

SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST

Quarterly Newsletter SUMMER 1983



TRUST BUYS 67 THOMPSON ST.: A "Renaissance" House

Vacant for several years but not gutted, this house has "something for everyone".

Built in 1874 as a flat-roofed Italianate for Insurance Agent Whiteman Steere and his wife Ann, the structure was later embellished with gables, Gothic bargeboard, and pointed windows. Later still, craftspeople blocked the pointed windows and inserted Queen Anne shingles. Its many fine features include a working fireplace and ornate stair railings.

In the 1960's a beauty parlor operated in the basement at 67 Thompson Street, and in the early 1970's a fire rendered minimal damage. The foundation has caved in on one side.

Purchased on June 29th by the Springfield Preservation Trust, this Italianate-Gothic-Queen Anne residence will undergo extensive restoration.

FALL IN! For the SPT Foliage Tour

Circle Sunday, October 16th for the Fourth Annual SPT Fall Foliage Tour.

This year we will change direction: instead of heading north for the Western Massachusetts Berkshires, we will veer south for Connecticut.

Before driving out into the open country-side, we will visit the Mark Twain House, a unique example of Victorian architecture which bears the "mark" of its famous owner, as well as visiting other sites in the City of Hartford.

Tickets cover admission fees and light refreshments, selling at \$15.00 for SPT members, and \$20.00 for non-members. Tourgoers should pack a lunch.

For more information about itinerary and arrangements, call Bob McCarroll in the evenings at 736-0629.

SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST PICNIC

DATE August 14
PLACE John & Tina Bellows
244 Washington Blvd.
TIME 2 p.m.

ALL TRUST MEMBERS ARE INVITED!
Please plan to attend. RSVP by August 10th to let John and Tina know how many will be coming and what you would like to bring (main course, salad, dessert, etc.).

Call 739-6163 in the evenings. Please bring your own lawnchairs and liquid refreshments.

SUMMER'S SIZZLING "ON THE BURNER"

1983 marks the first year of the Springfield Preservation Trust's second decade, and has already become the most active phase in SPT history. In addition to the 67 Thompson Street project highlighted on the front page, there are several start-up renovation projects, surveys and funding innovations underway. Read on . . .

15 Clarendon Street

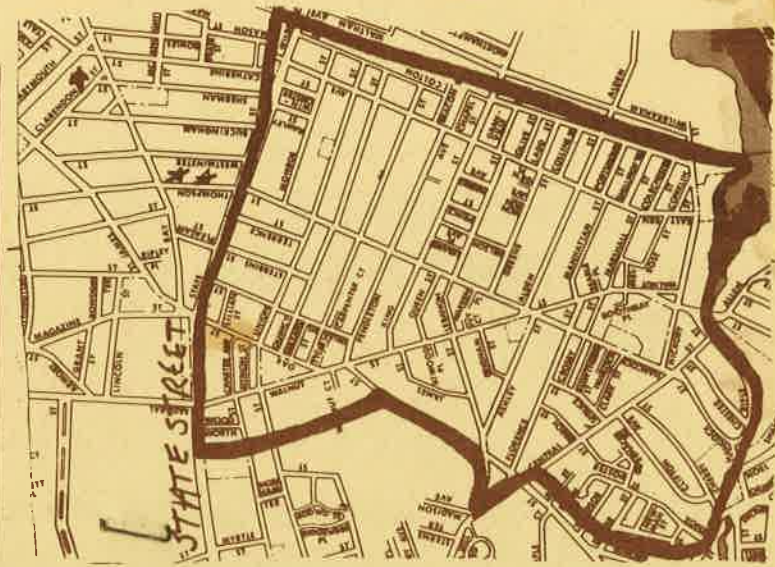
Opened to the public on May 22nd as a "work-in-progress", the Gilbert House is now nearing completion. SPT Contractors are stripping and refinishing the woodwork, installing new ceilings, and updating all mechanical systems.

Located in the McKnight Historical District, 15 Clarendon Street is another "McKnight house" built by the two McKnight architect-brothers. It boasts three storeys of Queen Anne style frame with clapboard siding. Its corner turret presents a pyramidal roof with decorative shingles above and below the second storey windows. Shingles also adorn the pediment of the porch gable. Carved railings and balusters highlight the porch.

Constructed at a cost of \$5000, this house had as its first resident Timothy W. Gilbert, "Dealer in Paints, Oils, Paper Hanging, Glass, Putty, Varnishes, Turpentine, Brushes, Curtains, Etc."

The Trust has already rebuilt the chimneys, roof, porches, and stairs of this eight-room residence, which promises to be a showplace when completed.

Anyone interested in a spacious Victorian home with a barn should call Jim Boone at 734-9110.



MAP ILLUSTRATES SURVEY AREA (SOUTH OF STATE STREET) AND INDICATES McKNIGHT AREA PROJECTS (NORTH OF STATE STREET).

SURVEYING THE SURVEYS

THE MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION has awarded the Springfield Preservation Trust a \$5000 matching Grant, permitting SPT to continue its survey work in the City of Springfield.

This \$10,000 project will begin this summer and must be completed by Spring of 1984. SPT will survey the Six Corners and Old Hill Neighborhoods which extend between State Street and Watershop Pond, and Maple Street and the Winchester Square railroad spur. These two communities contain some of the oldest existing housing in Springfield. Interviews for survey consultants are ongoing through July.

The North End/South End Survey, funded by the MHC and the City of Springfield, is nearly finished. Consultants Ed Lonergan and Lee Hamburg will be wrapping up their research and meeting with MHC staff members to review their work.

53 THOMPSON STREET READY TO MARKET

After a "moving" relocation to Thompson Street, this former Lillian Street house has undergone intensive exterior restoration, including new stairs, porches, and carpentry repair. SPT has painted the exterior consistent with the historical period. Highly visible from State Street, the house now presents a striking entrance to the McKnight District.

Anyone who would be interested in this two-family home which still needs interior restoration work should call Jim Boone at 734-9110.

NEW FUNDING FOR VACANT HOUSE PROJECTS

The Trust, the City of Springfield, and the Bank of Boston are designing a program which will generate more money for the SPT Revolving Fund. This increased money will allow four houses to be restored, thereby dramatically reducing the vacant house inventory in the McKnight District.

During the past few years, significant progress has been made in eliminating vacant and vandalized houses in this area, and the Trust has been a major factor in this improvement.

ADVOCACY: HOLLYWOOD DEMOLITION

The Trust has conveyed its alarm over plans for extensive demolition of Springfield's Hollywood Section. Our letter to the State Historic Preservation Officer concludes, "We, therefore, request that you make a determination that the Hollywood Section is Register eligible, and that the South End Urban Renewal Project, as amended, will have an adverse impact on the Section."

Probable Register eligibility has been established by the recently completed survey of the area. The survey traces the history of the development of Hollywood, details the architectural features, and lists the buildings to be demolished (9 occupied buildings with 148 apartments and 2 stories and 7 vacant buildings with 95 apartments and 1 store).

"Hollywood is significant both for its history and its architecture. It is the largest apartment house district in the city and represents the epitome of urban residential development during the early 20th century. Gagnier and Angers were pioneers in the field of apartment house construction as well as the most successful practitioners. Hollywood was developed, designed, built, and originally owned by this firm, and it is their lasting legacy to the city of Springfield," the survey establishes.

Our letter also notes that, "This collection of early twentieth century apartment structures is not only larger, but is more elegantly detailed than the Summit Street collection of apartment blocks, also built by Gagnier and Angers and recently listed on the National Register as the 'Upper Worthington Street Historic District.' "

"TOUR-RIFIC!"

Clouds threatened, but there was a silver lining on May 15th — the Seventh Annual SPT Historic House Tour was a bright success! Cold, gloomy weather "dampened" tour-day ticket sales, but not SPT spirits: our core of "repeaters" grew once again, and pre-tour ticket sales ensured a \$2038.26 profit.

Exclamations like "remarkable", "beautiful", "lovely", and "spacious" echoed throughout the tour. Each home was unique in history, style, and decor, inspiring spirited conversation among both tourgoers and homeowners. (In fact, it was difficult to tell *who* enjoyed the tour more!) After much preparation and anticipation, the owners had become anxious; but by the end of the day, their anxiety gave way to a feeling of satisfaction and pride. By the time the last tour group left, workers and homeowners agreed that "it was all worth it."

The Trust would like to extend gratitude to our hospitable homeowner-hosts: Dr. and Mrs. Paul Nay; Mr. and Mrs. Ron Ardizoni; Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Fitzgerald; Ms. Leslie Clements; Mrs. Ted Devansky and Bill Guzzi, and Morgan Square. Special thanks to one of our most diligent and dedicated workers, Mr. Bob McCarroll, Chairperson of this year's Tour. Thanks also to the Tour Committee, House-Sitters, Guides, Peter Pan Bus Lines, Mrs. Sylvia Staples, Mr. Richard Gray, Ms. Gale Farrell, Mr. Ed Crowley, and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Guckin. The enthusiasm and perseverance of these volunteers provide the solid base for our continued success.

Believe it or not — all the work *is* fun and rewarding. If you think you would like to join in tour-mania next year or know people in the historic districts who would be interested in sharing their home on the tour, don't hesitate to tell us. Let us know now! We are currently preparing our list of prospective houses for the 1984 Tour.

This newsletter is published by and for the members of the Springfield Preservation Trust, Inc.

Editor Anne E. Rice
Assistant Jan Reynolds

President June Delp-Burdick

The Editor wishes to thank the Board of Directors for their help.

WE WOULD HATE TO LOSE YOU, BUT

We must limit our mailing list to current members. We know that you are interested in preservation and will want to know about Trust projects to conserve the rich legacy of our area.

RENEW and continue to enjoy the Newsletter. COME TO the Picnic on AUGUST 14. ACTIVATE your membership: attend Board meetings August 3 and September 7 at the Forest Park Library at 7:30.

Move with the Trust as we work for the revitalization of Springfield and help to promote an appreciation of the value of our heritage.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY.

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

Mail your check to:
Springfield Preservation Trust
1111 Main Street
Springfield, MA 01103

NEW OFFICERS

June Delp-Burdick has assumed the Presidency of the Springfield Preservation Trust. Philip Burdick will act as Treasurer and Jan Reynolds will be the Clerk. Officers were elected at the Annual Meeting on June 1.

DATES TO REMEMBER

August 3	Board Meeting
August 14	Picnic at the Bellows
September 7	Board Meeting
October 16	Fall Foliage Tour to Connecticut



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