



SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2019

picture above is
175 Mill Street
Location of the SPT
2019 Annual Meeting

Visit our website



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HISTORIC TRUST FUND UPDATE

The Springfield Historic Preservation Trust Fund was established in 2016 as mitigation for the adverse effect of the casino development on historic assets. Both MGM and the MA Gaming Commission made a one-time contribution of \$350,000 to the fund. Six trustees, one of which is designated by SPT, oversee the fund, which can aid historic buildings within a half mile of the casino campus.

Since then, the Trustees have committed:

\$200,000 grant and a \$200,000 bridge loan for renovation of vacant, deteriorated Victorian row houses at 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, & 184 Maple Street and a vacant, deteriorated early 20th century apartment building at 169 Maple Street.



\$25,000 grant for pointing and window restoration at the Driscoll Block, a partially vacant four story Victorian commercial building, at 211-213 Worthington Street.



\$125,000 grant and a \$25,000 short term loan for façade restoration of the Trinity Block, an early 20th century commercial building, at 270-286 Bridge Street. The building is under rehabilitation and its exterior restoration expenses had far exceeded its proposed budget.

\$44,000 grant for exterior renovation of the Female Seminary, the early 19th century building which SPT began renovating, at 77 Maple Street. This funding will help be part of the local match for a \$1.2 million EDA grant to complete the renovation.



\$40,000 towards exterior restoration of the Thurston Munson house at 60 Byers Street, a locally important 20th century Modernist structure.

PRESERVATION AWARD NOMINATIONS



413-788-9529
800-347-9529

~
**Beate Bolen &
Mathew Forte**

~
**Stephen Bosworth &
Karen A. Merchant**

~
Neil Daboul

~
**Bob & Maura
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~
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Newsletter?

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member at the
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The Springfield Preservation Trust is currently seeking nominations for the 2019 Springfield Preservation Awards. Every year SPT honors the people and organizations that are helping to restore and preserve Springfield's historic places.

Nominations can be made for any historic property in Springfield which has been sensitively restored in the last year. Historic structures are those structures that are 50 years old or older but do not need to be in an historic district, have a plaque or otherwise been recognized as historic.

Nominations are due by Friday, March 8th 2019. [Click here](#) for a list of last year's awardees and to learn more about submitting a nomination.

SPT "CITY OF HOMES" 2019 CALENDAR

Another successful year for the Springfield Preservation Trust calendar. We printed 175 calendars and have a handful remaining. By keeping sales at \$15 for every calendar, the Trust was able to make a small profit as well as offer a small honorarium to our three wonderful photographers.



Our focus this year was carriage houses and gardens and we are about to make a decision on the theme for 2020. Any guesses?

The calendar has proven to be a great way to spread the message about promoting preservation in our city and identifying some of Springfield's wonderful homes. Please join us when we reveal the 6th annual 2020 calendar at the Mattoon Street Arts Festival, Sept 7 & 8, 2019.



WINTER PARTY FUNDRAISER

More than 60 SPT members and friends enjoyed the annual Winter Party on Sunday, January 27 at the McKnight home of Larkin Mayo and Gary Yuschalk. Our hosts are interior designers specializing in the Victorian era. Their home was a lavish treat for the eyes of period wallpaper (and ceiling paper !), carpets, furniture, and

other appointments, augmented by their collection of Christmas decorations.

Once again, caterer Cecy Galvan Perry provided wonderful food, while SPT board member Robert Louder provided the beverages and desserts. [Click here](#) for photos from the event.

HISTORIC PLACES OF SPRINGFIELD Buckwheat Hall

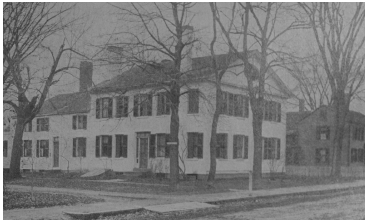
Article courtesy of [Lost New England](#)

The house at 224 Walnut Street, once known as Buckwheat Hall, was built around 1835 for James W. Crooks, a prominent local lawyer. Crooks was an 1818 Yale graduate, and he initially worked as a teacher before studying law here in Springfield. Aside from his legal work, he also served Springfield in different capacities, including as a member of the school committee, the board of selectmen, and the county commission.

Crooks was also a major landowner in Springfield. During the 1830s, Walnut Street marked the eastern extent of Springfield's development, and beyond here was largely open land, with occasional scattered farms. On the eastern side of Walnut Street, opposite his house, Crooks owned a sizable tract of land, which extended to Eastern Avenue and was later developed as part of the Old Hill neighborhood. At the time, though, it consisted of open fields of buckwheat, providing the name Buckwheat Hall for his house.

In 1849, Crooks married Ann Chapin, who was the daughter of Colonel Harvey Chapin, another prominent Springfield resident. Two years later, the couple left Buckwheat Hall, and by 1870 it was owned by Joseph and Mary Atwood. Joseph was a carpenter, and probably had plenty of work to do in this neighborhood. In the post-Civil War era, Springfield saw a significant housing boom, resulting in widespread development in the previously vacant land to the east of here.

Both Joseph and Mary died in 1889, and the property was subsequently developed. Atwood Place was built just south of the house, subdividing the lot into six new houses. Buckwheat Hall remained, but was used as a rental property. It was later divided into four different units, and a one-story storefront was built on the front of the building. This storefront has since been removed, and Buckwheat Hall is still standing, although heavily altered from its original 19th century appearance.



*Buckwheat Hall around 1893.
Image from Sketches of the old
inhabitants and other citizens of
old Springfield (1893)*



*Buckwheat Hall around 1938-1939.
Image from the [SPT WPA
Collection](#).*



*Buckwheat Hall in 2017. Image
courtesy of [Lost New England](#)*

UPCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting will be held at the recently renovated Stick Style house at 175 Mill Street on March 3 at 1:00 pm. The meeting will feature election of officers and board, an overview of the past year, announcement of the Most Endangered List, and a presentation by Charles Irving regarding the upcoming renovation of the Willys-Overland Building at 151 Chestnut Street.



The house had been a rest home, then a group home before becoming vacant and tax foreclosed. It has been renovated by Walter Kroll and Demetri Panteleakis, who have renovated other distressed houses in McKnight and Maple Hill.

Parking for the event will be at the nearby CHD offices at 367 Pine Street. The house will be available to tour. Light refreshments will be served.

FREE LECTURE ON RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE

Can't tell a Queen Anne from a Craftsman? SPT board member Bob McCarroll will give a talk on residential architectural styles on March 12 at 6:30 pm at the Storrs Library in Longmeadow.

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

Newsletter contributors:

Bob McCarroll

Ben Murphy

Derek Strahan

Marilyn Sutin

Photography:

Derek Strahan

Greg Murphy

Marilyn Sutin

Ben Murphy, Editor

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

