

**Victory for Historic Preservation
in the City of Springfield**

We are pleased to announce that the Hampden County Superior Court has ruled in favor of the lawsuit filed by Springfield Preservation Trust against the Springfield Library and Museums Association, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield, the Springfield Historic Commission, and the City of Springfield.

In order to preserve and protect historic buildings and places, the City of Springfield established the Historic Commission and the Quadrangle-Mattoon Street Historic District in 1972. In a subsequent revision of the ordinance, the authority of the Commission was limited, and properties owned by both SLMA and the Diocese were exempt from restrictions that applied to other residents in the Quadrangle - Mattoon Street Historic District.

This exemption resulted in the loss of several key historic properties within the district including the Sisters of St. Joseph Convent on Edwards Street, the Donoghue House at 67-69 Chestnut Street, and the Edward Street Apartments, a fully occupied residential block in mint condition.

Two years ago SPT filed a lawsuit against SLMA and the Diocese arguing that the exemption provision was unauthorized by the Historic Districts Act which provides guidelines for a municipality to set up an historic district. Furthermore, the subsequent application of this exemption to properties later acquired by SLMA undermines the purpose of the statute. The integrity of the statute, as well as the district, was at stake.

In February 2003 Justice C. Brian McDonald ruled that the exemption of the Springfield Library and Museum Association and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield from the authority of the Historic Commission was beyond the scope of the MA Historic Districts Act M.G.L. Chapter 40C and therefore invalid.



On March 12th a vigil was held in front of the former Donoghue house to honor the memories of the lost buildings, our legal victory, and the renewed spirit of preservation.

Post script

It has come to our attention that SLMA and the Diocese are filing an appeal. How ironic that with limited funds to keep libraries open and financial troubles facing the Diocese, they chose to allocate their resources to appeal a decision that requires them to adhere to the same rules and regulations that apply to anyone else with property in a designated historic district.

Other Advocacy issues

The height of porch railings may become an issue for historic property owners. Some homeowners in historic districts are being cited for code violations because their porch railings are too low. SPT is researching the legality of enforcing current building codes for homes located within an historic district.

**National Historic Preservation Week
May 5-12, 2003**

Volunteer for the Trust

The Trust, an all-volunteer organization, offers ways to get involved. Here are some of the ways

- Be a House Tour docent,
- Get involved with 6 Flags fundraiser,
- Help with membership recruitment,
- Research House histories for Tour Brochures
- Write articles for the Newsletter,
- Assist with Grant writing,
- Use your creative computer skills to help prepare
Photographic display

**Preservation Photo Display
May 3-17, 2003**

In celebration of historic preservation, Springfield Preservation Trust will present a photographic exhibit of preservation at work in the City of Homes. The display can be seen May 3rd through May 17th in the Lobby at Tower Square, 1500 Main Street. Included in the exhibit are photographs of historic properties that have either been restored or renovated, and properties whose period architecture has been well maintained.

Take a photographic tour of some of Springfield's most notable properties as well as some outstanding preservation projects.

If you have comments or questions, please contact the Springfield Preservation Trust at 747-0656.



Springfield Preservation Trust
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413-747-0656

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**SPRING TOUR
GREAT HOMES OF THE CITY
Sunday, May 4, 2003
1:00-4:00 PM**

The Springfield Preservation Trust will host a "Great Homes of the City" tour. The tour will feature six homes all within easy driving distance.

Advance tickets may be purchased at 'Flowers Flowers', 758 Sumner Avenue, and 'The Flower Box', 596 Carew Street. Tickets will be available on the day of the tour from 12:30 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. in front of Classical Condos, 235 State Street. Admission is \$15 for the general public, \$12 for SPT members.



10 Cornell Street

The six homes include the elaborate Appleton mansion on Maple Street, a Federal house complete with a three-seat privy, 2 grand Queen Anne style homes in the McKnight Historic District, a contemporary unit in Classical Condos, and an updated view of our recent Designer Showcase house on Mulberry Street

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