

SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST



WORK IN PROGRESS: BAY STREET HOUSE

SPT's latest residential renovation project initiates a new phase for the Trust. In conjunction with the Springfield Redevelopment Authority and Putnam Vocational High School students, we are renovating the two-family structure at 256-258 Bay Street in McKnight.

Originally purchased by the SRA which removed an adjacent one-storey concrete block store, this house became a joint project when the Trust approached the Authority to negotiate purchase. The SRA and the Trust agreed to work together, using Putnam students to perform construction. The Trust hired Springfield architect Bill Devlin to draw up plans and elevations and to work out structural repairs. The house required complete interior gutting and, supervised by Mr. Rose, Putnam Industrial Arts Teacher, students began work in September.

There will be numerous changes in both the interior and exterior. Plans call for two two-bedroom apartments, and the existing porch will undergo complete reconstruction in order to achieve a structure similar to the porch shown in a 1930 photograph of the residence, but without the second storey of the porch. Exterior trim and paint will experience complete restoration.

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Coordinating the project for the SRA is Karmen Kakely, their Rehabilitation Specialist. The Springfield Historical Commission approved the proposed exterior renovation plans at their January meeting. Negotiations for the property are being finalized for the Trust to assume ownership in mid to late February.

The Bay Street project will bring back a seriously deteriorated residence on a highly visible corner in the McKnight neighborhood. With the help of the Springfield Redevelopment Authority, the Trust is setting an example of residential neighborhood preservation while at the same time involving young people in positive work experience which teach them about restoration.

FOUR HUNDRED TOUR FOREST PARK - PLANS UNDER WAY FOR SPRING

Missing Hurricane Gloria by only two days, the "At Home in Forest Park" walking tour enjoyed a sunny and crisp New England autumn day. Over four hundred people viewed the fourteen homes and churches which were open on Sunday, September 29.

The Tour lasted from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and during that time the streets of Forest Park were alive with tour-goers visiting selected homes in Springfield's largest local historic district. Following the 1984 "At Home in Downtown" Tour, the Trust chose Forest Park for the 1985 showcase to mark the tenth anniversary of the historic district.

Once again, Bank of Boston generously sponsored the tour, and its support made possible the tour booklet with its photographs and text of the various buildings.

Many thanks to those who opened their homes and churches and to those who helped to organize the tour. We look forward to the Trust's next "At Home" Tour which will focus on McKnight in autumn, 1986.

MAY 4TH DATE SET FOR TOUR

The Tenth Annual Historical Tour has been scheduled for Sunday, May 4. Held since 1977, this Trust event will again highlight houses in the city's historic districts. The Spring Tour is the oldest of all Trust education events and has featured over fifty houses during its history.

CIRCLE YOUR CALANDAR for this annual event.

Trust members who would like a copy of the eight-page brochure, send a stamped self-addressed envelope to the Trust office at 1111 Main Street, Springfield.

PRESERVATIONISTS ROLL UP THEIR SLEEVES AND ROLL OUT THE RED CARPET FOR "ROYALTY"!

Seven members of the Springfield Preservation Trust as well as representatives from the Springfield Historical Society spent the night of Tuesday, January 7th scrubbing marble staircases, vacuuming velvet seats, washing ornate woodwork, dusting the elaborate organ, and replacing burned-out light bulbs at the Paramount Theatre on Main Street, in preparation for the Mayor's Inaugural Ball on January 11th.

Even though the Paramount has been unused and the victim of vandalism and neglect for over three years now, it still retains its regal and resplendent character, its ornamentation a mixture of mythic art and architectural styles. Also despite years of neglect, the organ continues to work, still producing "special effects" such as birds chirping in the chandeliers, or bells ringing in the rafters. Trust members took time out to explore the Paramount's halls and chambers and to admire the design of Springfield's last remaining "movie palace".

Rehabilitation of office space in the Paramount building begins soon, but there are still no plans for the theatre. We support its preservation and its return to Springfield's "stage"... **WHEN EVENTS TAKE PLACE THERE, BE SURE TO GO! SUPPORT THE PARAMOUNT!**

PRESERVATION TRIUMPH

PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SPT'S CRUCIAL ROLE IN PRESERVING SPRINGFIELD'S HISTORIC YMCA OCCURRED DURING NOVEMBER DEDICATION CEREMONIES. Both the owner (Leon Charkoudian) and developer praised the Trust's persistence in saving this landmark architecture on Chestnut Street.

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1111 Main Street
Springfield, MA 01103

When demolition threatened to replace the YMCA with a parking garage, our members mobilized, and facilitated National Historic Register nomination both for the "Y" and for the entire Apremont Triangle, thus blocking destruction.

The Springfield Preservation Trust is proud of its role in this victory. Several SPT members attended the dedication ceremonies, which featured a speech by Mayor Richard Neal and a tour of the completed renovations.

ANOTHER BUILDING FALLS

During the week between Christmas and New Years the Victorian Train Depot at Winchester Square was torn down on order of the Building Department. This building was on the National Register. No environmental impact study was done before its demolition. The Trust must continue to be watchful; our job is not over.

INVITATION

SPT meetings, open to anyone interested in Preservation are held at the Forest Park Library at 7:30 p.m.

February 5
March 5
April 2

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

Once again the Indian Motorcycle Project seems to be in jeopardy. This time questions are being raised as to whether more of it should be torn down or mothballed, whether any development should be done at Winchester Square until there is a Master Plan and whether all the needed financing is in order.

Hopefully all of Winchester Square will be getting more positive attention and dedication in the coming year. The Preservation Trust continues to feel that no more of the Indian Motorcycle factory should be torn down.

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