



## SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST NEWSLETTER

### SPRING 2016

*image above is the*  
Underwood Building  
on this years  
Most Endangered List

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David & Virginia Neill

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### ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting was held at the Kimball Condos Community Room on February 28. It featured coffee provided by Starbucks, an overview of the past year, announcement of the Most Endangered List (see below), and a presentation by Laura Masulis regarding the Transitional Development Initiative in the Lyman-Taylor-Worthington area of Downtown.

Elected in the coming year were Don Courtemanche, President; Elizabeth Rairigh, Vice President; Gayle White, Treasurer; and Joanne Cardell, Secretary. Elected as the Board of Directors were John Bellows, Steve Davis, Melvin Edwards, Gavin Gardner, Roberta Kilkenny, Jesse Lederman, Bob McCarroll, Guy McLain, Denise Moccia, Kathleen Pellegrino, Mike Stevens, Marilyn Sutin, and Alicia Zoeller.

### 2016 MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC RESOURCES

These properties represent a cross section of Springfield's built environment. While this list is far from inclusive of every endangered property in the city, it includes properties that need help soon or they will be lost forever. Lend your moral support to Historic Preservation, because it is our City and our community and is only as good as we are. For photos of all these endangered historic places visit [springfieldpreservation.org/mehr](http://springfieldpreservation.org/mehr)

#### Dr. Philip Kilroy House, 240 Longhill Street, built 1895

This Colonial Revival Style house was built for Dr. Phillip Kilroy on the site of the stockade where Native Americans loyal to King Phillip (aka Metacomet), launched their October 1675 attack on Springfield. The site was also one of the first archeological dig sites in the United States with workers excavating the fortress as well as native skeletal remains. The house and its large carriage house have not had any exterior maintenance for about 35 years and are falling into extensive disrepair.

#### Frederick Newman House, 37 George Street, built 1896

Architect Frederick Newman designed this Colonial Revival Style house for his own home. Newman was the architect for the Court Square Building and the Fuller Block. Over the years, the house became a lodging house but was restored to its former glory in the 1970s. In 2006, it was sold to a new owner who failed to maintain the property. The house was then damaged by the 2011 tornado. It is now abandoned and in the process of bank foreclosure. Its architectural details have been vandalized, and the house now poses a health and safety hazard to the neighborhood.



#### David Ames Jr. House, 241 Maple Street, built 1826

David Ames Sr., built this grand home designed by Chauncey Shepard for his son. It was one of the first houses on Maple Street hill. It was meant to be a larger and more impressive version of Alexander House. The house was severely damaged by the 2011 Tornado, and its iconic two-story front porch is now missing. A temporary roof has been in place since the tornado with no sign that repairs are going to be made to this very significant building.

## SUPPORTERS

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Thomas A. Valentine

## BECOME A SUPPORTER

Interested in being listed  
as a supporter in the  
SPT Quarterly Newsletter?

Become a member at the  
Greek Revival level  
or higher to be listed.

Visit  
[springfieldpreservation.org/  
membership](http://springfieldpreservation.org/membership)

### **Knox Automobile Company**, 53 Wilbraham Road, built 1891 and 1910

The Knox Automobile Company was a leading manufacturer of gasoline engine vehicles during the first two decades of the 20th century. The building was constructed in three stages. The company built touring cars, delivery vehicles, and fire trucks. The Springfield Fire Department, in fact, was the first in the nation to become fully motorized. Neglected for decades, the vacant building is now tax-foreclosed by the City, which has done nothing to encourage its renovation.

### **Willys-Overland Building**, 151-157 Chestnut Street, built 1916

The four-story Willys-Overland Building was a salesroom, service facility, and garage for the Ohio-based company, which at the time was the second largest maker of motor vehicles in the world. The building was marginally used in recent years and was damaged in the 2012 gas explosion. Its owner is not interested in repairing or renovating this National Register property. A twin building in Detroit, however, has been renovated for loft housing.

### **Chapman & Brooks Block**, 139-141 Lyman Street, built 1910

William B. Reid designed this impressive six-story building in the Classical Revival Style. Chapman & Brooks were wholesale dealers in "hardware, paints, mill supplies, agricultural implements, and field and garden seeds." A rapidly expanding business enabled Chapman to build this steel, concrete and brick block. The building has been vacant and owned by the City through tax foreclose for a number of years and was further damaged by the 2012 gas explosion. The City plans on spending funds for demolition rather than offering incentives to potential redevelopers.

### **Underwood Building**, corner of Worthington & Dwight Streets, built 1916

The Underwood Building was named for the first tenant, the Underwood Typewriter Co. Designed in the Classical Revival Style by H.L. Sprague, a Springfield architect that specialized in commercial and industrial structures. The building helps define one end of Stearns Square and is an integral part of the Worthington Street streetscape. The building was damaged by the 2012 gas explosion. The second story windows have been boarded, and the owner has been promoting an option of demolishing the building for a drive-thru business. Criminal activity has been associated with some of the ground floor entertainment businesses.

### **National Needle Building**, 55 Emery Street, built 1888

The National Needle Company was founded in 1873 to make hand and sewing machine needles. It grew rapidly and built this Romanesque Revival Style facility. In recent years, the building was incorporated into the Kittredge Kitchen Supply complex which has since vacated the building. The National Needle Building was named to the Most Endangered List several years ago when it was part of the proposed Penn National Casino site. After that development was unsuccessful, the property was sold to a new owner who has proposed building a high rise hotel on the site.

### **Chester Bliss Carriage House**, 63 Mulberry Street, built 1895

Local architect Guy Kirkham designed this large Shingle Style carriage behind Chester Bliss' large Colonial Revival style home. The building is now in serious disrepair and is an example of demolition by neglect. Being secondly structures, carriage houses are often neglected throughout Springfield's older neighborhoods.

### **Brightwood & Homer Street Schools**, built 1896

Springfield experienced a population explosion between the Civil War and First World War. The Brightwood School and Homer Street School were built to meet the growing need for education. Brightwood was designed by B. Hammett Seabury; Homer was designed by Gardner & Gardner. Both schools were enlarged in the early twentieth century. They are the oldest city schools still in active use. The two schools are planned to be replaced with new schools.



### **SAVE THE DATE - PRESERVATION AWARD CEREMONY**

On Wednesday, May 18 at 6:00 p.m., SPT will hold it's annual Preservation Award Ceremony at Tower Square. The Springfield Preservation Trust honors the people and organizations that help restore and preserve historic structures in Springfield. Every year the Trust showcases exemplary properties that represent the best of preservation in Springfield, as well as honoring those who are stewards of historic properties. Please join us to help congratulate the awardees.

## **MEET THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

On February 28, The Springfield Preservation Trust elected its 2016 Board of Directors. We asked the new board members to introduce themselves to our membership.

### **Roberta Walker Kilkenny**

Is an Adjunct Lecturer at Hunter College, City University of New York in the Department of Africana and Puerto/Rican Latino Studies. She also served as a peer mentor in Instructional Computing and Information Technology at Hunter College. She has a MA in Economics from the New School for Social Research and a MA in Education and Human Development from George Washington University. Roberta has resided in New York and in Guyana, always in buildings of historical significance and character.

In search of a community where she could “age in place”, she began “googling” Western Massachusetts where she had spent many childhood days. She came across the Springfield Preservation Trust and followed its work. After three years Roberta closed on a house in the McKnight Historic District. She began attending meetings of the Springfield Preservation Trust and the McKnight Neighborhood Council almost immediately thereafter. Roberta hopes to contribute to the preservation of historic homes and to help others find ways to successfully “age in place.”

### **Alicia M. Zoeller**

Alicia has lived in a historic Victorian home in Maple High Six Corners, since 1995. She and her partner have slowly been restoring their home, only to be interrupted by the 2011 tornado. Originally from Newburyport MA, she saw the results of "urban renewal" followed by gentrification. She moved from an island to Springfield and is now 110% an urban dweller.

With undergraduate degrees in Biology and Marine Biology, and a Juris Doctor from WNEU, Alicia is an attorney specializing in environmental law and community development. She is currently working as director of Community Development for City of Holyoke. She shares life with partner, Rosemary Morin, and collection of rescue cats.

Alicia's support of historic preservation is based upon honoring prior generations and their efforts to create livable, functional, architectural masterpieces.

## **2016 WINTER FUNDRAISER**

A joyous crowd of 65 gathered at the beautifully restored home of Jim and Merry Boone on January 31 to celebrate the Trust and support all the good work that has been done over the past year. Good company and wonderful finger food was shared by all. Bob McCarroll thanked and acknowledged the many people who had contributed to the day. Thanks to Denise Moccia, a very successful raffle of a Lottery Ticket Tree, with \$100 worth of tickets was won by long time member and current Board Member, John Bellows. Thanks to all who attended and who support the fine work of the Trust, your ongoing generosity is appreciated and valued.



## **MCKNIGHT HOUSE TOUR - JUNE 12**

The McKnight Local Historic District marks the 40th anniversary of its creation this year, and SPT is celebrating with a house tour. The tour will be between 1 and 5pm on Sunday, June 12 and will feature seven homes, Saint Peter's Church, and several gardens. The homes will be on Dartmouth Street, Worthington Street, Florida Street, Clarendon Street and Ingersoll Grove.



The McKnight District is the largest wood frame, late Victorian neighborhood in New England. Most of its 800 houses were built between 1870 and 1900. Many of them are in the fanciful Queen Anne style.

Advance tickets for \$15 will be available after Memorial Day at Flowers Flowers, 758 Sumner Avenue; The Flower Box, 596 Carew Street; and [springfieldpreservation.org](http://springfieldpreservation.org). Tickets can be purchased for \$20 on the day of the tour from 12:45pm until 3:00pm on Ingersoll Grove, just off Worthington Street. SPT members receive a discounted price. For information, call 413-736-0629.

## **MCKNIGHT BLOCK PARTY**

On June 11 the McKnight neighborhood Council will have their annual block Party on the Thompson Triangle in the McKnight Historic District. There will be music, games, information tables and food. The Preservation Trust will set up a table with some local history information as well as conduct Walking Tours of the Neighborhood.

## **THE WPA IMAGE PROJECT**

The Works Progress Administration (WPA) was the largest New Deal agency, employing millions of unemployed people to carry out public works projects. One of these projects included photographing every building in the city of Springfield during 1938 & 1939. These images, located in the City of Springfield Building Department, are being digitally scanned by one of our board members, Steve Davis. Once scanned, he imports them into a photo editing program to align, crop, and adjust for the age of the original paper. The photos are then uploaded to the SPT website where he then manually enters the addresses. So far this year Steve has entered the photographs for the following city streets:

Newbury ~ Liberty ~ Dwight ~ Walnut  
Hancock ~ Orange ~ Hickory ~ Homer ~ Locust



416 Hancock Street



10 Locust Street

Visit [springfieldpreservation.org/wpa](http://springfieldpreservation.org/wpa) to see the entire collection

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## SPT BOARD MEETINGS

SPT members are welcome to attend

### **when**

First Wednesday  
of each month  
6PM

### **where**

Mason Wright  
Retirement Center  
74 Walnut Street

## CREDITS

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## VISIT SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST ONLINE

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

[www.facebook.com/preservespringfield](https://www.facebook.com/preservespringfield)

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