

SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST

NEWSLETTER FALL 1982

BID RECEIVED ON BUCKINGHAM HOUSE OPEN HOUSE NOV. 14



RESTORATION IN PROGRESS: the original porch was removed and has been rebuilt.

SPT TO MOUNT PHOTO EXHIBIT

"Historical Preservation in Springfield:
A Ten Year Retrospective"
will be the theme of a photography show
at the Connecticut Valley Historical
Museum opening on November 21.

Details on page 2.

In its most ambitious project to date, the Springfield Preservation Trust has restored the large house at 134 Buckingham Street and has already received a bid for its purchase.

Built in 1881 as a family home for the Brecks, it is an important house for the neighborhood because it occupies a prominent corner and stands at the edge of one of McKnight's five small parks. Gutted, roof-torn, and structurally damaged, it had become a community eyesore. Now converted into two spacious living units, the house retains its original walls, roof and striking woodwork. In addition to replacement of many architectural elements, the house has been fully insulated. Bids will be announced at the November SPT Board Meeting. The selling price is \$49,000, and prospective buyers are eligible for as much as \$14,000 tax credit under the 1982 Tax Law encouraging preservation of historic structures.

PHOTO EXHIBITION PREVIEW RECEPTION AT MUSEUM NOV. 21 5 to 7 p.m.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the formation of both the Springfield Preservation Trust and the Springfield Historical Commission. To commemorate the anniversary SPT, in conjunction with the Library and Museums Association, will sponsor a photography exhibit entitled, "Historic Preservation in Springfield: A Ten Year Retrospective." The show features photographs and commentary on both preservation successes and losses in the past ten years. The exhibit was put together by SPT members Ed Lonergan, Marilyn Sutin and Bob McCarroll. It opens at the Connecticut Valley Historical Museum on Sunday, November 21st and runs through the end of the year. SPT members are invited to the opening reception between 5 and 7 p.m. on Sunday, November 21 for a preview.

This Newsletter is published quarterly by and for the members of the Springfield Preservation Trust.

Editor: Anne E. Rice
President: Laurence Wallace

The editor wishes to thank Jan Reynolds and the members of the Board of Directors for their help.

SPT TO SURVEY NORTH AND SOUTH END NEIGHBORHOODS

In November the Springfield Preservation Trust will begin a nine month comprehensive survey of the historic assets of the North End and South End of Springfield. The survey will cost \$12,000 and is funded jointly by the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the Springfield Community Development Department.

The survey will include a brief analysis of all buildings over 50 years old, which is the minimum age of consideration to the National Register of Historic Places. Approximately 500 survey forms will be completed. From these will be selected individual properties and districts which meet the criteria for eligibility to the National Register. Nomination forms will be prepared for all properties eligible for the Register.

SPT had applied for a survey grant over a year ago and had been selected as a "semi-finalist." Funding uncertainties at the state and federal level delayed the actual grant award until this past summer. The original SPT request was for a \$20,000 survey which would also have included Six Corners and McKnight; however, the state asked that the scope and cost of the survey be scaled down.

A committee is now interviewing potential preservation consultants in hopes of hiring a survey director by November.

FALL TOUR SUCCESS

Sunshine and warm temperatures blessed the third annual SPT Fall Foliage Tour held Sunday, October 3rd. Twenty-six members and friends journeyed through the golden Berkshire Hills to visit the Shaker Village in Hancock, Massachusetts. The village, begun in the 1790s, was an active Shaker community until the 1960s when it was sold to a nonprofit organization. The Shakers were a religious sect, well-known for their craftsmanship. The village now consists of over 20 original buildings dating primarily from the nineteenth century. After an orientation session, SPT members were free to lunch and view the village at their own pace.

REVOLVING FUND

Due to the outstanding performance of the SPT in the use of our Revolving Fund, the city of Springfield has granted an additional \$20,000 to the fund. The fund has been used to restore 120 Westminster Street, 173 Bay Street, and the now completed 134 Buckingham Street. As a house is purchased, restored and sold, the money is then used to do the same for the next house. In this way, limited amounts of money are spent over and over and over. For example, so far the revolving fund has done \$145,000 worth of work with \$75,000 and will have all of the cash left from the sale of 134 Buckingham. Have you ever heard of a more efficient, cost effective program?

CALENDAR

November 14: Open House at 134 Buckingham Street. 2 to 4p.m.
Bring a friend and enjoy seeing how this lovely but run-down McKnight house has been transformed into most attractive property.

November 21: Photography Show Preview at the Connecticut Valley Historical Museum. 5 to 7 p.m.

This Preview Reception will be a special event for all Trust members: come and socialize and appreciate a fine visual history of important changes which have occurred in Springfield in the past ten years.

November 3: Board of Directors Meeting at Forest Park Library. at 7:30.
All members are welcome.

SPT GOES HOLLYWOOD

SPT and Channel 57 are beginning to produce a series of half hour programs which will be shown on cable television. Currently planned are segments on SPT itself, Springfield's history, Springfield's architecture, Forest Park Heights, McKnight, Maple Street and Mattoon Street. Also contemplated are several shows on "doing it yourself" for house repairs. The programs will be hosted by Claudia Elferdink and will feature not only SPT members but also slides and videotape of buildings in Springfield. Anyone with program suggestions should contact Bob McCarroll at 736-0629.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Neighborhood coffee hours are an excellent way to increase the public's awareness of the Trust and its activities. The Membership committee will provide a large coffee urn and the Education committee will provide an excellent slide show and commentary about what preservation has meant to Springfield in the past ten years and what issues are still to be resolved and what areas of the city are of vital interest to anyone concerned with preservation. The hosts bring people together and all enjoy talking about our organization. If you would like to find out more about coffee hours, please call Carol Ardizzone at 788-0396.

Four new member have been elected to the SPT Board of Directors. They are:
Mary Neopolitan of 276 Longhill Street.
Mary will by publicity director for SP T.

Anne Rice of 114 Marengo Park.
Anne is the new Editor of the Newsletter.

Phil and Jane Burdick of 5 Ridgewood Terrace. Phil and Jane are new co-secretaries of SPT.

TO ALL MEMBERS:

Board of Directors meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30p.m. at the Forest Park Library. All members are invited. Fall and winter meetings will be on November 3, December 1, January 4 and February 2.

Please pass on this membership form to anyone you know who is interested in preservation in Springfield and may be interested in joining SPT.

___ Student \$10 ___ Individual \$15
___ Family \$25

Any suggestions, comments, ideas?
Do you have special areas of interest?

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Mail your check to:

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