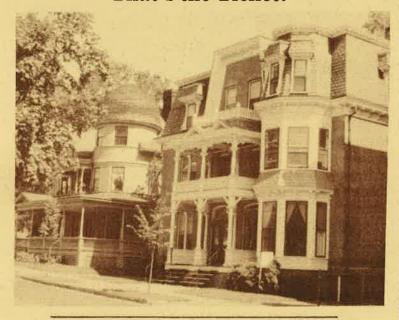


## Quarterly Newsletter Spring 1983

## SEVENTH ANNUAL HISTORIC HOUSE TOUR: "That's the Ticket!"



# BRING FRIENDS AND "EXPERIENCE" THIS VICTORIAN MARVEL ON UNION STREET

On May 15th SPT will launch its Seventh Annual Historic House Tour. Buses for the two-hour guided tours will depart hourly, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., from Classical High School.

"Tour-ists" will visit the Lewis House in Forest Park Heights, a Tudor Revival built in 1901 at 190 Longhill Street; the Safford House on 80 Dartmouth Street, a fine example of the Queen Anne style, constructed in 1891; the Wallings House, built in 1882 at 24 Mattoon Street; the 1873 Rice House, which exhibits the Second French Empire style of architecture at 263 Union Street; the Skinner House of 346 Maple Street, another example of the Queen Anne style, built in 1890; and Morgan Square, a renovated 1875 panel brick block structure at 26 - 50 Taylor Street, formerly the Springfield Steam Power Company.

Those buying tickets through May 11th will be eligible for our Raffle Prize: a special guided tour-for-two in a 1923 fire-engine-red Buick chauffered by Steven Gray. During the tour, our winner and his or her chosen guest will nibble on hors d'oeuvres and sip wine provided by Gale Farrell. After the tour, our winner-and-friend will be treated to brunch at Tilly's, courtesy of proprietor Ed Crowley.

General admission tickets are \$6.00 each; admission for Trust members and Senior Citizens is \$5.00. Tickets are available at Longmeadow Flowers, both at The Market Place in Springfield and at Bliss Road, Longmeadow.

#### IN THE ROUGH!

See Springfield Preservation Trust work-inprogress on Sunday, May 22nd, 1 to 5 p.m.

Both 53 Thompson Street, site of the recently relocated Lillian Street house, and 15 Clarendon Street will be on view in the McKnight Historic District.

Refreshments will be served.

#### **CABLE BOX PROTEST**

A NEW CHALLENGE now faces all organizations and individuals committed to the restoration and preservation of historic neighborhoods.

During recent months, Continental Cablevision has begun installing above-ground "pedestals" which boost cable television signals and provide access to underground lines. Three feet high and placed every 1000 feet in groups of three, these boxes are visually disruptive. Due to their inferior construction and installation, they are also easy targets for vandalism.

In order to prevent further installations and to inform and mobilize Springfield's civic groups, SPT convened a meeting on March 1, 1983. Representatives from McKnight, Bay, Old Hill, Forest Park, and Maple/High expressed at that time their support and intention to voice their concerns to Mayor Dimauro and Continental Cablevision.

A March 3rd ruling of the Springfield Historical Commission bans the installation of pedestals in historic districts. Because the Commission has no jurisdiction over non-historic neighborhoods, those areas are still endangered.

If you are concerned about these cable boxes and their impact on your community, please contact Mayor Dimauro and Continental Cablevision. You can also contact your civic association to find out what action it plans to take. Your support is very welcome!

Letters to the Mayor can be addressed to:

Honorable Theodore E. Dimauro Mayor's Office City Hall 36 Court Street Springfield, MA 01103

This newsletter is published by and for the members of the Springfield Preservation Trust, Inc.



#### "A MOVEABLE FEAST"

Last month the house at 11 Lillian Street had a "change of scene" when SPT Contractors jacked it up, slipped it off its crumbling foundation, hauled it up State Street, and slid it down into its new site on 53 Thompson Street.

Paint peeling and shingles shaking, the 1870's Italianate house rolled with ragged dignity through early-morning streets. Utility wires, streetlights, and median strips inspired some delicate maneuvering.

Exterior restoration has already begun, including the construction of a new cement-block foundation faced with brick, painting, and installation of a revamped heating system. Buyers who would be interested in completing their own interior renovations should contact Jim Boone at 734-9110.

This is the Trust's first relocation venture, and we think it will set a precedent for future SPT efforts to save historic buildings from demolition. "When a house absolutely *cannot* stay where it is, this is a very viablenpreservation tool," comments SPT's Jim Boone.

#### **ACCOLADES**

SPT extends special thanks to several people who have contributed to the growth of the Trust and to the quality of our efforts.

BILL MALLOY was there for us when we wrote our bylaws, and he has been a strong voice for good organization and aggressive preservation ever since. Bill freely offers us legal advice on everything from taxes to property acquisition. And of utmost importance — he lets us know when we are taking ourselves too seriously.

From the beginning *PETER ZORZI* and the *STUDIO ONE* architects have been pivotal to our efforts. Their offices provided our original meeting space and have served as our official mailing address... where people come looking for us! They have also generously donated architectural drawings for many of our projects.

BOB MARKEL, one of Springfield's most effective City Councilors, has been a real friend to historic preservation and to the Trust. Most recently he was responsible for our acquisition of the 53 Thompson Street property (site for the relocated Lillian Street house donated to the Trust by the City). Bob's voice and support are greatly appreciated.

## FIFTH RENOVATION PROJECT UNDERWAY

Recently acquired by the Springfield Preservation Trust is an elegant eight-room Victorian dwelling at 15 Clarendon Street. Empty but not badly vandalized, this house features a tower, natural woodwork, and a good-sized barn. Renovation is underway and promises to be swift and of a high caliber.

For further information, contact Jim Boone at 734-9110.

Remember to come to our Open House on May 22nd, 1 to 5 p.m., to witness the ongoing, early-stage renovations of this nineteenth century residence, and learn about SPT's restoration plans.

### WINCHESTER SQUARE AREA: SPT Seeks Survey Monies

On file with the Massachusetts Historical Commission is SPT's application for half of a \$20,000 proposed Winchester Square Area survey.

Settled in 1636, Springfield did not experience its greatest growth until after the Civil War. It was during those decades prior to World War I that much of the westerly portion of the city developed.

Until recently little survey work occurred in Springfield, except within some of the six historical districts. Two years ago, with the help of MHC and the City, the Trust initiated a \$12,000 survey of the North End and South End, due for completion this August.

Now on the drafting board is a \$20,000 survey of the five neighborhoods surrounding Winchester Square: Six Corners, Old Hill, Upper Hill, Bay, and McKnight. With a population of 25,000, this area boasts some of the oldest houses still standing in Springfield, built for U.S. Armory Hill and Water Shops workers. The Square is also home to one of the city's oldest Black communities. In addition, this area also contains two colleges, the Armory's Federal Square, and 400 Victorian houses which were not included in the 1975 National Register nomination of McKnight.

A survey of this large and diverse area would highlight those buildings or districts eligible for National Registration, which could in turn facilitate historic tax credits so useful to neighborhood revitalization. Both the City and the State would become aware of those properties requiring environmental review if government funds were used in revitalization efforts.

PLEASE pass on this membership form to anyone you know who is interested in pre- servation in Springfield and may be interest- ed in joining SPT.
Student \$10 Individual \$15
Family \$25
Mail your check to:
Springfield Preservation Trust
1111 Main Street

Springfield, MA 01103

#### **MESSAGES TO MEMBERS**

You might be interested in attending "Colors from the Past — historically appropriate color schemes for historic houses", a workshop to be held by Lower Pioneer Valley Regional Planning Commission on Saturday, May 14, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Holyoke Community College, Bldg. B, Rm. B-347.

WILLIAM FLYNT, Architectural Conservator Historic Deerfield

WILLIAM FINCH, Historical Architect Massachusetts Historical Commission

Speaker to be Announced

"Exterior Painting 1750-1900; A review of materials and color schemes"

"Chalking, Crazing & Cracking"; Treating paint problems of exterior woodwork, and a discussion of paint removal techniques

"Do-it-yourself" or hire an expert; Advice and "tips of the trade" from a painting professional

For Information, contact: Antoinette E. Tomasik, LPVRPC

26 Central Street, West Springfield, MA 01089

781-6045

WEDNESDAY

May 4 SPT BOARD MEETING Forest Park Library 7:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY** 

May 15 SPT HISTORIC HOUSE TOUR Classical High School 11 a.m. through 4 p.m.

SUNDAY

May 22 OPEN HOUSE 53 Thompson Street 15 Clarendon Street 1 to 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

June 1 SPT ANNUAL MEETING
Community Room, Morgan Square
Taylor Street
7:30 p.m. following brief
Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

July 6 SPT BOARD MEETING Forest Park Library 7:30 p.m.

## ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

June 1, 1983 at 7:30 p.m.

PLEASE ATTEND: We will elect officers and share ideas and refreshments at the Annual Meeting of the members of the Springfield Preservation Trust, on Wednesday, June 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room at Morgan Square, Taylor Street, Springfield. Preceding will be a brief meeting of the Board of Directors at 6:30 that evening.

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

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PRESERVATION
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