

SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST

Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 1985



2 Ames Hill: Tudor England in Springfield

“THE INSIDE STOREY” Ninth Annual SPT Historic House Tour

On May 5, 1985 our Ninth Annual Historic House Tour will once again fling open the doors to our “City of Homes”. TO BE FEATURED:

179 Clarendon Street is an 1894 shingle-style structure most probably designed by one of Springfield’s noted architects, G. Wood Taylor. Originally owned by Lillian McKnight --only daughter of Springfield’s renowned developer, William McKnight -- this house is now owned by SPT members Ed Sims and Paul Kenney.

2 Ames Hill, a 1927 Tudor Revival home built for banker Louis Tift during Maple Street’s heyday as Springfield’s Gold Coast”, is now the Headmaster’s Residence on the MacDuffie School for Girls campus. SPT member Bev Lynch helped to arrange the opening of this gracious home.

52 Mattoon Street, an 1873 Second French Empire townhouse, is a shining example of the work of BF Farrar, a prolific builder of rowhouses on Springfield’s Mattoon, Elliot, Maple, and Central Streets. This single-family unit received extensive renovations in the 1970’s by SPT members Bob and Carol Murphy.

An 1835 double brick house of the Greek Revival period, *406-410 Central Street* is currently under renovation by SPT member Leslie Clement, and will be the oldest building on this year’s tour.

Renovated over a period of several years by SPT members Stephen and Laurence Wallace of Wallace Associates, the 1899 Colonial Revival at *171 Longhill Street* is a fine example of how to sensitively update an older home for today’s lifestyles.

Another “work in progress”, *48-50 Temple Street* is an 1893 rooming house which had been long vacant until Steven Haddad recently began its renovation.

Our Ninth Annual Historic House Tour will offer tourists the option of either guided bus or self-drive. The tour will again last approximately two hours. Buses will leave Classical High School between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. All homes will remain open until 4 p.m. Tickets will be available from Longmeadow Flowers in Longmeadow, West Springfield, and downtown Springfield, at a price of \$6 (\$5 for members and senior citizens).

The Historic House Tour not only raises funds for the Springfield Preservation Trust -- it raises *consciousness* about the splendid stock of older homes which makes Springfield unique among smaller cities.

SEE YOU THERE . . . for the inside storey!

**PRESERVATIONISTS:
Exercise your “Historic” Right
To Lobby!**

**INVESTMENT TAX CREDITS:
*Endangered Species?***

DURING THE PAST NINE YEARS HISTORIC PRESERVATION HAS SUCCEEDED PRIMARILY DUE TO THE INVESTMENT OF BILLIONS OF PRIVATE - NOT TAXPAYER -- DOLLARS. These monies have *restored and recycled* rather than destroyed. Developers have been eligible to receive tax credits for restoration, an incentive which costs nothing to taxpayers and yet benefits everyone by improving the quality of the built environment.

BUT NOW THIS TAX INCENTIVE IS IN JEOPARDY.
The current Administration in Washington wants to eliminate them.

REMEMBER ALL THE JOBS GENERATED BY RESTORATION PROJECTS, THE TAX REVENUE FROM RESTORED BUILDING, AND THE REVITALIZATION OF OUR CITY CENTERS -- WRITE YOUR CONGRESSPERSON *TODAY* IN SUPPORT OF INVESTMENT TAX CREDITS FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION. IT WOULD BE FOOLISH TO END A PROGRAM WHICH HAS WORKED SO EFFECTIVELY.

For the 1st Congressional District:

SILVIO O. CONTE
2300 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

For the 2nd Congressional District:

EDWARD P. BOLAND
2426 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

ADVOCACY TRIUMPHS!

Senator Linda Melconian recently submitted a Senate Bill to move the Massachusetts Historical Commission from the Secretary of State's Office to the more politically manipulative Communities & Development Office. She felt this Bill was necessary because of the Commission's involvement in and subsequent impact on Springfield's Hollywood Project.

The Springfield Preservation Trust joined with other State groups in opposing the move of the Commission to the C&D Office. As a result of popular opposition, the Bill was resoundingly defeated. Senator Martin Reilly was an effective supporter of preservation interests in the defeat of this Bill.

SUCCESS: "Y" NOT?

IT SEEMS LIKE LIGHT YEARS AGO that the Trust spearheaded the fight to rescue the old "Y" on Chestnut Street. Saving the "Y" from demolition is a success story of which we are still very proud. At long last, renovation work has begun, and many of those who favored demolition of the "Y" are now applauding its restoration -- underscoring the fact that oftentimes currently unpopular stands are really just ahead of their time! Just think what beautiful housing could have been created in the St. Joseph's Mother House, had we been able to salvage it!

Unpopular stands on preservation issues are often difficult to sustain, but the Trust believes it must adhere to its original founding principles in order to insure the protection of Springfield's built environment.

INDIAN MOTORCYCLE UPDATE

BOTH THE IMC DEVELOPER AND THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD ARE UNDERTAKING FURTHER ATTEMPTS TO DEMOLISH ANOTHER LARGE AND HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THE INDIAN MOTORCYCLE FACTORY BECAUSE THEY COULD NOT OBTAIN FULL FINANCING. If this section along State Street falls to the wrecking ball, the entire property will be decertified for Historic Significance and will no longer be eligible for Investment Tax Credits. It is the Trust's fervent hope -- both for the neighborhood and for the sake of the historic site itself -- that this demolition does not take place.

This newsletter is published by and for the members of the Springfield Preservation Trust, Inc.
Editor..... Jan Reynolds
Assistant Anne E. Rice
Photographer..... Marilyn Sutin
President June Delp-Burdick
Editor wishes to thank the Board of Directors for their help.

ARTS LOTTERY APPLICATION FILED

SPT has applied to the Springfield Arts Lottery for the funding of an educational photographic exhibit entitled, "WHAT STYLE IS YOUR HOUSE? A Guide to Springfield's Living Residential Architecture".

If funded, this display will feature photographs and narrative descriptions on each of the approximately twenty architectural styles represented by Springfield homes, spanning nearly two centuries from 1800 through present. Depicting not only traditional historic styles but recent ones from the last 50 years, the exhibit will embrace the "ranch" and the "split level" -- styles which will eventually become as historically significant as the Queen Anne or Italiante! Mounted on moveable viewing boards, the exhibit will be available for use at branch libraries, community centers, and shopping malls.

The Springfield Arts Lottery will notify us later this spring as to the success of our application and our request for \$700. If funding comes through, work on the project will proceed throughout the summer and autumn months.

Coordinating the project will be SPT member Marilyn Sutin, a freelance photographer whose work was recently exhibited at Springfield Technical Community College.

CAUSE FOR CONCERN: Summit Street's Future

Neighborhood concerns surrounding the Summit Street Project focus on the "crowded conditions" which citizens often fear whenever subsidized units are involved. The Trust has written letters of concern to the City Council to oppose any solution which would entail the demolition of these National Historic buildings.



MAY 5th

TALK UP THE TOUR: WE KNOW YOU & YOUR FRIENDS WILL ENJOY HOMES LIKE THIS CLARENDON STREET BEAUTY.

ANNUAL MEETING

SPT ANNUAL MEETING WILL CONVENE ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 1985 at 7:30 p.m. Adhering to our custom of holding annual meetings at a rehabilitated, historic site, this year we have chosen *South Commons at Main and Union Street*. This aggregation of 1870's Italianate buildings -- along with an adjacent 1899 classically detailed structure -- belong to the Springfield Redevelopment Authority, which has slated them for rehabilitation as part of the South End Urban Renewal Plan's "Northern Tier" (this segment of the Plan was heartily endorsed by the Trust). Madeline and Peter Zorzi of Studio One Architects -- also long-time SPT members -- are the developers and will be recycling these historic buildings for a mix of office, retail, and residential uses.

Following the election of SPT officers and board directors for FY 1985-86, we will conduct a tour of the South Commons project.

ANYONE INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE OR ON THE BOARD AS A DIRECTOR OR OFFICER, PLEASE CONTACT Jan Reynolds at 736-2617. HELP TO MAINTAIN THE VITALITY AND PRODUCTIVITY OF PRESERVATION IN SPRINGFIELD -- CONTRIBUTE SOME TIME AND ENERGY TO SPT! YOU WON'T REGRET IT!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

OUR ANNUAL SPRING MEMBERSHIP DRIVE IS NOW UNDERWAY. Renewal Chairperson Carol Ardizoni has mailed renewal notices to all SPT members. Dues for 1985 are due by May 1st.

SPT relies heavily on membership dues in order to fund its overhead. Your financial assistance is essential to the continuation of our preservation work and advocacy in Springfield.

Please pay your dues promptly to save SPT the expense of a second notice.

This year we have created the special categories of Individual Patron (contribution of \$30) and Couple Patron (contribution of \$50). Patrons receive complimentary tickets to all SPT tours.

REMEMBER: MEMBERSHIP ENTITLES ALL SPT MEMBERS TO REDUCED ADMISSION TO ALL SPT-SPONSORED EVENTS, AND TO OUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER.

SPT BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

May 1 7:30 p.m.
June 5
July 3

SPT ANNUAL MEETING: South Commons, Main and Union Streets

June 19 7:30 p.m.

HOUSE TOUR '85

May 5 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.



Stephen W. Wallace

**PECOUSIC
HILL
WOODWORKING**
CONSTRUCTION RESTORATION

(413) 734-4725

171 Longhill Street, Springfield, Massachusetts 01108

77 MAPLE STREET
SPRINGFIELD, MA
01105 413/733-6798

Philip D. Burdick
Architect Landscape Architect



JAMES A. BOONE

97 FLORIDA STREET
SPRINGFIELD, MASS. 01109

OFF.: (413) 785-1636
RES.: (413) 734-9110

**SPRINGFIELD
PRESERVATION
TRUST**

1111 main st.
springfield, mass. 01103
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:

\$15 Individual _____ \$30 Individual Patron _____

\$25 Couple _____ \$50 Couple Patron _____

\$100 Supporter _____

\$200 Benefactor _____

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO
THE SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST

Thank You !!

Would you be interested in serving the Trust as a member of one
of the following committees? Check the committee of your choice.

Speakers Bureau _____ Restoration _____ Advocacy _____

Membership _____ Fund Raising _____ Tours _____

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Springfield, MA 01103

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