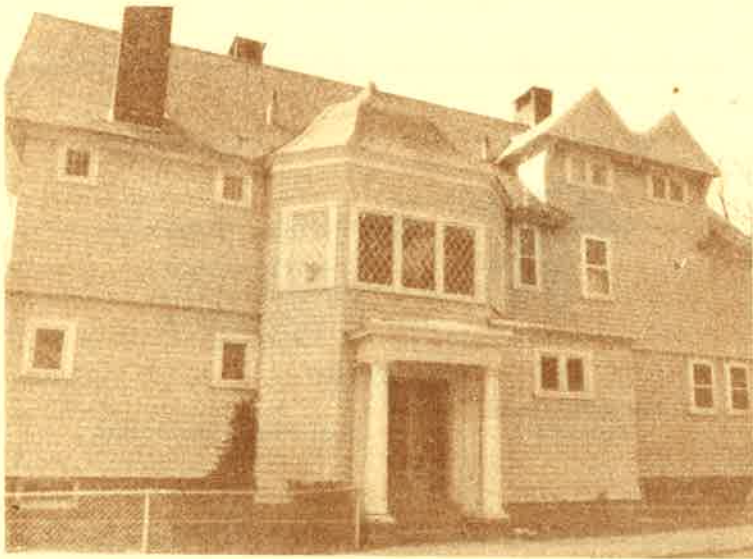


SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST

Quarterly Newsletter

SPRING 1988



Magnificent Mulberry Street House on May 1 Tour

Dear Tour Goer::

Welcome to the Springfield Preservation Trust and our Annual Bus Tour of Historic Neighborhoods and Houses. This Tour is just one of the many activities of the Trust. We hope you will become a member and supporter.

The Trust is now fifteen years old and has done many things over the years. Our spring and fall tours have exposed thousands of people to the splendor and history of the city. We have restored FIVE houses over the years, demonstrating proper restoration techniques and by the use of "before" and "after" open houses, shown that just about anything can be saved. Our members have acted as resources to the community on issues of restoration and preservation through lectures, small group discussions and visits to people's homes to give advice. The Trust has worked with groups in other communities who want to set up preservation groups. Through museum shows and our new book, *Guide to Residential Architecture in Springfield*, people are becoming more familiar with their surroundings and taking more pride in their city.

(continued on page 2)

Spring Historic House Tour Better Than Ever: Sunday, May 1

The twelfth annual Historic House Tour has been set for Sunday, May 1. It will be the largest and most diverse spring tour ever mounted by the Trust. Once again several Trust members are participating: Bill Guzzy and Ted Devanski will open their Queen Anne home in McKnight, John and Mary Margaret Young will open their Tudor Revival home in Forest Park Heights, Steve Haddad will open one of his new condominium apartments on Mattoon Street, and Leslie Clement will open her recently- renovated carriage house in Maple Hill. Other participants will be Noyes Associates with Classical High School, Philip and Denise Sindell with their turn-of-the-century home in Ridgewood, Ring Nursing Home with one of the largest Tudor Revival mansions in the city, and Tom and Liz Sharpe with their townhouse apartment on Mattoon Street. The Connecticut Valley Historical Museum will also be on the tour with its "Valley Victorian" exhibit and will be serving refreshments.

Tickets are seven dollars, six dollars for Trust members and senior citizens. They can be purchased ahead of time at Longmeadow Flowers in Downtown, West Springfield, and Longmeadow. On the day of the tour, they will be on sale in front of Classical High, 235 State Street from 10:45 until 2:00. Buses will run at 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, and 2:00, or people may drive themselves.

Advocacy: Watchdog on Preservation Issues

The advocacy efforts of the Trust are directed toward a number of areas at this time. The purpose of Advocacy is to monitor issues that may have an impact on our built environment and to ensure that our architectural heritage is protected. We have been keeping an eye on vacant lots within historic districts and reminding developers that projects must meet certain standards. We advocate for sensitive restoration in big projects like the Charles Hotel or proposed work to be done at Commerce High School. We are working with groups who want to expand historic districts and those in other towns wanting to start preservation groups. Helping others understand their environment leads to a more sensitive treatment of our neighborhoods and city.

DEAR TOUR GOERS: *Continued from Page 1*

As a watchdog for the preservation of buildings and neighborhoods, the Trust has worked along with the Historic Commission, the City government and private developers to ensure that the built environment around us is preserved as it should be.

Do these activities seem worthwhile? Would you like to know more? Would you like to be part of this movement? We need and want your moral support as well as your membership.

Our May 4th Board Meeting will be held at the Connecticut Valley Historical Museum in the Quadrangle. A perfect time to get to know the Board and to take in Valley Victorian's Exhibit.

Please join us!!

PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

___ Student \$10

___ Individual \$15

___ Family \$25

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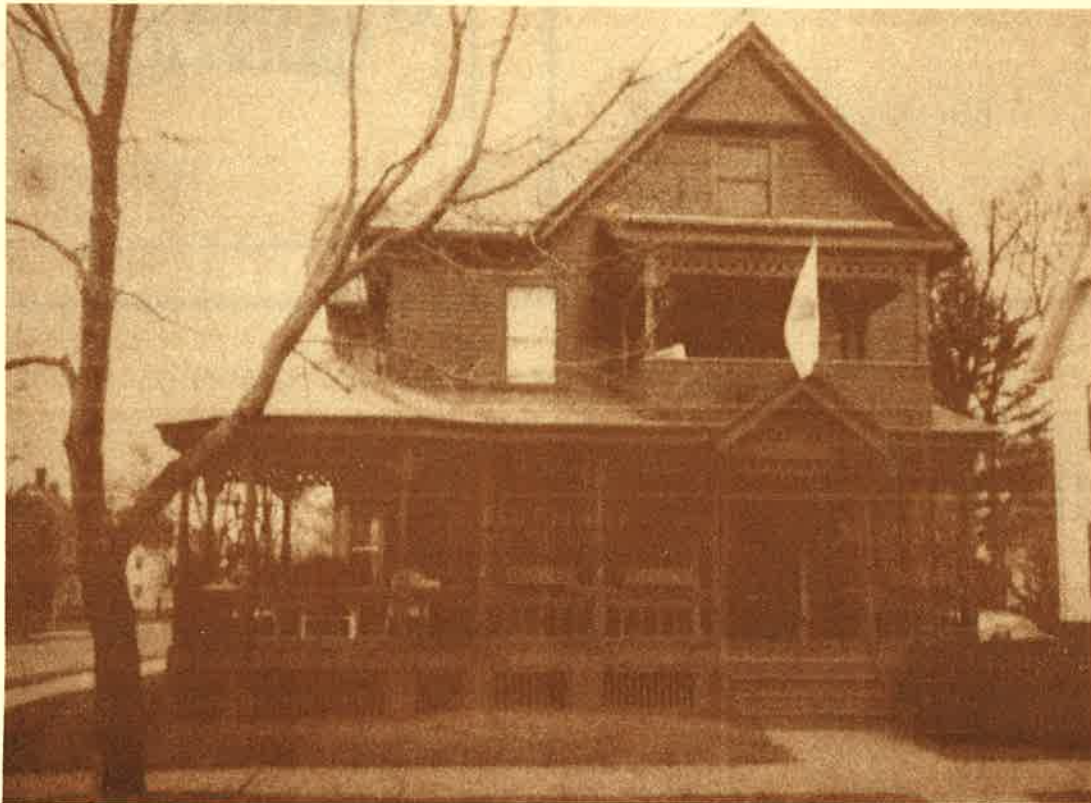
Three Cheers for Steve and Jane Rondepierre for Winning National Award

Congratulations to Trust members Steve and Jane Rondepierre whose lovely restoration of their 1892 Queen Anne house in the McKnight district won first prize in the *Better Homes and Gardens* 1987 Home Improvement Contest. Of the seven possible categories, the Rondepierres placed first in best exterior fix-up. The entries were weighed on their physical appearance, functional qualities, and economy in construction.

The couple began with a structure that had been stripped of its porches and sheathed in aluminum siding, which hid any traces of its architectural ornamentation. With great vision, creativity, and diligence, they pared the house down to what remained of the original design and began anew. Using old photographs and the physical evidence revealed by the removal of the siding and the demolition of a concrete stoop, the reconstruction began.

The porches were replaced by a contractor, and ornamented with circular fretwork carefully reproduced by Steve to match the original. An old porch column was also located and used as a model for the new posts. The historical accuracy of the restoration was only altered slightly by the addition of a polygonal gazebo to the far end of the porch. An appropriately rich period color scheme of deep red and green was chosen to add the finishing touch to the restoration.

The Rondepierre's deserve much congratulations for the beauty and graceful charm of their home. One would never know the house had been altered over the years. It is truly a challenge to be creative and yet remain within the bounds of historical accuracy; they have done it and on a budget of \$30,000, including a \$5,000 grant from the City of Springfield. Many thanks to the Rondepierres for their fine work, and for the national attention they helped to give the McKnight neighborhood.



Prize-Winning Beauty:
Rondepierre House on Lafayette Street

1988 Membership Renewal Underway

The annual renewal of membership has begun. Please renew promptly so that a follow up letter does not have to be sent. So far this year, the Trust has gained twenty new members. As we welcome new preservationists to our ranks, we don't want to lose any long-time friends!

SPT Calendar

Twelfth Annual Spring House Tour
May 1

Special meeting on May 4 at 6:00 at Connecticut Valley Historical Museum, followed by "Valley Victorian" lecture.

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

June 1
June 6

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

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