A new look at the old Baltimore

By Henry Scarupa

Youth and antiquity come together Sunday for the fourth annual Historic Baltimore Day. Student volunteers from 17 area public and private schools will be on hand at the Flag House, the Streetcar Museum, the Frigate Constellation and 14 other historic sites around the city to serve as tour guides and to answer visitors' questions.

In addition student designers from the Baltimore School for the Arts created the poster used in publicizing the one-day event.

Sponsored by the Baltimore Council of Historic Sites, Inc., Historic Baltimore Day allows visitors to stop at 17 smaller places of interest in the city for a single admission of $2 for adults and $1 for senior citizens and children. Free shuttle buses will run at 15-minute intervals between the sites.

For the young people serving as tour guides a great deal of effort went into the preparation, if students at Robert Poole middle school in Hampden are an indication. Yesterday some 20-odd 7th and 8th graders went to the Baltimore Streetcar Museum after school for a practice run.

"They'll be giving the history of the various streetcars," says Dennis Lynch, social studies teacher at Robert Poole and the school's coordinator for Historic Baltimore Day. "They'll be answering questions on where a particular streetcar ran, how old it is and so on."

Several of the youngsters will be riding the trolleys. At one point the streetcar will stop and the young tour guides will give a brief explanation, putting things into historic context. Other students will be on duty on the grounds and in the car barn to answer queries and to direct visitors.

This is the third year Robert Poole middle school has taken part in Historic Baltimore Day. Students are hand-picked for the task by the school's social science teachers. The experience, according to Mr. Lynch, has always been meaningful to the young tour guides.

"They're taking part in living history," he explains. "So much of what they do is locked into books, but this gives them a chance to deal with something out there that's alive, and I think that's great. Interacting with the public and finding they can perform in a different capacity is a good experience for them."

The poster for Historic Baltimore Day shows a festive family group with balloons against the silhouette of the

See HISTORY, B3, Col. 3
HISTORY, from B1

City. The artwork was assigned to
Stephen D. Kent's Design 1 class at
the Baltimore School for the Arts.
He approached it as he would any
commercial art project, asking each
of his 9th and 10th graders to come up
with a design. From these 19 he sub-
mitted a selection of eight, expecting
only one would be chosen. To his sur-
prise the selection committee liked
three and asked that the best ele-
ments of each be combined in a single
redesigned poster. That task fell to
Wendy Kerr, William Hightower and
Chris Jakab.

"A lot of people don't have much
faith in kids this age," says Mr.
Lynch, sharing his observations of the
students taking part in Historic Balti-
more Day, "but these kids really
came through."

Of the 20 members of the Balti-
more Council of Historic Sites (see
map and chart), the only three sites
not participating are the Baltimore
City Fire Museum, the Lovely Lane
Museum and the Old Otterbein United
Methodist Church.

The tour will be on from noon
until 5 p.m. Tickets are available
at any of the 17 sites and at all
branches of the Savings Bank of
Baltimore.