

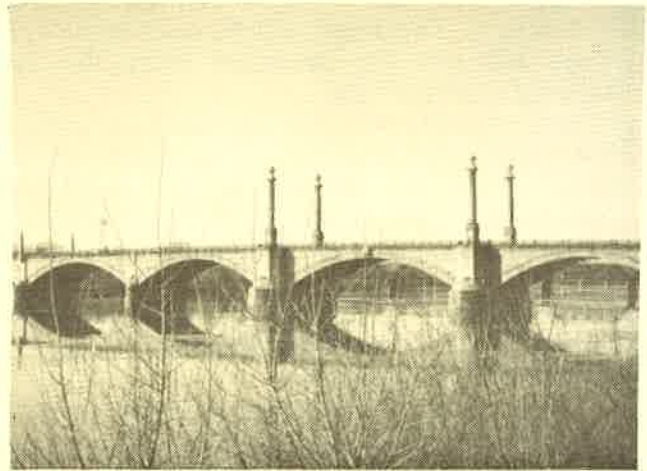
The PRESERVATIONIST

Newsletter of
the SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST

Winter 1992

TRUST OFFERS LECTURE SERIES

Springfield has one of the largest collections of Craftsman-style homes in the state. The historic survey of Pine Point which was completed last year has revealed a significant amount of early 20th-century Craftsman-style architecture in that neighborhood. The Trust Board is so enthusiastic about the previously un-researched treasure trove of Mission and Bungalow-style houses, that it has decided to hold a series of three lectures which will be open to the public. The first lecture will feature our consultant Kathleen Broome speaking about the history of the Pine Point area. This free lecture will take place on Sunday, February 9th at 2 P.M. at the Pine Point Library. Two other lectures of general interest will follow in March and these will take place at the Blake House at the Museum Quadrangle. The lecture on Sunday, March 8 at 2 P.M. will again feature our survey consultant Kathleen Broome and will focus on Craftsman architecture across America, as well as in Springfield. The other lecture will take place on Sunday, March 15 at 2 P.M. and will deal with the interior decor of Arts and Crafts homes, including interior layout and furnishings. The speaker will be Susan Montgomery, a teacher and museum consultant. These last two lectures are free to members of the Trust and Friends of the Quadrangle (if you have a "Friends of the Quad" membership card, please bring it!). All others pay \$3, which includes admission to the rest of the museums.



The Memorial Bridge: Threatened?

CONCERN MOUNTS OVER REHAB OF MEMORIAL BRIDGE

When the decorative railings of the Memorial Bridge were removed and installed on private property in West Springfield, members of the Trust became concerned. As large sections of the bridge continue to disappear, these concerns become more urgent. Throughout the project, the Trust has been assured by the local Historic Commission and the State that everything is under control and being closely monitored.

Now it seems that the bridge is much more severely deteriorated than was previously believed. All work has been halted and put out to bid again. Great vigilance will be necessary to insure that the basic architecture and design, specifically the four light towers, are retained and not eliminated due to "costs". This bridge is an important architectural landmark in our city and must be protected. Fellow Preservationists, Be Vigilant!

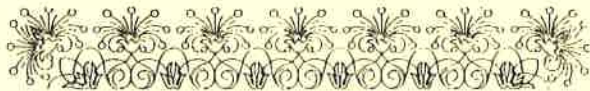


DONALD CAMPION

All members of the Trust were greatly saddened this fall by the passing of Donald Campion. Don was a friend to so many of us personally and a true leader in the field of historic preservation. He was the president of the Trust in the late 1970's and provided a leadership that was stimulating, thoughtful and fun, as well as showing a great deal of foresight. Don originated the concept of our bus tours and was the president when the Trust restored its first house.

Don was not just a philosophical preservationist, but a real hands-on, roll-up-your-sleeves kind of guy. He restored townhouses on Mattoon, Elliot and Maple Streets, as well as commercial buildings, including the Paramount Theatre. He was the Clerk of the Works for four houses that the Trust undertook to restore. He had high standards and managed to get work done well. Don loved old buildings and it showed.

No one who ever met Don will ever forget his ear-to-ear smile and his deep-from-down-inside laugh. He was a friend. We miss him.



ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION RESULTS

The Trust's annual meeting and election took place in November, again held in conjunction with the Annual Recognition Reception at the South Congregational Church. Elected to the Trust Board of Directors were John Bellows, Jim Boone, Ted Devanski, Bill Devlin, Diane Fisher, Roger Harris, Linda Gebo, Lynne Goldberg, Audrey Higbee, Bob McCarroll, Darlene Moser, Sarah Murray, Anne Rice, Ed Sims, Deni Sindel, Wilfred Stebbins, Dan Sotak-Cooper, Lisa Sotak-Cooper, Mike Stevens, Marilyn Sutin, Sandy Vella, Terri Ward, and Mary Margaret Young. Officers are President: Diane Fisher, Vice President for Advocacy: Jim Boone, Vice President for Education: Bob McCarroll, Treasurer: Marilyn Sutin, and Secretary: Sarah Murray.

Preservation Issues

GOOD OLD WORK

A persistent problem that arises in the restoration of an old building is what to do with modifications to the original structure that themselves can now be deemed "historic". Do we "take it back" to the way the building was originally constructed or do we allow quality remodelings from various eras to remain as function and design would allow?

Some of the most prevalent examples of historic remodeling in Springfield can be found in the McKnight Historic District. Many of the houses there are late Stick-style, barely pre-Queen Anne houses that were originally built with small front porches. As the wrap-around verandahs of the turn-of-the-century gained popularity, many McKnight houses had large porches added. Some of these are consistent with the original Eastlake trim on the houses, while others are Colonial Revival in influence and are not stylistically "pure" by some of the architectural rehab standards and tastes of today. The dilemma is this: If there is

(Continued on Page 6)



Mayor Bob Markel chats with Trust members at the annual Recognition Reception.

ENDANGERED PROPERTY LIST

The Trust has been working to identify properties of historic value in the city of Springfield that are threatened by neglect, adverse development or demolition. We will be updating this list each month, as well as telling something about each property in future newsletters. At this time, we will list those we feel are especially at risk. All Trust members and other interested parties can help just by driving by these properties and generally keeping an eye on them. Writing letters to city authorities and the newspapers can also help keep the spotlight focused on these notable buildings. If you know of any others which have not been included on this list, please call Jim Boone at 734-9110.

<u>Building</u>	<u>Owner</u>
(1) Hotel Charles.....	SRA
(2) Technical High School.....	City
(3) Tapley School.....	City
(4) Carew Street School.....	City
(5) Union Station.....	SRA
(6) Winchester Sq. Fire Station.....	City
(7) 30 High Street.....	Private
(8) 28 Cornell Street.....	Private
(9) Edwards St. Carriage House.....	Private
(10) Temple St. Carriage House.....	Private
(11) Hollywood Apartments.....	SRA
(12) 210 Pine Street.....	Private
(13) Barney Carriage House at Forest Park.....	City
(14) York Street Jail.....	County
(15) Memorial Bridge.....	County
(16) Parish House, Greek Church at Memorial Square.....	Private



SPT CALENDAR

Monthly meetings
now held at 7:30 P.M. in
the Memorial House at Mercy Hospital
Next meetings are
February 5, March 4, and April 1

Sunday, February 9 at 2:00 P.M.
at the Pine Point Library
Lecture on the history of Pine Point

Sunday, March 8 at 2:00 P.M.
at the Blake House, Museum Quad.
Lecture on American Craftsman architecture

Sunday, March 15 at 2:00 P.M.
at the Blake House, Museum Quad.
Lecture on Craftsman interiors

Sunday, April 26
Annual Historic House Tour



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CAN YOU GUESS?

Wow...Would you believe that some of the buildings in this old photo are still there? Would you believe that some of them still look the same today? Would you believe that one has been horribly mutilated but still exists? Look carefully, then turn to page 7.



Trust members Bob McCarroll, Deni Sindel and Sarah Murray partake of the bounty at the Annual Reception.

RONALD ARDIZONI

23 Yrs. Exp.

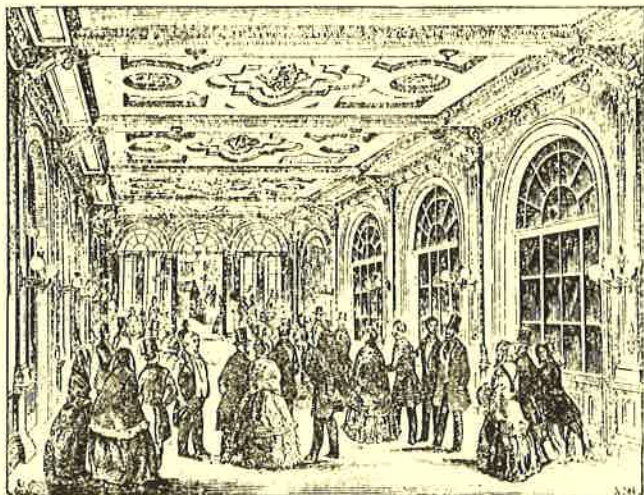
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PRESERVATION TRUST HOLDS ANNUAL RECOGNITION RECEPTION

The Trust announced its 1991 historic preservation award winners at the gala reception which was held Sunday, November 24 in the Guild Parlor of South Congregational Church. Recognized were individuals and groups who had worked on projects throughout the city. "The success of preservation depends on the personal efforts of many different people," said Trust president Diane Fisher, "Springfield is a better place for their efforts." The list of honorees included:

Removal of Artificial Siding: Stephen and Darlene Moser for 153 Princeton St., Joni Pray for 955 Sumner Ave., Paul Sears for 14 Revere St. and 751 Belmont Ave., Jeremy Cole and Sheila McElwaine for 59 Meredith St.

Renovation of Residential Buildings: Timothy Knight for 31 Rupert St.

Renovation of Non-Residential Buildings: Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (John Meyer, Architect) for the North Main Street Fire Station.

Sensitive New Construction: The Ronald MacDonald House (Steven Evers, Architect) for 34 Chapin Terrace, Stanley and Anne Czaplicki (Bill Devlin, Architect) for the Marengo Park Condominiums.

Careful Stewardship: South Congregational Church, Chestnut Knoll

This year the Trust established the Donald E. Campion Award for Outstanding Achievement in Historic Preservation. Donald was an important member of the Trust in the 1970's, serving as president and leading several Trust restoration projects. Donald died in autumn from cancer and requested that memorial contributions be sent to the Trust. The Board felt that the most fitting use of the funds would be to create an annual award named in his honor. Peter and Madeline Zorzi were named as its first recipients. The Zorzis operate the Studio One, Inc., architectural firm. They worked with Donald on his early townhouse projects and went on to renovate many other historic buildings themselves. They have also been the architects for other preservation-minded developers.



The Zorzis proudly display the first Donald E. Campion award.



(Good Old Work, continued from Page 2)

accurate documentation, is it permissible or desirable to restore the facade as it was originally built or should we respect and preserve the equally important remodeling? Especially if the remodeling dates from the early history of the building? And at what point do we say enough? A hundred years from now, will future preservationists fight to preserve the same porch that was closed in with jalousie windows? It's not pure, but it is an example of mid-20th century remodeling.

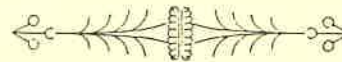
This is where the rule of "good old work" is often applied. If the work which was done is of good quality (construction, material, design or workmanship) then it should usually be retained. If it significantly detracts from the appearance of the building, then a judgement would have to be made. The point is to strive for a balance between the history of the building and the fundamental style of the building. We must temper our desire to "fix-up" with a consideration of the ongoing living history of buildings in society. "Restoration" is not just about stripping buildings down to their original bones, but also takes into account their evolving character over periods of time. By the doctrine of stylistic purity, most of the Colonial-era houses would have to be stripped of their Victorian-era details. Yes, many of the "Victorian" buildings we see, especially in small towns, are actually boxy Colonial buildings with an array of fancy 19th-century architectural ornament.

Returning a building to its as-built appearance is often accepted when the original facade is of overriding historical significance. If the first architect was of special note (like Bullfinch, for example), or the occupant has a very special place in history (usually reserved for a founding father), then restoration to original appearance meets with little protest.

Interestingly enough, H. H. Richardson's masterpiece Trinity Church in Boston did not originally appear as it does today. Some years after its completion, another architect added a new addition which totally changed the front facade and other parts of the church. The redesign, although very different, was so completely in the spirit of the original that no one would ever suggest removing it. In fact, the addition enhanced the visual appeal of the entire design.

At the other end of the spectrum, a recent case in Vermont illustrates the complexity of these issues. A company owned a downtown building of a rather ugly 1950's design in the International style. In a turnabout which points up the issue of the changing tastes of our times, the company petitioned to reconstruct the old curtain-wall facade with an up-dated neo-Victorian-style facade. Preservationists took the case to court on the basis that International-style buildings, although rare in Vermont, are an important part of the State's heritage. The preservationists lost the case but successfully brought up the issue of who decides what is part of our heritage. Should buildings be protected from the vagaries of changing stylistic tastes? These are the types of issues which will continue to confront preservationists in the years ahead. There is no one right answer. However, the ideas which underlie our thinking about old buildings are worth examining in order to clarify our approach to the built environment and its significance in our lives.

-- Dan Sotak-Cooper



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A BRIEF HISTORY OF PINE POINT

The following are excerpts from the Trust survey of the Pine Point area of Springfield.

About the time that large-scale residential subdivision of Pine Point began in the 1890's, the neighborhood consisted primarily of scattered farms and houses oriented toward major transportation routes. Among the earliest subdivisions created was the area between Ambrose and Denver Streets.

Development began at one of Pine Point's most significant subdivisions, **Rushville**, off Berkshire Ave. in the late 1890's. Early construction was stimulated by the establishment of streetcar service linking downtown Springfield with Indian Orchard via State Street and Berkshire Ave.

Pine Point experienced its first boom in residential construction from ca. 1910 to ca. 1925. Craftsman-style bungalows were the dominant architectural style. Two areas with intact groups of this style are on Hobson St. and Berbay Circle.

Between 1925 and 1940, there was much institutional and commercial construction. Neighborhood oriented corner stores and small clusters of commercial buildings emerged, particularly on Boston Road.

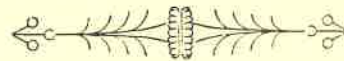
At the "gateway" to Pine point via State Street is the colossal Mass. Mutual Life Insurance Co. headquarters, built in 1924-1926. There were also many schools and several churches built at this time. Construction of Roosevelt Ave. from 1933-1938 provided Pine point with its western border.

A second boom in residential construction between 1950 and 1980 produced several new subdivisions on the south side of Pine Point. Large scale commercial construction, primarily mid- to late- 20th century shopping malls, supermarkets and auto dealerships characterizes Boston Road today, particularly at the eastern end of Pine Point.



CAN YOU GUESS? Continued from page 4.

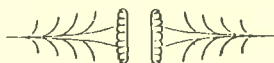
This is Main Street on the east side looking north from Court Street to Harrison Avenue. We'll start with the easy one. The Brigham Building is on the left and is largely unchanged. Johnson's is next, with a partially new facade (same building, new facade). Believe it or not, the building that was on the right-hand side of the old picture is still here today...but with a "updated" facade (ugh!). Notice the details on the Court Street side of that building, such as the distinctive windows with the stone work around them. They're all there. What a loss in the name of modernization.



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The Springfield Preservation Trust

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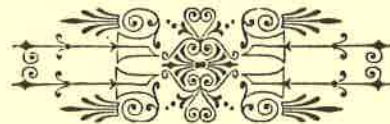
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Springfield Preservation Trust is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of historic structures in the City of Springfield, Massachusetts.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome to Trust membership the following new people: Bill Devlin, Bob Wool, Lynne Goldberg, Joseph and Gayle Carvalho, and Ted Greaney.



TRUST PLANS SPRING HOUSE TOUR

Planning for the annual Historic House Tour is now underway. The tour will take place on Sunday, April 26th. As usual, it will feature a home in each of the city's historic districts. We already have commitments for houses in the McKnight and Maple Hill districts. Anyone who is interested in opening their home (or knows somebody else who might) in the Mattoon, Lower Maple, Ridgewood, or Forest Park Heights districts should phone Bob McCarroll at 736-0629.



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