

SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST

Quarterly Newsletter

SUMMER 1986



A TOUR FAVORITE: Very Pleasing Blue Trim Accents Architectural Detail In McKnight Italianate.

On Sunday, May 4, over 350 people attended the Tenth Annual Historic House Tour, sponsored this year by Shawmut First Bank and Trust Company. Good weather and great houses brought out rave reviews.

In honor of the City's 350th anniversary, the 1986 tour was the largest spring tour ever hosted by the Trust. Featured were seven buildings:

a Queen Anne style house at 48-50 Temple Street owned by Steve Haddad in the Lower Maple Historic District

an Italianate style home at 79 Bowdoin Street owned by Sarah Murray in the McKnight Historic District

a Mission Revival Style house at 146 Forest Park Avenue owned by Brian and Mary Anne McDonald in the Forest Park Heights Historic District

a Stick style carriage house apartment near 346 Maple Street owned by Leslie Clement in the Maple Hill Historic District

an Italianate style commercial building, now used for office and apartment space, at 979 Main Street owned by Peter and Madeline Zorzi in the South End

a Queen Anne style townhouse at 19 Mattoon Street owned by John and Joan Pennington in the Quadrangle/Mattoon Street Historic District

the renovated former YMCA at 122 Chestnut Street owned by 120 Chestnut Street Limited Partnership in the Apremont Triangle District.

Besides showcasing Springfield's wonderful stock of older buildings, the tour helped to show how vacant, deteriorated structures can be reused. The Temple Street house, once a shabby roominghouse, was almost razed for surface parking; the Zorzi project, now know as South Commons, was considered for a supermarket site; and the old YMCA narrowly escaped destruction for a parking garage site. The tour both helps to raise people's architectural awareness as well as to raise funds for other Trust projects. Proceeds from this year's tour will be used to fund a guide to residential architecture in Springfield which will be printed during the 350th year.

Members who did not attend the tour can obtain a copy of the tour booklet by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Trust mailing address at 979 Main Street, Springfield, MA 01103.

Save the Date: August 3 S.P.T. Picnic - Annual Meeting

This summer the Trust will mix business with pleasure as the annual meeting and election take place with the potluck preservation picnic. The events have been scheduled for Sunday, August 3 at 2 p.m. Marilyn Suintin will host the events in the yard of her home at 42 Alberta Street.

There will be a short business meeting with an overview of the previous year, an outline of plans for the new year, and an election of board members and officers. Ed Lonergan will discuss the Old Hill/Six Corners survey and the Trust efforts to have the eastern half of McKnight added to the National Register of Historic Places. The annual picnic will then follow.

Members planning to attend should call Marilyn to tell her how many people and what dish they will be bringing. She can be reached at 733-3697 (home) or 781-7822 (work).

“AT HOME” in McKnight Walking Tour Set for Sept. 28.

The third annual “AT HOME” walking tour has been scheduled for Sunday, September 28 between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. This autumn’s tour will focus on McKnight as that neighborhood marks its tenth anniversary of being made a local historic district. Unlike the spring house which provides an overview to historic areas in Springfield, the autumn tour concentrates on one particular neighborhood. Previously featured were Downtown and Forest Park.

The Trust hopes to have between ten and twenty houses open for view. Anyone interested in opening should contact Bob McCarroll at 736-0629.

McKnight is the largest planned, late Victorian, wood-frame neighborhood in all of New England. It is one of the architectural treasures of Springfield. Circle your calendars now for what will surely be one of the most important tours ever mounted by Trust!

TRUST ACTIVE AGAIN IN McKNIGHT

The Trust has been the “marriagebroker” of a vacant lot and a vacant house in McKnight. The house, formerly 150 Catherine Street, has been acquired by the Redevelopment Authority. Its lot was to be off-street parking for an adjacent commercial building, and the house needed to be moved. The Trust located a vacant lot on Bowdoin Street, negotiated a purchase agreement with the owner, and asked the Redevelopment Authority for the house.

Before the Trust commenced the project, Springfield Central Executive Director Carlo Marchetti expressed interest in the project. Believing itself to be the “developer of last resort”, the Trust agreed to transfer its interest in the lot and the house to Marchetti provided he agreed to renovate the property in an acceptable manner.

The necessary transfers have occurred, the physical move was made in mid-May, the house has already been stripped to asphalt siding, and renovation work is underway. Special thanks go to John Bellows for having coordinated this creative deal for the Trust. And, best of luck, Carlo!

INDIAN MOTORCYCLE STILL THREATENED

Though seemingly the developers have done all that is possible to make the IM project go forward, road blocks seem to continue to show up. The Building Commissioner has been given the lead and responsibility to make the final decision about demolition, which he seems anxious to do. This is very frustrating for everyone as the developers are ready and able to secure the building and proceed with restoring the Building. The Trust has offered to join the Coalition of local groups in a suit, if necessary to prevent demolition.

McKNIGHT SURVEY

The McKnight Survey is complete and ready to go to the State Review Board for National Register recommendation on July, 9. After that approval, it goes to the Department of the Interior in Washington for final approval which is expected in September. Hopefully National Register status will be in place for all of McKnight by the time of the McKnight Walking Tour September 28. Currently only half of the original neighborhood is listed on the National Register. Ed Lonergan will give an interesting report on his findings at the picnic on August 3.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

The annual membership renewal drive headed by Carol Ardizoni is now underway. The Trust relies on its membership income to help defray operating costs such as the quarterly newsletter, postage, and office supplies. More importantly, the Trust relies on its members for support of its on-going activities such as our tours, house restoration, and advocacy activities. Your participation is vital for continued preservation in Springfield. If you have not yet renewed your membership already, please do so and save Carol from writing follow-up letters!

BOARD MEETINGS

JULY 2, AUGUST 6, SEPTEMBER 3

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

Editors..... Anne Rice
Contributors..... Bob McCarroll, Jim Boone
Photo..... Marilyn Sutin



SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST

1111 Main Street
Springfield, MA 01103

NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
SPRINGFIELD, MA
PERMIT NO. 219