



SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2019

picture above is
Building 19 at STCC
one of the
2019 Preservation Awardees

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ANNUAL PRESERVATION AWARDS

SPT hosted the 2019 Annual Preservation Awards Ceremony on May 14 at the new STCC Student Learning Commons. The event honored individuals and organizations that have helped restore and preserve historic places in Springfield. [Click here](#) for a photo gallery of this year's awardees.



This year's awards were bittersweet as SPT lost longtime board member and immediate past president Don Courtemanche. To honor his work and dedication to historic preservation in Springfield, he was posthumously given the Donald Campion Award for Outstanding Achievement in Historic Preservation. We have also established a new annual award, The Donald Courtemanche Award for Restoration, which will be given annually to the most significant restoration award given in any year.

2019 Preservation Award Recipients

- The Donald Campion Award for Outstanding Achievement in Historic Preservation was awarded posthumously to Donald A. Courtemanche
- The Donald Courtemanche Award for Restoration was awarded to
- Springfield Technical Community College & the Massachusetts Division of Capital Asset Management & Maintenance for the rehabilitation of Building 19 into the Ira H. Rubenzahl Student Learning Commons
- MGM Springfield for restoration of 95 State Street and the
- French Congregational Church at 94 Union Street
- Valley Real Estate for the restoration of the St. James Building at 573 State Street and the Wigglesworth Building at 23 Oak Street
- Viva Development for the restoration of 263-267 Central Street
- Icarian Real Estate Advisors for restoration of 175 Mill Street
- Gary & Stephanie Erbe for restoration of 115 Sumner Avenue
- Dan Rodriguez & Bill LaPorte for restoration of 102 Maplewood Terrace
- The Edward Sims Award for Stewardship was awarded to
- Elliot & Kay Stratton for 174 Buckingham Street
- The George Pooler Award for Stewardship was awarded to
- Daniel & Kateri Walsh for 42 Magnolia Terrace
- The Robert Holbrook Award for Stewardship was awarded to
- James & Linda Bartlett and Ruth Dumont for 280-282 Pine Street

413-746-9341



413-788-9529
800-347-9529

**Beate Bolen &
Mathew Forte**

**Stephen Bosworth &
Karen A. Merchant**

Jane & Paul Hetzel

**Matthew V. Jaquith
& Michael Rheault**

**Karin Johnson &
Jason Alves**

Christ Kamages Faia

Mark & Sally Mullan

**Ben Murphy &
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Newsletter?

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SPT 'CITY OF HOMES' 2020 CALENDAR

The 'City of Homes' calendar is now in its 6th year. The calendars will be revealed and for sale at the Mattoon Street Arts Festival, September 7 & 8. Look for our booth and display!

This year's calendar is a mix of interior and exterior photos of some amazing historic properties. We extend our thanks to those homeowners who have agreed to be photographed. The calendar is not only a small fundraiser for the Trust, it is also a promotional and educational tool for our city and its neighborhoods. The properties are carefully selected and we hope you enjoy this year's picks.

After the festival, the calendars can be purchased online at springfieldpreservation.org, as well as Flowers Flowers and the Flower Box. The calendars are \$15. Shipping will be added to online orders.

The Trust would like to thank our volunteer photographers for their time and effort: Michelle Langan, Greg Murphy & Jim Sharrard, and our calendar committee: Tim Cummings, Marilyn Sutin, Denise Moccia & Derek Strahan.

See you at Mattoon!

COLONY HILLS SPRING HOUSE TOUR

The June 9 house tour of Colony Hills was a huge success. Pleasant weather and a rarely-toured neighborhood brought out approximately 400 visitors, one of the highest turn-outs in several years. Houses were Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, and English Cottage styles, built between 1923 and 1939



Thanks go to those who shared their homes: Peter & Melissa Picknelly, Ken & Carol Kinsley, Thomas O'Neil, Andrew & Jillian Jusko, Mark & Patricia Wojcik, Charles & Kimberly Zaremba and to Jack & Collette Dill, who open their garden. SPT partnered with the Colony Hills Neighborhood Association on the tour.

PART-TIME ADVOCACY STAFF HIRED

The SPT Board of Directors has hired Debbie Oppermann to help with advocacy and educational initiatives.

Debbie serves on the Westfield Historical Commission and has worked for the Great Barrington Historical Society. She will focus on buildings on our Most Endangered and Watch Lists. The Board is thrilled to have someone who will keep us focused on threatened historic resources.

HISTORIC PLACES OF SPRINGFIELD MILLS-STEBBINS VILLA

Article courtesy of [Lost New England](#)

One of Springfield's greatest architectural gems is the Mills-Stebbins Villa, which overlooks the South End from its position atop Crescent Hill. It was completed in 1851, and was designed by Henry A. Sykes, a noted local architect from Suffield, Connecticut. It reflected the Italian villa style that was just starting to become popular for upscale American homes, and it was later praised by architectural historian Henry-Russell Hitchcock as "one of the finest nineteenth century houses in America."

The original owner was John Mills, a lawyer and politician who served as the state senate president from 1826 to 1827, as U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts from 1835 to 1841, and as the state treasurer from 1843 to 1844. He was largely retired by the time he moved into this house in 1851, and he only lived here for a few years before selling the property in 1857 and moving into a far more modest house on Byers Street.

The next owner of the house was John C. Stebbins, a wealthy merchant who was a business partner of hardware store owner Homer Foot. Like his predecessor in the house, he was also involved in politics, and served on the school committee, the board of aldermen, and in the state legislature. He was also the president of several local companies, including the Springfield Institution for Savings and the Holyoke Water Power Company.

John Stebbins died in 1899, but the house remained in his family for many years, before finally being sold by his great granddaughter, Grace Stebbins, in 1962. The house remained vacant for several years, and suffered vandalism to the interior. It was carefully restored in the early 1970s and added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1973, but it is now vacant again.



Mills-Stebbins Villa around 1938-1939. Image from the SPT WPA Collection



Mills-Stebbins Villa in 2017. Image courtesy of Lost New England

EVENTS

SUMMER FUNDRAISER

SPT will hold its annual Summer Fundraiser on Sunday, August 25 at 1:00 pm on the porch and lawn of the Commanding Officer's House at the Springfield Armory.

The house was erected in 1845 during Major J.W. Ripley's tenure for \$24,900, more than \$800,000 today. The cost caused a stir at the time. A guided tour of the now-empty house will be offered.

Ample hors d'oeuvres, wine, and sparkling water will be served. Tickets are \$35 for SPT members and \$40 for nonmembers. Reservations must be made by August 19 by visiting springfieldpreservation.org or by mailing a check to Springfield Preservation Trust, 74 Walnut Street, Springfield, MA 01105. For information, call 413-736-0629.



PRESERVATION AWARD DISPLAY

The 2019 Preservation Awards and a sampling of previous year's awards are now on display at the Sixteen Acres Branch Library through the end of July. The display may be viewed Mon., Wed., Fri. 1-5 p.m., Tue. 10-8 p.m., Thu. 10-5 p.m., & Sat. 11-3 p.m. We thank the Library for providing a public place to display the awards.



MATTOON STREET ARTS FESTIVAL

Come visit the SPT table at the 47th annual Mattoon Street Arts Festival on **Saturday & Sunday, September 7 & 8** where we will be selling the 2020 "City of Homes" Calendars. The oldest arts and crafts show in the region, the Mattoon Festival will feature more than 100 exhibitors, plus food vendors and musicians, on a historic street lined with restored brick Victorian row houses.

"VOICES FROM THE GRAVE " CEMETERY TOUR

SPT will host our seventh annual Cemetery Tour on **Sunday, October 20th** at Springfield Cemetery, 171 Maple Street. Docent-led groups will visit the graves of several famous or infamous Springfield residents, where costumed interpreters will assume the role of that resident. This is a great way to learn a little local history, enjoy the beautiful scenery and get outdoors! More information will be available at

SECOND SATURDAY WALKING TOURS

Enlightening strolls through the downtown area. Tours begin at the Springfield Museums Welcome Center, 21 Edwards Street on the Second Saturday of each month, April through November. Tours are rain or shine and start promptly at 10:30 am and usually end around noon. Tours are free for SPT members along with Armoury-Quadrangle Civic Association and Springfield Museums members. \$5 for nonmembers.

2019 Schedule:

- August 10: Ben Murphy - Quadrangle-Mattoon Historic District
- September 14: Bill Devlin - History of the Quadrangle
- October 12: Karen Finn - Springfield Central Cultural District
- November 9: To be Announced



CONTRACTOR'S LIST

If you know a skilled craftsman that you would recommend, please let us know.

Please include:

- ~Name of Contractor
- ~Category of work
- ~Phone/Email/website

Send information to
jimboone@hotmail.com

SPT BOARD MEETINGS

SPT members are welcome to attend

when

Third Wednesday
of each month
6PM

where

Mason Wright
Retirement Community
74 Walnut Street

CREDITS

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About the Springfield Preservation Trust

The mission of the Springfield Preservation Trust (SPT) is to preserve and protect properties in Springfield, Massachusetts which have architectural, historic, educational, or general cultural significance for public edification and enjoyment.

SPT believes historic preservation is an important part of making Springfield a great place to live, work, and visit. Historic Preservation is crucial to tourism and economic development and creating a unique sense of place. It's a means of creating jobs, attracting investment, generating tax revenue, and supporting small business.

For 45 years, SPT has been an independent voice supporting historic preservation. Over the years we have held countless events to showcase how our old buildings can be part of our modern lives and show off the historic places that make Springfield unique. We've helped pass legislation on the state and local levels that averts the needless loss of historic places. Our online resources help homeowners with restoration and educate the public on the beauty, quality and value of older homes. These activities have helped save and restore Springfield's threatened historic treasures so that they are here for future generations to enjoy.

Springfield Preservation Trust
info@springfieldpreservation.org

