

# SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST

## *Quarterly Newsletter*

# WINTER 1984

### McKnight Restoration

Winter is a slow time for restoration, but it's a good time for making plans for Spring projects. By May our proceeds from the sale of 53 Thompson and 15 Clarendon Streets will enable us to begin work on the very lovely 67 Thompson Street.

The Trust is very proud of its restoration work in the McKnight Neighborhood which has had a significant impact on the appearance of the community and with the open houses has drawn many people back into the area.

If you have not driven around McKnight in a while -- do so. It looks great!

### "HIDDEN JEWELS" House Tour Set for May

Our Eighth Annual Historic House Tour is slated for Sunday, May 20, 1984. Studying this year's tour will be Springfield's "hidden jewels" -- older homes located outside designated historic districts. This will be a break with our tradition of featuring only houses within historic areas.

Two Springfield residents and SPT Members have already offered to open the doors to their homes for this unique view of Springfield's historic assets.

One house is an 1870's brick Gothic Revival near the McKnight Historic District, owned by Bill Wadleigh and Gerry Gerena.

Under restoration by Leslie Clement is our second tour house, a brick Greek Revival cottage built in the 1830's near the Maple Hill Historic District.

Three more houses, still to be determined, will be shown.

Anyone interested in helping to plan this year's tour or in opening their home should contact Bob McCarroll at 736-0629.



### HOLLYWOOD'S HERITAGE : Rich Architectural Detail and Historic Value

Controversy continues surrounding the fate of the Hollywood section of Springfield's South End, a cohesive neighborhood of historic apartment buildings, stores and houses. In December 1983 the city erroneously tore down 81 Saratoga Street, one of the Hollywood buildings covered by a court injunction brought about by the Springfield Preservation Trust stipulating that the City halt demolition to comply with federal regulations and perform an environmental impact study. Results of this study have not yet been determined. The Trust maintains its position that the Hollywood neighborhood is of historical importance and that demolition would destroy the unique character of this early twentieth century complex. Plans are going forward with a new developer for another South End urban renewal project outside the Hollywood section.

# THE "US" IN THE TRUST

The Trust encourages all Members to attend its monthly Board of Directors meeting which address the latest issues in Springfield preservation and development. We need new blood and new ideas to maintain our high level of energy and commitment. Come share your talents with us and make a uniquely permanent and positive impact on your community. Fundraising must remain a top priority. Please remember to send your check if you have not renewed your membership.

The Trust heartily welcomes these members who have joined since the first of January : Leslie Clement, Michael-Scrabley and Steve Haddad. Thank you for your support !!

BOARD MEETINGS : MARCH 7  
APRIL 4  
FOREST PARK LIBRARY 7:30 P.M.

## BRAINSTORMERS

Put on your thinking caps :

The Trust asks Members to contact President June Delp-Burdick at 732-7959 if they would like to help with fundraising or if they have innovative ideas on how to raise monies for our renovation projects, research surveys, and educational events.

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

Mail your check to :

Springfield Preservation Trust  
1111 Main Street  
Springfield, MA 01103

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

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

# Preservation Triumphs

Preservationists can now have a representative on the Springfield Historical Commission if the City Council acts on a home-rule amendment passed by the State legislature. Currently the Commission includes a realtor, an architect, an Historic Society member and four at-large members. If the new law is adopted, one of the at-large members would be chosen from names submitted by the Trust. The Historical Commission's chief responsibility is to review proposed exterior changes in buildings within the historic districts. For several years the Trust has been working to have this bill pass the legislature in Boston; now an ordinance amendment will be submitted to the City Council later this year. Trust members might wish to make their feelings known on this issue.

In another important advance for historic preservation, the Historic District Act has been amended by the State to allow non-profit preservation organizations like the Trust to have legal standing in appealing Historical Commission decisions. DAVID SANBORN authored the bill and followed it through the legislative process. In the past only an aggrieved applicant could appeal a decision, but the new law broadens this right to include abutters, residents of the historic district and preservation groups. Trust members might remember the ruling on the Bowles House case that the Trust had no legal authority to appeal its demolition. This legislation would remedy that kind of situation. Trust advocacy efforts over several years made possible the passage of this progressive legislation which advances preservation not only in Springfield but across the state.

A five-year effort has culminated in success as the Trust has received a change in its legal status to a Public Charity, from simply a non-profit organization. This change makes us eligible to apply for foundation grants. Special thanks to Attorney BILL MALLOY for volunteering his time and legal expertise in facilitating this important development in the Trust's growth.

# SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST

**NONPROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
SPRINGFIELD, MA  
PERMIT NO. 219**