

SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST

NEWSLETTER

* Spring 1982 *

SPT SLATES SIXTH ANNUAL HISTORIC HOUSE TOUR

Six significant homes of the Victorian era will be opened to the public on May 16th when the Springfield Preservation Trust presents its sixth annual tour of houses in historic districts. Tour departures will take place each hour from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM from Classical High School on State Street. Busses with tour escorts will be provided, literature detailing the history and architectural features will be handed out, and route maps will be available for those preferring to drive their own cars.

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COMING MAY 5th - ANNUAL MEETING

All members are invited to attend the SPT annual meeting and election of officers. The meeting will be held at 7:30 PM Wednesday May 5th in the Community Room of the newly restored Hotel Worthy at the corner of Main and Worthington Streets.

SOLD! 173 BAY STREET

Springfield Preservation Trust has sold its second restored property, the single family at 173 Bay Street in the heart of the historic McKnight District. At the closing on March 5th the property brought a purchase price of \$31,900.

Acquired for back taxes in 1980, the house was vacant and vandalized. Under the direction of Jim Boone, vice president for restoration, and Don Campion, clerk of the works, the dwelling was thoroughly rehabilitated and authentically restored.

The sale which was made by Sears Real Estate returns to the SPT Revolving Fund the sum of \$25,000. The money will be used for the acquisition and restoration of other damaged, vandalized properties in historic areas.

New owner of the house is a neighbor, Mrs. Ruby Evans. Mrs. Evans already owned a home on Westminster Street.

*1111 main street
springfield, mass. 01103*

TRUST POSTS THOUSAND DOLLAR REWARD FOR

APPREHENSION OF HERITAGE ACADEMY ARSONISTS

The Springfield Preservation Trust announced on March 6th the offer of a reward of \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who on February 6th destroyed Heritage Academy on Maple Street by arson.

In making the announcement, Sandy Hoke, vice president for education, stated:

"A priceless and irreplaceable portion of Maple Hill's and the city of Springfield's architectural heritage has been lost in the destruction of this building. Originally the home of the Walter Wesson family, the house has been recognized for nearly 100 years as one of the finest examples of Queen Anne revival style Victorian architecture in the United States.

"Since the preservation and enhancement of our architectural heritage is the principal goal of the Trust, the directors feel that the apprehension of the parties responsible for this wanton destruction has become a Trust priority.

"We urge anyone who has knowledge of the perpetrators of this crime to contact the Springfield Police Department's Arson Squad at 787-6370. The Arson Squad is in charge of the investigation."

The \$1,000 reward offered by SPT is in addition to a reward posted by the Arson Watch Reward Program, sponsored by the Massachusetts Property Underwriting Association (Massachusetts FAIR Plan). This group offers a reward of up to \$1,000 for evidence leading to the arrest or indictment of any person who is responsible for an incendiary fire.

The conflagration on Maple Street which raged on the night of February 6th was out of hand before firemen could arrive at the scene. Damage was so extensive that the building could not be saved. It has since been demolished.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED -- COFFEE HOUR, SLIDE SHOW

A coffee hour and slide show has been scheduled for Tuesday, May 4th at 7:30 PM in the Community Room of Forest Park Branch Library, Belmont Avenue and Oakland Street. The public is invited.

Marilyn Sutin has updated the slide presentation, which presents an overview of Springfield's historic districts and the pluses and minuses that may occur in older neighborhoods.

WORKSHOP WILL EXPLORE

TAX INCENTIVES IN HISTORIC DISTRICTS

Springfield Preservation Trust will join forces with Springfield Central Business District, Inc. in presenting a three-hour workshop on Historic Preservation Tax Incentives contained in the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981.

The workshop will be held Thursday May 13th from 2:00 to 5:00 PM at Springfield Central's offices at 338 Worthington Street. Making arrangements on behalf of SPT are Dave Sanborn, vice president of advocacy, and Sandy Hoke, vice president of education. They announce that the workshop will be of particular interest to owners of income-bearing property in historic districts, or of property carrying National Historic designation.

Pre-registration may be obtained by calling the Springfield Central office at 732-7467.

T'S RENEWAL TIME FOR

PT MEMBERSHIPS

Ray Dixon, membership chairman has sent renewal reminders to all PT members. Deadline for renewal of 1982 memberships is May 5th.

New and renewing members will receive a \$1.00 reduction on the Historic Houses Tour. Membership dues are tax deductible.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$100 |

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

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.....

Mail your check to: Springfield Preservation Trust, Inc.
7 Stockbridge Street, Springfield, MA 01103

RESTORATION MOVING FORWARD AT 134 BUCKINGHAM STREET

Work is progressing rapidly on the current SPT restoration project at 134 Buckingham Street. Structural work, including the relocation of the stairs to the basement, has now been completed.

Contracts have been let for the repair or renewal of all mechanical systems, and work on these has begun.

An application has been filed to declare the house eligible for a 25% Tax Credit which is expected to be transferable to a

SEARCH GROUP FORMED TO LOCATE NEXT PROJECT

A committee to locate the next property for rehabilitation has been formed under the chairmanship of Jim Boone.

The group is seeking possible sites from among vacant, derelict properties in historic districts. Research is required into ownership, tax status, and encumbrances.

Any member interested in this project may contact Jim at 734-9110.

buyer. The Tax Credit is available to income-bearing properties in historic districts, covering rehabilitation costs.

Formerly a single family dwelling, the house is being converted into a two family, at least one unit of which would be a rental apartment. Each unit contains six rooms.

Jim Boone, vice president of restoration, announces that the property may be sold at any point during the restoration if a buyer should elect to save money by doing some of the work himself.

Don Campion, clerk of works, expects the house to be rehabilitated and placed on the market early in the summer.

TRUST SEEKS REPRESENTATION ON

SPRINGFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION

David Sanborn, vice president of advocacy, urges all members to contact their state legislators in support of the Home Rule Bill (Senate Bill #562), which will assign a seat on the Springfield Historical Commission to the SPT. Letters may be addressed to the State House, Boston MA 02133.

Senate:	Room
Martin T. Reilly	413F
House of Representatives:	
Robert R. Howarth	473B
Raymond A. Jordan, Jr.	237
Arthur J. McKenna	237
Anthony M. Scibelli	237
John F. Cusack, Chairman	38
Urban Affairs Committee	



TOUR SPECIALS!

Buy your tickets early
for the
Historic Houses Tour
and become eligible
for the Going-in-Style drawing,
featuring:

- * Special privately escorted tour to all six houses in a 1923 red Buick, driven by owner Stephen Gray.
- * Champagne and hors d'oeuvres provided by Gail Farrell of "Silver Spoon" Caterers.
- * Brunch for two at Ichabod's.

The drawing will be held on May 13th, from among all tickets purchased by May 12th. The winner will be entitled to have a guest accompany him.

A 10% discount on meals will be available to ticket holders on the tour on Sunday May 16 at these great eateries:

- Theodore's - 201 Worthington
- Ichabod's - 25 Fort
- Two Mattoon - Chestnut and Mattoon

Historic House Tour - - - Continued

In charge of arrangements are Elaine Godek, Beverly Lynch and Bob McCarroll. They have selected houses that display the variety of architectural styles which flourished in Springfield in the last quarter of the Nineteenth Century. All have preserved or appropriately restored exteriors, but some of the interiors have been decorated in the contemporary manner. The featured houses are:

McKnight Historic District - A Worthington Street brick, shingle and stucco mansion, believed to be the only four-story house in Springfield built as a private residence. This house was built in 1886 for the then-extravagant cost of \$15,000. An early Tudor revival, the house retains brownstone window sills and lintels, and magnificent stained glass windows in the staircase.

Maple Hill Historic District - A clapboard house with a highly ornamented facade, this George Street residence was designed and built by prominent Springfield architect

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Tickets now on sale at:

Metro Arts.....	32 Hampden St.
The Art Gallery.....	509 Sumner Ave.
William Burrows Florist.....	487 Longmeadow St., Longmeadow
Price \$6.00	SPT Members \$5.00 Senior Citizens \$5.00

Historic House Tours - - - Continued

F.S. Newman for his own residence. This house reconciles and harmonizes several disparate styles -- Federal revival, with its broad, balanced facade and a round bay on the front elevation. The balancing element, however, is a fanciful Queen Anne style octagonal turret, while Corinthian pilasters provide a Greek revival touch.

Mattoon Historic District

No place in Springfield more clearly shows the glories that can be achieved through meticulous restoration than Mattoon Street, and one of Mattoon Street's most successful restorations has been included. This 1884 row house displays Eastlake Gothic in its most restrained, handsome manner.

Forest Park Heights

Two simpler homes represent Forest Park, both comfortable domiciles rather than showplaces. The house on Garfield Street, built in 1899, retains the original slate roof and a bracket-style bay window projection, while the 1893-built Magnolia Terrace house displays unusual overhangs. Both are in shingle style.

Ridgewood Historic District

Rowhouses were rare in Springfield in the last century, and are even scarcer now. A four unit rowhouse built on Temple Street in 1873 featuring Mansard roof and gable projections in the top story has been magnificently restored and converted into apartments. Originally costing \$32,000, these homes were the height of fashion when they were built. All four have been included in the tour.

**SPRINGFIELD
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Published quarterly for the members of the SPT.