



SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST, INC

74 Walnut Street, Springfield, MA 01105
Telephone Number – 413-747-0656

www.springfieldpreservationtrust.org

Dedicated to Preserving Springfield's Architectural History

January 2009

Annual SPT Winter Fundraiser

This year's winter fundraiser will be held at the home of **Jim and Merry Boone, 97 Florida Street, on Saturday, January 24th, from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.** Jim and Merry have lived in the McKnight Historic District for 32 years and have lovingly restored their 1887 Queen Anne Victorian to its original beauty.



Not only has the house itself been restored inside and out, but also the furnishings, decorative details and wallpapers, give one the feeling of walking into the late 19th Century. Set on a double lot, this large 12 room home has brownstone details on the tower and foundation, 12 stained glass windows and a separate carriage house with its own apartment.



Originally built by Benjamin Stillman in 1887, who only lived there for 4 years, it was then owned by the Bosworth family for 50 years. From 1941, until the Boone's bought it in 1976, the house was a rooming house for older people. Having been rescued from further deterioration, the Boone's started their restoration. The woodwork is all cherry and the kitchen is original and features a stove and refrigerator from 1927 still in use today. The billiards room on the third floor, with its wallpapered walls and ceiling, is a sight to see.

Join the Boone's and other Preservationists for this evening of conversation, good food and a taste of life in the 19th Century. Please reserve your spot by January 14th by mailing a check for \$35.00 per person to:

Springfield Preservation Trust
74 Walnut Street
Springfield, MA 01105

Credit card payment is accepted online at www.springfieldpreservationtrust.org.

McKnight Twilight Tour; A Huge Success

The October 19th McKnight Twilight Tour was one of the highest attended tours in the more than 30 years SPT has hosted tours. Sunny but crisp weather, an array of interesting homes, and good publicity brought out more than 450 ticket buyers. Homes ranged from Stick, Queen Anne, Shingle/Colonial Revival, English Cottage, and Tudor Revival styles built between 1886 and 1903.



Special thanks go to the following participating owners for sharing their homes:

Raymond & Kathleen Baye, 66 Dartmouth Street
Michael & Alice Fiala, 102 Dartmouth Street
James Locke, 147 Westminster Street
Dimetrios & Erin Panteleakis, 126 Clarendon Street
Ron Carle & Merle Stewart, 1127 Worthington Street
Richard & Jamie Gray, 183 Dartmouth Terrace
Mark Mason & John Shea, 28 Ingersoll Grove

Following the tour, a catered dinner was held for the homeowners and all volunteers. A portion of tour proceeds will be used to reprint the McKnight self-guided walking tour.

SPT Accepting 2009 Preservation Award Nominations

The Springfield Preservation Trust is currently accepting nominations for the 2009 Springfield Preservation Awards. Every year SPT honors the people and organizations that are helping to restore historic structures in Springfield.

Nominations can be made for any historic property in Springfield which has been sensitively restored in the last year. Historic structures are those structures that are 50 years old or older. Structures do **not** need to be in a historic district, have a plaque or otherwise been recognized as historic. Nominations can be for houses, multi family/apartment blocks, commercial/retail buildings and public buildings.

Nominations are due by Friday, January 30th 2009, and awards will be made in April. For a list of last year's awardees visit:

www.springfieldpreservationtrust.org/preservationsawards.html

When making a nomination please include as much of the following information as possible

- Property Address
- Current Owner of Property and Contact Information
- Name of person/organization that restored the property and Contact Information (if different than current owner)
- Current Use of Property
 - Home
 - Commercial
 - Industrial
 - Retail
 - Other
- Explain how the property was restored in the last year
- Before and after pictures

Send nominations to:
Springfield Preservation Trust
74 Walnut Street
Springfield, MA 01105

Or email info to: info@springfieldpreservationtrust.org

SPT Annual Meeting SAVE THE DATE

This year SPT will be holding its annual meeting on Sunday, March 1st. Members are invited to come and vote for new members of the Board of Directors and for the Office of Treasurer and Secretary. Once the location and guest speaker is confirmed, members will be noticed by mail. You can also check the SPT website closer to the date.

Spring Tour Planned

The SPT Board is planning a Maple Hill House Tour on May 17, 2009 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The tour will open six homes in the area which was once Springfield's "Gold Coast." From the 1820s to the 1920s, the city's business elite built their homes on this hill. The neighborhood's styles represent changing American architectural tastes over 100 years.

Advance tickets will be available in early May at Flowers, Flowers at Sumner Avenue and White Street, and at The Flower Box near the corner of Carew and Armory Streets. Tickets will be available on the day of the tour at a yet to be determined location. When information becomes available it will be posted on our website, www.springfieldpreservationtrust.org, or call the SPT voicemail at 747-0656. Trust members receive a discount.

Anyone interested in opening his or her home for the tour, or volunteer on the tour, should contact Bob McCarroll at 736-0629 or bobmccarroll@juno.com.

Advocating for Westinghouse

In the early part of the 20th Century, East Springfield was developed as the industrial hub of Springfield and one of the largest industrial centers in Western Massachusetts. Businesses such as Rolls Royce, Stevens Duryea, and Westinghouse helped create the East Springfield of today. Along with the big industry came residential streets of small bungalows and commercial shops along Page Boulevard. East Springfield also had easy access to the then commercial hub of downtown Springfield by way of the trolley. At one point Westinghouse was the largest employer in the city with over 2,000 employees. The commercial storefronts and the industrial Westinghouse complex that line Page Boulevard represent early 20th century neighborhood development in Springfield. They tell a coherent story of the industrial growth of Springfield, including the first mass produced

automobile in the U.S. and the founding of WBZ, the oldest surviving radio station in New England.



- Reuse the historic radio towers that are on the roof of the Stevens Street building in the new retail center
- Provide funding for a historic survey inventory of the neighborhood directly across Page Boulevard from the new retail center based on Massachusetts Historical Commission standards.

SPT will continue to advocate for endangered historic buildings such as these, with updates found at www.springfieldpreservationtrust.org, and in the newsletter.

This past year saw a proposal to demolish the historic Westinghouse complex for a shopping center. The development plan calls for a vast parking lot with buildings set far back from Page Boulevard. This is not in keeping with the historic streetscape of commercial buildings on the opposite side of Page Boulevard, which provide traditional store fronts right on the street edge. Setting the buildings back from the street discourages pedestrian traffic to the development, which is out of place for a site in a dense and walkable city neighborhood. By not encouraging pedestrian traffic, more unnecessary car trips are made, creating additional traffic and congestion, which has negative impacts on the historic neighborhood.

The Springfield Preservation Trust is advocating for the preservation of some of the significant industrial buildings at the former Westinghouse Complex. Because the developer requires an environmental permit, they are also required to go through a review from the Massachusetts Historical Commission. SPT has responded to the environmental impact report required by the state because of the concerns of the loss of such a historically significant industrial complex.

SPT understands that it may not be possible for all the historic structures on the site to be preserved in the new development. In this case SPT proposes possible actions that can be taken to mitigate the loss of the historic resources. We have encouraged that the following actions be taken:

- Provide Funding for a Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) of the most significant buildings on the site. This would photograph and create measured drawings of the historic structures.
- Reuse significant architectural details such as the porcelain details on the Page Boulevard office building in the construction of the new retail center

Monthly meetings of the Springfield Preservation Trust are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., at the Mason Wright Retirement Center, 74 Walnut Street. All Trust members are welcome.

Newsletter contributors:

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Marilyn Sutin, Editor