorian Society in America group to get the special rate of \$250/\$260 per night (single or double occupancy, including full American breakfast). Rooms at the special rate will be held for us exclusively until August 24, 2017; after this date the special rate will no longer be available and the rooms will be subject to availability.

How to Register for the Study Tour

We recommend reserving early, as space is limited. Registrations can be made via check (preferable), credit card, or money order. Your spot in the program is secured only after we receive payment.

Cancellations

Cancellations received on or before September 5, 2017, will be refunded less a \$100 administrative fee. There will be no refunds after September 5, 2017. If you think that there is a chance that you will need to withdraw from this program, you may wish to consider purchasing trip insurance. Trip insurance protects you against any unforeseen need to cancel. Trip insurance can cover the Society's fee and your airfare and hotel costs. There are many providers of this type of insurance; one place to start looking is www.insuremytrip.com (800-487-4722). The Society is providing this information purely as a service to you, and we do not receive any compensation from any insurance organization.

Disclaimer

The Victorian Society in America is not responsible for accidents, injury or loss of personal items during this program. The Victorian Society in America reserves the right to make such changes to the schedule, sites to be visited, or personnel as may become necessary or desirable.



	COST	# OF PEOPLE	=	TOTAL
Registration fee	\$50	_____	=	_____
Fall Study Tour Package (Member)	\$595	_____	=	_____
Fall Study Tour Package (Non-Member)	\$645	_____	=	_____
TOTAL				\$ _____

Please check payment option

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ made payable to The Victorian Society in America

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Name _____ First name on name tag: _____

Additional Participant _____ First name on name tag: _____

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