

SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST

Quarterly Newsletter Spring 1983

SEVENTH ANNUAL HISTORIC HOUSE TOUR: "That's the Ticket!"



BRING FRIENDS AND "EXPERIENCE" THIS VICTORIAN MARVEL ON UNION STREET

On May 15th SPT will launch its Seventh Annual Historic House Tour. Buses for the two-hour guided tours will depart hourly, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., from Classical High School.

"Tour-ists" will visit the Lewis House in Forest Park Heights, a Tudor Revival built in 1901 at 190 Longhill Street; the Safford House on 80 Dartmouth Street, a fine example of the Queen Anne style, constructed in 1891; the Wallings

House, built in 1882 at 24 Mattoon Street; the 1873 Rice House, which exhibits the Second French Empire style of architecture at 263 Union Street; the Skinner House of 346 Maple Street, another example of the Queen Anne style, built in 1890; and Morgan Square, a renovated 1875 panel brick block structure at 26 - 50 Taylor Street, formerly the Springfield Steam Power Company.

Those buying tickets through May 11th will be eligible for our Raffle Prize: a special guided tour-for-two in a 1923 fire-engine-red Buick chauffeured by Steven Gray. During the tour, our winner and his or her chosen guest will nibble on hors d'oeuvres and sip wine provided by Gale Farrell. After the tour, our winner-and-friend will be treated to brunch at Tilly's, courtesy of proprietor Ed Crowley.

General admission tickets are \$6.00 each; admission for Trust members and Senior Citizens is \$5.00. Tickets are available at Longmeadow Flowers, both at The Market Place in Springfield and at Bliss Road, Longmeadow.

IN THE ROUGH!

See Springfield Preservation Trust work-in-progress on Sunday, May 22nd, 1 to 5 p.m.

Both 53 Thompson Street, site of the recently relocated Lillian Street house, and 15 Clarendon Street will be on view in the McKnight Historic District.

Refreshments will be served.

CABLE BOX PROTEST

A NEW CHALLENGE now faces all organizations and individuals committed to the restoration and preservation of historic neighborhoods.

During recent months, Continental Cablevision has begun installing above-ground "pedestals" which boost cable television signals and provide access to underground lines. Three feet high and placed every 1000 feet in groups of three, these boxes are visually disruptive. Due to their inferior construction and installation, they are also easy targets for vandalism.

In order to prevent further installations and to inform and mobilize Springfield's civic groups, SPT convened a meeting on March 1, 1983. Representatives from McKnight, Bay, Old Hill, Forest Park, and Maple/High expressed at that time their support and intention to voice their concerns to Mayor Dimauro and Continental Cablevision.

A March 3rd ruling of the Springfield Historical Commission bans the installation of pedestals in historic districts. Because the Commission has no jurisdiction over non-historic neighborhoods, those areas are still endangered.

If you are concerned about these cable boxes and their impact on your community, please contact Mayor Dimauro and Continental Cablevision. You can also contact your civic association to find out what action it plans to take. Your support is very welcome!

Letters to the Mayor can be addressed to:

Honorable Theodore E. Dimauro
Mayor's Office
City Hall
36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103

This newsletter is published by and for the members of the Springfield Preservation Trust, Inc.

Editor Anne E. Rice

Assistant Jan Reynolds

President Laurence Wallace

The Editor wishes to thank the Board of Directors for their help.



"A MOVEABLE FEAST"

Last month the house at 11 Lillian Street had a "change of scene" when SPT Contractors jacked it up, slipped it off its crumbling foundation, hauled it up State Street, and slid it down into its new site on 53 Thompson Street.

Paint peeling and shingles shaking, the 1870's Italianate house rolled with ragged dignity through early-morning streets. Utility wires, streetlights, and median strips inspired some delicate maneuvering.

Exterior restoration has already begun, including the construction of a new cement-block foundation faced with brick, painting, and installation of a revamped heating system. Buyers who would be interested in completing their own interior renovations should contact Jim Boone at 734-9110.

This is the Trust's first relocation venture, and we think it will set a precedent for future SPT efforts to save historic buildings from demolition. "When a house absolutely *cannot* stay where it is, this is a very viable preservation tool," comments SPT's Jim Boone.

MESSAGES TO MEMBERS

You might be interested in attending "Colors from the Past — historically appropriate color schemes for historic houses", a workshop to be held by Lower Pioneer Valley Regional Planning Commission on Saturday, May 14, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Holyoke Community College, Bldg. B, Rm. B-347.

WILLIAM FLYNT, Architectural Conservator
Historic Deerfield

WILLIAM FINCH, Historical Architect
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Speaker to be Announced

"Exterior Painting 1750-1900;
A review of materials and color schemes"

"Chalking, Cracking & Cracking";
Treating paint problems of exterior wood-
work, and a discussion of paint removal tech-
niques

"Do-it-yourself" or hire an expert;
Advice and "tips of the trade" from a paint-
ing professional

For Information, contact: Antoinette E. Tomasik, LPVRPC
26 Central Street, West Springfield, MA 01089
781-6045

WEDNESDAY

May 4 SPT BOARD MEETING
Forest Park Library
7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY

May 15 SPT HISTORIC HOUSE TOUR
Classical High School
11 a.m. through 4 p.m.

SUNDAY

May 22 OPEN HOUSE
53 Thompson Street
15 Clarendon Street
1 to 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

June 1 SPT ANNUAL MEETING
Community Room, Morgan Square
Taylor Street
7:30 p.m. following brief
Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

July 6 SPT BOARD MEETING
Forest Park Library
7:30 p.m.

ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

June 1, 1983 at 7:30 p.m.

PLEASE ATTEND: We will elect officers and share ideas and refreshments at the Annual Meeting of the members of the Springfield Preservation Trust, on Wednesday, June 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room at Morgan Square, Taylor Street, Springfield. Preceding will be a brief meeting of the Board of Directors at 6:30 that evening.

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!



**SPRINGFIELD
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TRUST**

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