

SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST

Quarterly Newsletter

SPRING 1987



House Move Accomplished With No Hitches: House For Sale

Early on the morning of March 18 Hicks House Movers began moving the Fellowship House of the Martin Luther King Community Church down State Street on its way to its new "home" on Bowdoin Street. After many weeks of preparation, the move took about 12 hours to complete. Thanks to careful planning by the Hicks Company, the move was accomplished with only minor complications. By nine that morning the house was turning the corner of Worthington to Bowdoin Street. Turning is the most difficult part of the process, by 2 p.m. the house was eased into the waiting excavation. The site work contractor is Patsy Liquori of Agawam. Work is now progressing as the foundation is being constructed and the house will soon be set in its new location. The project has proved to be more extensive than anticipated with costs now approaching \$35,000.

The house is still for sale and potential buyers have been contacting Phil Burdick and Jim Boone. This is the biggest project the Trust has undertaken thus far, and we are all looking for a buyer to complete the restoration process. The house in its "before" condition will be included in the Trust's spring house tour. In addition to SPT's revolving fund, funding is being provided by Community Savings Bank.

SPRING HOUSE TOUR BETTER THAN EVER

The eleventh annual Historic House Tour is set for Sunday May 3. As usual, this spring event is a sampler of the historic areas in Springfield. The tour will feature a Queen Anne style McKnight house, an Italianate style Maple Hill house, a Colonial Revival Forest Park Heights house, and a Second French Empire style Quadrangle/Mattoon Street house. Also open will be Classical High School which is being converted to condominium apartments and a new infill condominium unit on Mattoon Street. Tour-goers can either drive themselves or take buses which depart between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. The tour takes approximately two hours. Tickets may be purchased in advance from Longmeadow Flower Shops in Downtown Springfield, Longmeadow, and West Springfield or on the day of the tour at the Trust table at Classical High School from 10:45 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Tickets are seven dollars for the general public and six dollars for Trust members.

Just One of the Homes to Open for May 3rd Historic House Tour

Trust Supports Commission — And You Can To

At two recent Historical Commission meetings, the Preservation Trust and a number of its members spoke in support of the Commission enforcing the regulations that govern each historic district. The value and strength of each district comes from consistent enforcement of all guidelines. Community support is very important as positions taken are not always popular but necessary.

There has been a tendency on some citizen's parts to ignore the Commission and proceed with changes to their houses i.e. housing, fencing, porch enclosures, etc., and then say it is a hardship to undo the change. Citizens must report modifications to the Historic Commission as soon as they see work starting. Bill McGrath, staff person can tell you if a permit exists or can notify home owners to cease work until permission is granted. Early intervention is best. Bill McGrath's phone number is 787-6020. The Commission welcomes the support.

Architectural Booklet Goes To Print

The long-awaited guide to residential architecture in Springfield is slated to go to the printer this month. Currently, Studio One

Architects has pledged \$1,500 towards the publication; and the Trust itself has allocated up to \$4,000 toward the project. The Springfield Newspapers are providing photographic assistance. We are still seeking additional sponsors but are prepared to produce a more modest booklet with the smaller budget rather than lose more time. The booklet will provide an overview of local domestic architecture from our oldest existent houses of the 1800's through the styles of the 1900's. Text and photographs will focus on styles as they commonly occur in Springfield. Once completed, copies will be provided to all Trust members.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE UNDERWAY

The spring membership drive is currently underway. Please renew your commitment to preservation in Springfield by rejoining the Trust for 1987. Besides the usual benefits of the newsletter, discount ticket prices to Trust tours, and the knowledge that you are helping to save houses like our newly-moved Bowdoin Street house, a special benefit this year will be a complementary copy of the Trust's *Guide to Residential Architecture in Springfield*.

Please mail your renewal check to the Trust at 979 Main Street, Springfield, MA 01103 by early May. You will not only qualify for a reduced ticket on the May 3 House Tour but will save us from having to spend money on a reminder letter!

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Are you interested in historic preservation? Are you interested in what goes on in all of our historic districts? The Trust is looking for someone to go to all of the Historical Commission meetings. The purpose would be to communicate with the Trust what issues are of concern to the Commission and to residents of the historic districts and to provide community support to the Historical Commission as they work to enforce the rules of this vitally important group.

HOUSE PROFESSOR

The Preservation Trust NEWSLETTER welcomes SANFORD WILK, SPT board member and contractor as our own HOUSE PROFESSOR. If you have any questions for the professor please send them to the Trust at 979 Main Street, Springfield. 01103.

Now that spring is here, what should I be looking for to evaluate the condition of the exterior of my historically significant house?

D.P., McKnight District

Dear D.P.:

The evaluation of your facades and exterior structures could take pages depending on how precise you need to be. I will condense it to the "hot spots" that the professionals look for first.

- *Do the porches look as though they are sagging or falling to the ground?
- *Are the porch rails unstable and rickety?
- *Have the decorative woodwork and period mouldings become unattached from the house?
- *Are the clapboards or wooden shakes loose, absent or split?
- *Do the porch floor boards feel unstable and loose?
- *Is the mortar on the brick foundation loose and crumbly?

These items are a composite of the general health of your house. The items listed above, if left unrepaired, will cause other, more serious problems. If you should have any doubts you should consult with a friend or neighbor who might have more expensive experience that yourself. If you do notice a serious deficiency, call a building professional or your local building department for a more thorough evaluation.

Good Luck! The House Professor

SPT CALENDAR

Annual Spring Historic House Tour

May 3

Meetings at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Forest Park Library:

May 6 July 1

June 3 August 5



SPRINGFIELD
PRESERVATION
TRUST

979 Main Street
Springfield, MA 01103

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