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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXCELLENCE IN PRESERVATION AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Rehabilitation of the Emerson on West 53rd Street in Manhattan to be honored

ALBANY, NY – May 4, 2009 – The Preservation League of New York State has selected the rehabilitation of **The Emerson** in Manhattan to receive a Preservation League award for Excellence in Historic Preservation.

The League's statewide awards program honors notable achievements in retaining, promoting and reusing New York State's irreplaceable architectural heritage.

“With the use of Low Income Housing Tax Credits as well as Rehabilitation Tax Credits, this early 20th century model tenement has been restored from its previous sooty, vandalized, pigeon-infested state to provide more than 30 units of integrated affordable housing with multiple windows in each room,” said Jay DiLorenzo, President of the Preservation League. “Once slated for demolition, a team of advocates, activist tenants, and city agencies have returned this significant historic building to its original social purpose.”

Contributing to the success of this project were Clinton Housing Development Company; the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development; Enterprise; Edelman Sultan Knox Wood / Architects LLP; Abraham Joselow, P.C.; Robert Silman Associates, P.C.; Higgins Quasebarth & Partners; and Mega Contracting.

The Emerson (known by residents at The Flats) was constructed in the Clinton section of Manhattan in 1915 as an example of the model tenement movement to provide safe and healthy apartments for families and the working poor. The extensive restoration preserved the buildings' historical character and is now providing thirty-three apartments along with ground-floor space for community use.

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“The Flats represented the vanguard of social progress at the beginning of the 20th century,” stated Joe Restuccia, Executive Director, Clinton Housing Development Company. “The renovation and preservation of this historic building renews that commitment. It demonstrates that with a combination of local initiative, a forward thinking city government, and public and private investment, historic preservation and the production of affordable housing are goals that can be mutually accomplished in the 21st century.”

The award will be presented at the Preservation League’s Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony in New York City at 6:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, May 13th** at the historic **New York Yacht Club, 37 West 44th Street**.

The complete list of award winners is: Astor Courts in Rhinebeck, Dutchess County; Christ Episcopal Church in Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County; Asbury Delaware Church – “Babeville,” in Buffalo, Erie County; The Emerson in Manhattan, New York County; The Guggenheim Museum in Manhattan, New York County; the Theodore Roosevelt Executive and Legislative Building in Mineola, Nassau County; and The Chapel of the Sisters in Prospect Cemetery, Jamaica, Queens County. The Fred L. Emerson Foundation and Foundation Historical Society in Cayuga County will be honored for organizational excellence, and Dr. Robert B. MacKay of Cold Spring Harbor, Suffolk County, will be honored for individual excellence. *The Olmsted City – The Buffalo Olmsted Park System: Plan for the 21st Century* (University at Buffalo, 2008) will be honored as an outstanding publication.

“Excellence in Preservation Awards are our principal means of honoring the preservation community and educating the public about the important contribution that historic preservation projects make to our quality of life throughout New York State,” said DiLorenzo. “Each year, we are impressed by the number and variety of laudable projects, and this year was no exception. We are delighted to give the rehabilitation of The Emerson the statewide recognition it deserves.”

The Preservation League’s Excellence in Historic Preservation awards program is funded by a generous grant from the Arthur F. and Alice E. Adams Foundation of Miami, Florida.

By leading a statewide preservation movement, sharing information and expertise and raising a unified voice, the Preservation League of New York State promotes historic preservation as a tool to revitalize our neighborhoods and communities, honor our heritage and enrich our lives.

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