

# THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER.

Glenn Rowland

Two major events occurred in the last few months that illustrate both the significant accomplishment and potential threat to the preservation movement in Springfield and nationally. In October, the National Trust for Historic Preservation held its annual meeting in New York City, with the Springfield Preservation Trust (SPT) well represented among the 2,500 delegates. A highly encouraging portrait of preservation, in terms of restoration, educational, and legislative programs underway, and planned were presented by a variety of preservation groups from across the U.S. (particularly from the host State of New York). The dramatic instances of re-discovery, and restoration of long neglected residential districts, older commercial centers, and industrial areas is being repeated with increasing frequency across the nation, as both the aesthetic and economic benefits of restoration are being recognized, by growing numbers of people. The SPT's program in Springfield, while presently modest in scale, appears to be quite in tune with the current national preservation movement, and is sensitive to the needs of the neighborhoods where our restoration work is underway.

However, the results of the State and National elections in November, pose a potential peril to both the local and national preservation effort. While there has been an ever-increasing investment of private funds in preservation projects, a large part of the funding for preservation programs at present still comes from local, state, and federal sources, and a large segment of the incoming

political leadership will be new to those offices, and will be more conservative in their general economic outlook. Unless the emerging economic, as well as the architectural/historic benefits of preservation can be effectively "sold" to this new leadership, the public sector financial support, and a large part of the present national preservation momentum could be slowed, or even lost entirely.

In Massachusetts, the approval of Proposition "2½" poses an added financial threat to local preservation projects, as it appears that municipalities, such as Springfield, will have to cut back harshly on departmental budget allotments, and preservation-related funds may be viewed by some as expendable.

The SPT must, therefore, intensify its efforts to promote preservation in Springfield (and even at the state and national levels) in 1981 to a more fiscally cautious audience. However, the SPT's solid achievements in the areas of: residential property restoration, educational preservation tours, and vigorous advocacy efforts has established this organization as a respected and positive force in the Springfield community. This combined base of respect and vigorous effort can provide for the success of a very ambitious Springfield Preservation Trust program for 1981 that will be fully disclosed at the Trust's February 4th meeting. Please be there and become involved in Springfield Preservation Trust's Project '81.

Thank You.

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seven stockbridge st.

SPRINGFIELD  
PRESERVATION  
TRUST



## NEXT PROJECT

## SPT

### DEVELOPMENT

The development area of SPT has been divided into four committees for the coming year.

The Membership Committee has established a goal of 500 members by the end of 1981. The committee hopes to attract 400 additional members through a series of winter coffee hours hosted by current SPT members. Also planned is a mass mailing to the over 1,000 property owners in Springfield's historic districts.

The Corporate Involvement Committee will undertake a mailing to the area's 300 largest firms to seek business members. Selected large corporations will be approached to help sponsor specific SPT programs. Both membership and Corporate Involvement committees will be working on an informative brochure.

The Grants Committee will be identifying and making preliminary contacts with foundations which have contributed to preservation activities. Because of SPT's current IRS status, no formal applications will be made in 1981. The Committee will, however, be pursuing governmental funding sources. We have already submitted a proposal for \$50,000 of Community Development Block Grant funds to augment our revolving fund.

Finally, the Tour Committee has recently sponsored a successful Fall Foliage and house tour in the Berkshires. Planning will soon be underway for the Annual Historic House Tour. This May tour is SPT's largest yearly fund-raising event.

Members interested in working on any of the committees or hosting a coffee hour, please contact the following people:

**Membership:**

Ellie Dashevsky 739-3574

**Corporate:**

Laurie Wallace 733-0633

**Grants:**

Claudia Elferdink 737-8844

**Tours:**

Elaine Godek 736-8877

Research is being done on a number of vacant and vandalized properties as we investigate and select the Trust's next restoration project. In following our philosophy of trying to have the most impact on one area, research is focusing on properties in the Bay/Westminster/Buckingham St. areas. There are a number of properties that have been vacant and deteriorated and that have had a very negative impact on the neighborhood. Your input on this is always welcome and can be directed to Jim Boone.



## 173 BAY STREET

The work at the Trust's current restoration project at 173 Bay St. is progressing well. All of the exterior carpentry has been expertly completed by Ron Ardizoni and his partner as well as landscaping and masonry. Bob Smith is working on the exterior painting and hoping the weather will hold. Bids are coming in for the interior electrical and plumbing work so all work is progressing on schedule. If SPT members know anyone who is looking for a beautiful Victorian house, completely restored, at a reasonable price in one of Springfield's best neighborhoods, have them call Jim Boone at 734-9110.

The very lovely stained glass window from the stairway at 173 Bay St., which was stolen years ago, has been recovered and very generously returned to the Trust to be returned to its original spot. We should all thank Bob Smith for his work on this.



## TRUST PASSES AUDIT !!

The Springfield Preservation Trust, Inc. successfully completed its second audit under the Block Grant Program (for house restoration) with the Springfield Community Development Department. The audit, which was conducted in late December, revealed that the Trust was closely adhering to its budget for administrative, acquisition, and rehabilitation costs.

