

SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST



Quarterly Newsletter

Fall/Winter 1984

"AT HOME IN DOWNTOWN": First Annual Walking Tour Captivates Crowds

Over 200 people took advantage of crisp autumn weather to participate in the "At Home in Downtown" walking tour on Sunday, October 14. This unique self-guided glimpse of housing opportunities in the center city featured 20 houses and apartments as well as four landmark churches. Most of the opened buildings had been or were in the process of renovation and served as excellent examples of how historic preservation is helping to revitalize Springfield.

Tour-goers marvelled at the diversity of downtown housing, and home-openers seemed to enjoy the day long attention. Because of the success of the "At Home" tour, another one will be planned for next autumn and will focus on a different neighborhood.

Thanks go to all participants and to the tour committee: Ed Lonergan (research), Marilyn Sutin (photography), Anne Rice (publicity), John Bellows (tickets), and Bob McCarroll (coordination). Special thanks goes to Bank of Boston, Western Massachusetts, which underwrote the cost of printing.

Members who could not attend but would like a copy of the twelve page tour booklet can obtain one by sending a self-addressed envelope to the Trust at 1111 Main Street, Springfield, MA 01105.

The SPRINGFIELD BOARD OF REALTORS recently honored the Trust with a neighborhood Revitalization Award. Accepting the award on behalf of the Trust were Anne Rice and Philip Burdick, who attended the Board's October Meeting. An effective photographic display illustrated the Trust's community development work.



Elegant 1860's brick rowhouse, first of a series of complexes which transformed the Mattoon Street District into the only complete rowhouse neighborhood in Springfield. This Second French Empire residence had lain vacant for twenty years before its renovation in 1977.

INDIAN MOTORCYCLE Development Plans Progress Despite Partial Demolition

We are sorry to say that a large and architecturally significant portion of the Indian Motorcycle Factory has been destroyed. The Trust worked with the developers, the City, and the State in efforts to save the building and to point out what a loss it would be to the city. We were not successful. Now we hope that the rest of the project can continue and that the key to Winchester Square Redevelopment can be restored. It is sad that in this time of increased sensitivity to historic preservation, that a National Register Building can be so easily destroyed without a word of protest from the Historic Commission or the community. There is still much educational work to be done.

THE TRADITION CONTINUES

Bus Tour '85

SPT's Ninth Annual Historic House Tour slated for May 5th will showcase the city's six historic districts. Several fascinating homes have already been volunteered! JOIN US IN PLANNING OUR BEST TOUR YET. Call Bob McCarroll, 736-0629.

MEMBER PROFILE

The Trust welcomes Wilfred Stebbins, III as Treasurer and member of the Board. Wilfred's background in art history, including an internship at the Museum of Modern Art in New York and his current position at the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford make him both a valuable asset to the Board and an interesting person for us to get to know.

Architectural Elements For Sale!

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Trust Previews Monarch Development Project

By special invitation the Springfield Preservation Trust witnessed the unveiling of plans for the Monarch Life Insurance complex proposed for the corner of Main and Vernon Streets in the heart of downtown (former site of the Forbes and Wallace Department Store). Held in the City Hall AnteChambers on November 2nd and arranged expressly as a forum for Trust and Historical Commission comments, the hour long presentation focused on an elaborate and impressive model of the development project. Architectural plans successfully integrate the complex with the Springfield historic setting, with attention both to the skyline and to the downtown perspective. The building will feature both granite and glass-and-steel facades which are intended to reflect the City Hall Campanile. In the future the complex could connect through a series of skyways with City Hall, Baystate West and the Federal Building.

Representating the Trust were David Sanborn, Phil Burdick, Anne Rice, Stephen Wallace, David Cowdrey and Jan Reynolds.

Please come to a winter Board Meeting at the Forest Park Library at 7:30.

January 2
February 6
March 6

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

Editor Anne. E. Rice
Assistant Jan Reynolds
Photographer Marilyn Sutin
President June Delp-Burdick
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