



## SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST, INC

74 Walnut Street, Springfield, MA 01105  
Telephone Number – 413-747-0656

[www.springfieldpreservationtrust.org](http://www.springfieldpreservationtrust.org)

Dedicated to Preserving Springfield's Architectural History

### January 2010

#### 2010 Winter Fundraiser

Please join us on Saturday, January 30th, at 6:00 p.m. for our annual fundraiser. Mingle with Springfield's preservation community and enjoy our tapas and drink menu.

This year's Winter Fundraiser is being held at the fabulous home of Gary and Donna West, 180 Longhill Street. Situated on a site overlooking the Connecticut River, this mansion was built for Eugene Dexter in 1921. Max Westhoff, one of Springfield's premiere architects, designed this home in the popular Colonial Revival style to take advantage of the dramatic site at the top of Longhill Street.



Tickets are \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members. All proceeds will benefit SPT's current project, the restoration of 77 Maple Street, Springfield's oldest school building.

To Reserve Your Tickets, send payment to:

**Springfield Preservation Trust**

**74 Walnut Street**

**Springfield, MA 01105**

Space is limited so reserve your ticket(s) as soon as possible. Payment must be received by January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

#### Save the Date

On Sunday, February 28, 2010, the Springfield Preservation Trust will hold its Annual Meeting. Elections for the board of directors will be held along with the election of officers. The location and time of the meeting has yet to be determined. Please check our website, [www.springfieldpreservationtrust.org](http://www.springfieldpreservationtrust.org) closer to the meeting date for further details.

#### Autumn and Spring 2010 House Tours

The autumn tour on October 18 was a critical success. Many comments were received regarding the nice selection of homes. The tour featured six houses in the area north of Sumner Avenue including Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, Shingle, Arts & Crafts style houses as well as a Neo-Colonial Revival condo. The tour, however, was not a financial success since wet, raw weather greatly reduced attendance. For the first time in SPT tour history, income did not even cover expenses. We hope another 30 years goes by before the weather conspires against us in a similar fashion!

Thanks go to those who shared their homes: Sharon Ackley, Caroline Murphy, Thomas & Cynthia Sattol, Bruce & Nancy Urbschat, Carrie Cirillo, and Concerned Citizens of Springfield.

The Board is starting to plan the spring 2010 house tour for the afternoon of May 16th. It will focus on the Trafton Road area between Dickinson Street and Forest Park. Anyone who knows someone who might be interested in opening should contact Bob McCarroll at 736-0629.

## SPT Website - New and Improved

Over the last year the Springfield Preservation Trust has been working with web designer Karan Parkin to update the SPT website, [www.springfieldpreservationtrust.org](http://www.springfieldpreservationtrust.org). The updates are meant to make the site more user friendly for the everyday internet user and make it easier to update and keep the site current. The pages also have a more attractive and professional look.

One major change is the addition of email submission. Anyone will now be able to submit their email address so that SPT can send out email notices of upcoming events and volunteer opportunities. This will also allow SPT to start producing an e-newsletter. An e-newsletter will let SPT cut back on mailings, saving money on printing and mailing costs.

While the website will continue to have all the same content, SPT will work on introducing more material to provide additional preservation resources. Continue to visit us at [www.springfieldpreservationtrust.org](http://www.springfieldpreservationtrust.org) for updates on news and events.

## Top Ten Most Endangered List

At the December meeting the SPT board identified the top ten most endangered properties in Springfield. We all know there are more than 10 properties within the City that need some TLC; however, SPT feels that these buildings in particular should be given a voice. We hope by listing these structures and issuing a press release to the public it will encourage some entity or person to take action to save them. Here are few properties that unfortunately made the list: 25-27 Elliot St, 83 Maple St, and 52 Westminster St. Watch your newspaper, television, and the SPT web site for the complete list which will be released near the end of January.

## Researching the History of your Home

In the early 1980's a wonderful guide to 'Researching the History of your Home' was written by Ed Lonergan. After reviewing the booklet, we find the information is still very relevant and useful so we are making it available to trust members and the public. It is a very comprehensive guide to finding out the history of your house and the people who lived there. The booklet is available on the Trusts website [www.springfieldpreservationtrust.org](http://www.springfieldpreservationtrust.org). Good luck with your research and if you have problems or questions please call the Trust office at 413-747-0656.

## SPT Newsletter Time Capsule

Over the past 35 years SPT has generated over one hundred newsletters. In future correspondence we will take a glimpse back at the deeds done by previous and

sometimes still current board members. Here are two snippets from SPT newsletters gone by.

### 1980

An article was written about four Mattoon St Brick row houses (#11, 25, 29, and 31) that had their brick facades cleaned and pointed. The Dept of Interior and the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, assisted the home owners with a 50% matching grants up to \$5000. The Trust was the project supervisor working with contractor Rudco Air Maintenance of Hartford CT, home owners, and the Mass Historical Commission.

### 1991

Trust board members Bob McCarroll and Jim Boone led a "Sacred Places" tour through six of Springfield's churches: First Church in Court Square, St Michael's Roman Catholic Cathedral, Grace Baptist Church, South Congregational Church, First Spiritualist Church and St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church.

## From the shelves of the SPT library



Thanks to a generous donation from Jim Boone, the shelves in the Trust's home office at Mason Wright are filled with a collection of books that can help any home owner make a decision when it comes to restoration and decorating. Each newsletter will showcase at least one book with a specific focus.

There are numerous books on stencil patterns. One book, "Victorian Stencils For Design and Decoration", selected by Edmund V. Gillon Jr., was published by Dover publications in 1968. The stencil patterns selected for this book come from issues of the *Duetsches Maler-Journal*, a German magazine published in Stuttgart circa 1888-1894. These bold floral and geometric designs can be used on ceilings and walls.

A second book, "Floral Patterns: 120 Full-Color Designs in the Art Nouveau Style" by M.P. Verneuil, also published by Dover publications, was released in 1981. These classic floral

and foliate art nouveau illustrations were originally published by the 'Librairie Centrale des Beaux-Arts', Paris 1900.

The third book, "Art nouveau patterns and designs" reproduces the complete plates of 'Dessins d'ornementation plane en couleurs art nouveau' by Rene' Beauclair (Paris, 1900).

### Membership Updates

Thanks to all of you who renewed your Trust membership or became members for the first time. This is an important year with our renovation of 77 Maple Street. Your membership dues allow us to continue our advocacy work while taking on this new and important project.

Membership renewal reminders went out this summer. We also sent invitations to become a SPT member to those people who signed up at Trust events indicating an interest in future Trust related activities. Depending on the level of membership, members may receive discounted admission or complimentary admission to one or more Trust events. New membership cards were created by the membership committee to be used when obtaining discounted admission to a Trust event. Those who enroll at the higher level of membership will also receive one complimentary event ticket per year.

If you have not yet renewed your membership, please mail in your membership dues today. membership dues may may be paid online at our secure site, [www.springfieldpreservationtrust.org](http://www.springfieldpreservationtrust.org), or you can download a membership form and mail it in. We look forward to sending out your new membership card and seeing you at this year's winter fundraiser on January 30<sup>th</sup>.

### Contractors List

For several years the Trust has built a list of Contractors that have been recommended by our members, people who have done good work on their houses and with whom they would recommend to others. We want to update this list which is posted on our Website.

Please check out the current list of contractors at [www.springfieldpreservationtrust.org](http://www.springfieldpreservationtrust.org) and see if your favorite contractor is listed. If they are and you are still happy with them, great. If you have found someone new that you would like added to the list, please fill out the form at the end of the newsletter and send it to us so we can keep this list up to date. Thanks for your help; this is a great service to our members and the public.

In completing the form, please include name of contractor, address, phone number and their specialty.

Monthly meetings of the Springfield Preservation Trust are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., at the Mason Wright Retirement Center, 74 Walnut Street. All Trust members are welcome.

### Newsletter contributors:

- ❖ Jim Boone
- ❖ Michael Marcinkewich
- ❖ Bob McCarroll
- ❖ Ben Murphy

### Photography:

- ❖ Michael Marcinkewich

Marilyn Sutin, Editor

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Name of Contractor \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Trade Specialty \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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