

SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST

Quarterly Newsletter Fall 1988



Smiling honorees enjoy Trust "De-Siding Party" A slide presentation showing dramatically the terrible effects of installing artificial surfaces to old houses and the excellent effects possible by removing them was received with enthusiastic boos and cheers

CITY COUNCIL APPROVES TRUST SEAT ON HISTORICAL COMMISSION AWAITING ACTION BY MAYOR NEAL

The saga continues as the Trust tries to complete a process started in 1982 to have one seat on the Historical Commission designated for a Trust nominee.

City Council tabled the ordinance in May. On four occasions Trust members came to subcommittee meetings to discuss the ordinance and answer questions, but on all occasions there was not a quorum of councilors and the meeting was not held. Due to these delays, 120 days passed and the ordinance request was dropped! It was resubmitted for the October 17th meeting, and it passed 6 to 3. The three dissenting councilors were not happy about this. They were all invited to meet with the Trust Executive Board, but all declined. On November 14th the final vote was taken and again the ordinance passed 6 to 3.

DE-SIDERS HONORED

On Sunday, November 20, the Trust hosted an afternoon reception to honor those who have had their buildings stripped of artificial siding. The reception was held in the recently-renovated Wyndhurst Carriage, owned by Trust member Leslie Clement.

As more and more of our heritage disappears beneath aluminum and vinyl siding, these individuals and groups merit special recognition. Over the past ten years, at least seventy-five buildings in Springfield have had artificial siding removed. Neighborhoods where "de-siding" has been observed include not only the historic areas of Downtown, McKnight, Forest Park, and Six Corners but also Old Hill, Upper Hill, Bay, South End, and Atwater Park.



Brick Industrial Buildings Rich With History
In Mill River Section Of The South End

MILL RIVER AREA TO BE NOMINATED

The Trust will use part of the proceeds from the spring House Tour to sponsor a nomination of the lower Mill River area to the National Register of Historic Places. The potential district is located in the vicinity to Main, Mill, and Locust Streets and was indentified as Register-eligible in the Trust-sponsored survey of the South End several years ago. The Mill River was the main power source for Springfield's early industries. Along its banks are numerous archaeological sites and buildings from the mid-nineteenth to early-twentieth centuries, all relating to our industrial heritage.

In past years, the Trust has sponsored neighborhood surveys of the South End, North End, and Indian Orchard with financial assistance from the City, the Massachusetts Historical Commission, and developer Alfred Katz. It has also used tour proceeds to sponsor the nomination of the eastern section of McKnight to the National Register.

ARCHITECTURAL GUIDE GIVEN AWARD

The Trust's fifteenth anniversary booklet, *A Guide to Residential Architecture in Springfield* was given a silver medal award by the Advertising Council of Western Massachusetts. Our publication was placed in the annual competition by Doherty-Tzoumas Marketing, the design firm with which we worked. The Trust is pleased that this important educational project has been acknowledged by professionals in the publishing field. Keep in mind that additional copies can be purchased at the Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs.

ATWATER TOUR A BIG SUCCESS

The fifth annual AT HOME House Tour was held on Sunday, September 25 to feature Atwater Park. Over 400 people toured the seven homes in this neighborhood known for containing some of the best early twentieth century houses in the City.

We are grateful for the continued support of the Bank of Boston in sponsoring the tour. Many thanks go to the people who opened their homes: Mindy Phelps and Frank Faulkner, William and Rose Boyle, Paul Kalill, Ernest and Jeanette Ghareeb, Terry Pfeifer, Joseph and Kathleen Pellegrino, and Sue Ellen Lovejoy. Proceeds from the tour will go to finance future Trust projects.

ANNUAL MEETING AND PICNIC HELD

The Annual meeting and Pot-Luck was held on Sunday, August 28. It was the largest attendance ever. Special thanks are due Steve Haddad and his family who hosted the picnic. Officers and members of Board of Directors for 1988-1989 were elected. Officers are Lisa Sotak-Cooper, President; Jim Boone, Vice President for Advocacy; Bob McCarroll, Vice President for Education; Marilyn Sutin, Treasurer, and Sandi Vella, Clerk. Board members are: John Bellows, Jim Boone, Pam Brecknell, Phil Burdick, Leslie Clement, Ted Devanski, Diane Fisher, Steve Haddad, Roger Harris, Bob McCarroll, Ed Pomeroy, Dave Premont, Anne Rice, Ed Sims, Dan Sotak-Cooper, Lisa Sotak-Cooper, Marilyn Sutin, Sandi Vella, and Terri Ward.

CHEERS TO

Denise Brouillette: Our super clerk who regrettably must resign

Terri Ward: Who has tackled with gusto the mailing list mess

Diane Fisher: Who's expertise will keep our lists and labels in shape

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JOHN M. FERNANDS

CHARLES ABDOW

SADLY, FIRE-DAMAGED PART OF HOTEL CHARLES TAKEN DOWN TRUST ARGUES FOR REHAB OF THE REST

The oldest section of the Hotel Charles is being demolished because of "Public Safety" issues as a result of the fire on June 29, 1988. A committee set up by the Mayor had recommended that the entire structure be demolished because the property could be better used without the buildings. Due to lawsuits by potential developers, the Affordable Housing program, and the problem with potential historic issues, the 1929, eleven story building which was not damaged by fire will not be demolished at this time.

The Trust has been active in this issue as we feel that there must be active efforts to protect all buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places and none should be demolished without proper review. The issue has been raised as to whether the eleven story building is as "historically significant" as the other parts that are being torn down. The Trust feels that any building on the National Register is of equal significance as any other building, so of course the eleven story building, in a style in and of itself, is also worthy of all the protections that any structure on the National Register is offered.

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The Mayor and the Historical Commission are on record opposing our being part of the Commission. As our goals are the same as those of the Commission, it is a mystery as to the reason they would oppose having our expertise, experience and contributions on the Commission. It may be that our advocacy for Historic Buildings has occasionally been inconvenient to the City's development plans, but if the Trust would be made part of the process, many of these issues could be resolved. As long as we are outside the process, we have no choice but to react to what others have done.

There is a chance that the Mayor will veto this ordinance. If so, please call these Councilors and encourage them to continue to support Preservation by supporting the Trust.

Bob Markel 736-3324

Frank Keough 782-5816

Vince Dimonaco 739-6703

Brian Santaniello 781-6850

Mitch Ogulewicz 782-5872

Bill Foley 783-2201

Councillors opposing our inclusion on the Historical Commission were Mary Hurley, Morris Jones and Kateri Walsh.

VICTORIAN CONSTRUCTIONS

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**1988 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
CONTINUES**

The annual renewal of membership is winding down. Please renew now if you have not already.

**PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW
YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

___ Student \$10

___ Individual \$15

___ Family \$25

Mail your check to:
Springfield Preservation Trust
979 Main Street
Springfield, MA 01103



JAMES A. BOONE

97 FLORIDA STREET
SPRINGFIELD, MASS. 01109

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

NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED

We would like to welcome to Trust membership the following people: Jill Benoit & Craig Perrault, Connie Bettis, Craig & Denise Brown, Eileen Cebula, Patricia Cox, Mark Curto, Barbara Dennigan, Hank & Anne Drapalski, The Golden Phoenix, Harvey Werden, Ted Jarrett, Tom & Dee Howe, Billie Lawler, Gary Lewis, Henry & Paula Nowick, Rosemary O'Donoghue, Kim Owens, David & Jackie Pleet, Sandy Purdy, James & Marilyn Riddle, Lee Robillard, Gisela Rodriguez, Tim Salvner, Michael Sands, James & Regina Shriver, Phil & Deni Sindell, Mike & Liz Stevens, Richard & Sandra Wallis, and Colleen Westberg.

SPT Calendar

Meetings at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Forest Park Library:

December 7

January 4

February 1

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

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**SPRINGFIELD
PRESERVATION
TRUST**

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