

SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST

SPRING 1980
NEWSLETTER

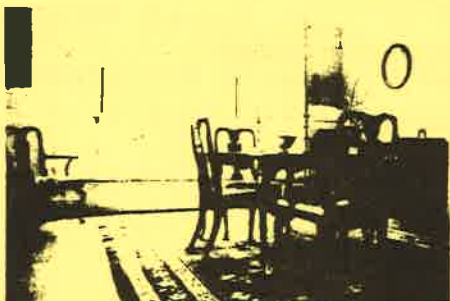
HOUSE TOUR

A Future From The Past

The Fourth Annual Springfield Preservation Trust House Tour offers a peek at some houses dating from the second half of the nineteenth century Victorian Era of Springfield's history. The houses vary in degree of work completed and in their interior decor. Each shows the quality of craftsmanship which was the hallmark of the Victorian Era.

Six houses will be presented on the Tour. In the Forest Park Heights District, a vernacular 1898 house will be seen. It was the boyhood home of Edward W. Blattie, Jr., who eventually headed the "Voice of America" radio broadcast. This typifies the grace and charm of most Forest Park Heights homes.

In the Ridgewood District, a Colonial Revival Style house will be viewed.



This vernacular 1898 house typifies the grace and charm of most Forest Park Heights houses.

DATE: May 18, 1980
TIME: 11AM - 3:30PM
PRICE: \$5.00 Adult
\$4.00 Children and Senior Citizens
\$4.00 Drive Yourself
Bus Leaves Mattoon Street
Every Half Hour

In the Ridgewood District, a Colonial Revival Style house will be viewed. Built in the 1850's but extensively remodelled in 1888, this was the home of Chester Bliss, President of the Chapin National Bank. It was used as a rooming house for 50 years until acquired by the present owners in 1979.

In the Maple Hill District is a house built in the 1890's by the Southworth family. It is a Shingle Style house and was lived in by the originator of Steiger's Hall Galleries, Charles Hall.

Two houses will be available for viewing on Mattoon Street. The first is a Second French Empire Style house built in 1870. Its first owner was William Wright, a tobacco dealer and President of the Hampden Park Association.

The second house on Mattoon St. is, at present, being renovated. It was designed by Springfield Architect Eugene C. Gardner in 1872 and resembles the buildings of Boston's fashionable South End.

In the McKnight District will be seen a house designed and built by William McKnight for himself in 1880. With his brother Charles, McKnight developed one of the earliest planned suburban neighborhoods in the country. This house reflects the Queen Anne Style with its towers and elaborate porches.

MATTOON ST

JACQUE GRANT

FOREST PARK

STREET FESTIVAL

The brick and sandstone facades of four Mattoon Street rowhouses have been cleaned and pointed with the assistance of a matching grant from the United States Department of the Interior, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service. The grant of up to \$5,000. will reimburse the owners one-half of the total cost of the work after approval by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, which administers the grant.

Included are Nos. 29 and 31 Mattoon, which are bowfront townhouses constructed in 1872. They were designed by Perkins and Gardner, a well known architectural firm of that period.

No. 11 is one of a row of four houses (5, 7, 9 and 11) built around 1874. They were austere compared to the houses built two years earlier.

No. 25, a 3-1/2 story building with some Romanesque features was built in 1891 and was the first apartment building on the street. It occupies two lots and has octagonal bay windows on either side of a large staircase, each bay surrounded by a bowfront design at the third story. It is known as the "Yadow" because the name appears in brownstone on the parapet.

The Springfield Preservation Trust has acted as local project supervisor, coordinating the efforts of the architect, contractor, homeowners and the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

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One of the first townhouses in the Mattoon Street area.

Washington Blvd. will be the location of this year's Forest Park Street Festival sponsored by the Forest Park Civic Assoc. To be held on the 8th of June, the festival will run from 11AM until 5PM.

JOIN THE TRUST

The Springfield Preservation Trust is offering a reduced membership for those buying Tour tickets this Spring. Each Tour ticket price of \$5.00 will be credited towards a \$10.00 annual membership, so that for only an additional \$5.00 per person, YOU can become a member. This offer is for a period of time between May 1 and June 15.

Your membership, your support and talents are very important to us. If you enjoy the Tour, consider joining the Trust so that we can do more in such community-wide Preservation education activities. We also need your ideas, comments and suggestions; please note them on the membership form below. We will have a membership table at the Tour so that we'll be available to respond and, hopefully, to accept your membership dues.

Eleanor S. Dashevsky
Membership Chairperson
739-3574 or 785-1636

Membership Form

<input type="checkbox"/> Student \$5	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$10	<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Family \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$100

() Credit my Tour ticket towards the \$10.00 membership.
Suggestions, comments and ideas please?
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.....
.....

Mail to: Springfield Preservation Trust, Inc.
7 Stockbridge Street
Springfield, MA 01103

Mattoon Street Facade
Continued from Page 2

The architect, Peter A. Zorzi of Studio One, Inc., wrote specifications for the work. A mortar sample from each building was first sent for analysis by Dr. Judith Selwyn of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities. Mr Zorzi then wrote specifications for the mortar for each building so as to duplicate as nearly as possible the adhesive power, consistency and color of the original mortar.

The cleaning specifications called for a dilute acid wash followed by a water rinse under moderate pressure. This procedure minimizes the risk of damage to the brick and mortar. Sandblasting is avoided because this method removes the harder, outer face of the brick exposing the softer core which then deteriorates faster.

The contractor was Rudco Air Maintenance Company of Hartford, Connecticut. This firm did the work at Stockbridge Court and WGBY (Ch. 57) headquarters on Hampden Street. Rudco has also had experience with historic buildings in various states on the eastern seaboard.

Rudco has done an excellent job of cleaning, causing no unnecessary damage to structures (or plantings) and leaving no streaking, as other contractors have done. The pointing was also done skillfully, even on the narrow joints of Nos. 29 and 31. Mortar match seemed to have been a bit of a problem on these buildings and No. 11, but the pink mortar on No. 25 was well matched and the massive job of pointing well done.

Those wishing to learn more about cleaning and pointing historic brick buildings should ask for "Preservation Briefs 1 and 2" from either the Massachusetts Historical Commission, 294 Washington St., Boston, Massachusetts 02108, or the National Park Service, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, Washington, D.C. 20240.

David Sanborn

Mc KNIGHT SPRING FEST

The Fourth Annual Neighborhood McNight Springfest will be held on May 31, from 9AM to 5PM. It will take place at the corner of Worthington St. and St. James Ave.



CITY COUNCIL

RESOLVE

A Special Legislation Act, initiated in the Springfield City Council by Councilman Robert T. Markel, providing for an appointment by the Mayor of a member of Springfield's Historic Commission, from two nominees submitted by the Trust, has been passed by the City Council and signed by Mayor Theodore Dimauro.

The resolution has been sent to Boston where it will be introduced to the State Legislature and the sent to the Local Affairs Committee for approval.

In effect, this resolution will mean that the Trust will be able to nominate two people sympathetic to historic preservation. One of the nominees will then be appointed by the Mayor, confirmed by the City Council and ultimately sit on the Commission to continue the work of preservation in Springfield.

The Trust thanks Bob Markel for all his work on this resolution.



THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The Springfield Preservation Trust is a private, non-profit organization that is involved in historic preservation in and around Springfield, Massachusetts. As a preservationist organization it is concerned with the historic and architecturally significant built environment as well as the preservation of the fabric of our older neighborhoods. With this as its basic philosophy, the Trust becomes an activist group in the area of education about preservation, the restorer of seriously deteriorated buildings and the plaintiff in cases where the destruction of significant buildings is threatened.

Started six years ago, the organization is growing and coming of age. It has grown from a group of 10 people to over 75 members. Its activities have expanded from running bus tours and being a preservation watchdog, to a property owner with a paid staff person. The Trust has spoken out publicly about areas of concern to the citizens of Springfield, including the renovations to Symphony Hall, Historic Community Development movies and support of the City's Historic Commission. The Trust has sponsored facade restoration programs on Springfield's first Historic District, Mattoon Street.

As a preservation watchdog, legal action has been taken against the Catholic Diocese

and the MacDuffie School for Girls to try to prevent the demolition of historically and architecturally significant buildings in the City.

Through restoration of a house at 120 Westminster Street, the Trust is helping to stabilize neighborhoods, thus benefiting the people and the City.

Interest in cities and historic preservation is a very active and vibrant force in this country. The Springfield Preservation Trust leads in this area. We must continue to encourage our neighbors and our City government to treat its buildings with sensitivity and respect. We are, as a culture, what we feel, how we think and where we live. Our city and its surroundings are our home - we want them to be the best.

To educate people about preservation and the City of Springfield, the SPT conducts bus tours to our historic districts and has houses open in each one. We welcome you to our tour, hopefully you will join us as members. There is strength in numbers. The more people are aware of preservation and actively support it, the better chance we have of retaining our heritage and values. We would welcome you as members and be glad to share our newsletters with you or you can become as active and involved as you choose. Your being with us on our tour shows your interest. Thank you.

James Boone



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