

SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST

Quarterly Newsletter

FALL 1986



Elegant Home to Be Featured in FALL TOUR.

Trust Members and Families enjoy Picnic and Conduct Business

The Annual Pot-Luck Preservation Picnic and Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, August 3 at the Alberta Street home of Trust member Marilyn Sutin. Enjoying one of the few dry weekends of the summer, members partook of a smorgasborg of delicious dishes and heard Historian Edmond Lonergan speak about the status of his surveys of Six Corners, Old Hill, Upper Hill, Forest Park, and Liberty Heights. Ed also gave an update regarding the nomination of the eastern part of McKnight to the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination had been sponsored by the Trust, and placement on the Register is expected in September.

The election of board members and officers was held. Newly-elected members were Leslie Clement, Steve Haddad, David Premont, and Ed Sims. Re-elected were John Bellows, Jim Boone, Phil Burdick, Ellie Dashevsky, Bob McCarroll, Anne Rice, David Sanborn, Marilyn Sutin, Laurie Wallace, and Terri Ward. Officers were Jim Boone, President and head of advocacy; Bob McCarroll, Vice President and head of education; Phil Burdick, Treasurer and head of restoration; and Marilyn Sutin, Clerk.

“AT HOME IN MCKNIGHT” SEPT 28 SUPER GROUP OF HOUSES SET TO OPEN

The Trust's third annual AT HOME House Tour will be held on Sunday, September 28 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The tour will feature twenty houses scattered throughout McKnight, the largest late-Victorian, wood frame neighborhood in all of New England.

The McKnight neighborhood was built primarily over a thirty year period from 1870 to 1900 and contains approximately 900 houses. It was the city's first large suburban development, aided by the expansion of the trolley system.

The houses represent a cross-section of the neighborhood. Featured will be Italianate, Stick, Queen Anne, Shingle, and Colonial Revival style homes. Most have been lovingly restored; some are still undergoing careful renovation.

TICKETS can be purchased in advance from Longmeadow Flower Shops in downtown Springfield, Longmeadow, and West Springfield. Tickets will also be available the day of the tour at Thompson Triangle in front of 110 Clarendon Street. The ticket price is six dollars, and remember the Trust membership entitles you to a dollar discount.

Because of the large number of homes, tour-goers are urged to start as early as possible in order to see all the houses.

Homes showcased on the tour will include those of Board members Jim Boone and Ed Sims.

ARCHITECTURAL BOOKLET TO BE PUBLISHED

Members Bob McCarroll and Marilyn Sutin are busily working on a major publication expected to be ready in autumn. As the Trust's 350th gift to the City, the 36 page publication will be an overview of residential architecture in Springfield. Because few unaltered houses remain from the first half of the City's history, the booklet will focus on styles of homes from early 1800's to now. It will include a brief history of each style, show typical characteristics, and offer existing examples. Sponsors to help underwrite costs are now being sought.

TRUST SUPPORTS HISTORIC COMMISSION

The Historic Commission and the control they have in insuring the architectural integrity of Historic Districts recently came under attack by a person in Forest Park who was denied permission to vinyl side her house and by a few people in McKnight who object to being told what they are allowed to do to their houses.

The Trust joined with all of the neighborhood councils in a public demonstration at the Historic Commission meeting in support of the Commission and their need to enforce the guidelines of each Historic District as set up by the City Council. Fran Gagnon, Chair of the Historic Commission, summed up the job of the Commission when she said, "The job of the Commission is to protect houses from their owners."

AUTUMN CALENDAR

Board meetings at the Community Room of the Forest Park Library:

October 1

November 5

December 3

AT HOME in McKnight House Tour

September 28

STAFF HIRED

After many years of discussion, the Trust has hired a part-time person to help with the on-going activities. Our new secretary is Denise Brouillette, an administrative assistant at STCC. Denise will be handling annual membership renewal drives, necessary corporate paperwork, and financial ledgers.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IN PROCESS

The annual membership renewal drive is now underway. For those of you who have not yet renewed your membership, please remember that members are the life-blood of the Trust. Not only do your dues cover normal operating costs such as the quarterly newsletter, but your active participation and your moral support greatly help this volunteer organization. This year's drive is later than usual, so please continue to back preservation in Springfield by sending your dues today. Dues are \$15 for individuals, \$25 for couples, \$30 for individual patrons, \$50 for couple patrons, \$100 for benefactors, and \$200 for supporters.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Individual \$15

Couple \$25

Patron \$30 - \$50

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

AREA OF INTEREST _____

SEND TO: Springfield Preservation Trust
979 Main Street
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