

# SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST

## Quarterly Newsletter Spring 1984

### NOT ONLY SKIN DEEP : Historic Beauty Shines on May 20th

Experience a sparkling range of architectural styles and interior decoration, from the simple elegant lines of a pre-Civil War cottage to the elaborate, elegant details of a High Victorian urban residence; from bright brick to comfortable clapboard; from renovation in progress to renovation complete. Timeless antique furnishings transport you to a young, developing urban America and introduce you to people who created its vital economy—from coal merchants to lawyers to patrons of the arts.

The lively talks about the City's history and architecture given as the bus goes from house to house have always been a distinguishing feature of the Trust Tour. Our guides are preparing to make this year's commentary as interesting as ever.

A large brick house built in Gothic Revival style in 1876 on Lincoln Street in historic Federal Square will impress tour-goers as an example of the very high quality restoration being done all over the city. Its builder, Henry Bosworth, came to Springfield as a young lawyer and retired as a judge of the Police Court at the age 81 in 1909. He seems to be typical of the vigorous people whose wonderful houses are our legacy.

In the nearby Ridgewood Historic District is the 1910 Colonial Revival house pictured on our 1984 poster. The graceful, flowing spaces of the beautifully decorated interior will charm tour-goers.

Secluded by a large beech tree, the white clapboard house built on Crescent Hill in 1858 for the Mills family is truly a "hidden jewel". Simpler in style than the brick Mills mansion nearby, this house has classic beauty. It was occupied by the unmarried daughters of the original owner until their deaths in 1934 and '44 when they were in their eighties.

Byers Street has been the scene of impressive renewal in the past few years, and tour-goers will enjoy the ornate 1890's Queen Anne style detail of the residence on this street.

The 1930's brick Colonial Revival house on Trafton Road is the youngest house ever featured on our Tour, typifying the broad range of styles now considered historic. The tasteful interior will make this home a favorite with those who enjoy beautiful design.

Those interested in renovation of historic properties will like the pre-Civil War Greek Revival Cottage undergoing restoration by a charming young lady typical of the talented and courageous craftsmen involved with the restoration of America's cities.



The Oldest House on the Tour, this  
"Hidden Jewel" is on Central Street  
in an area experiencing much renewal.

TICKETS FOR THE 8th HISTORIC HOUSE TOUR  
Sunday, May 20, 1984

Available at LONGMEADOW FLOWERS :

Marketplace, downtown Springfield  
Elm Street, West Springfield  
Bliss Road, Longmeadow

Six Dollars (Five for Seniors)

Two Hour Tours begin every hour  
from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Classical High School, State Street  
Drive Yourself Tickets also Available

# HOLLYWOOD REDEVELOPMENT PLAN REVISED :

## A Report from June Delp-Burdick, President

OUR PERSISTENCE IN ADVOCATING FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN THE HOLLYWOOD AREA HAS ENSURED THAT THE CENTRAL CORE SO INTEGRAL TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD WILL REMAIN.

The Springfield Preservation Trust has met with both City and State Officials regarding the direction of the Hollywood Park Urban Renewal Project in Springfield's South End. Present at the meetings have been Mayor Richard Neal; the Springfield City Planning Department; the Massachusetts Economic Office of Community Development; the Massachusetts Historical Commission; Carabetta Enterprises, Inc., the City's developer on this project; Joan Weigel, Historic Preservation and Urban Design Consultant to the City.

Representing the Trust at the April 5th meeting were Jim Boone, Stephen Wallace and June Delp-Burdick, and June Delp-Burdick for the April 12th meeting. The following is from Ms. Delp-Burdick's open letter to Trust members and friends detailing the Hollywood meetings.

The tone of the April 5th meeting was business-like and polite. Many interesting questions and issues were raised and discussed.

The Environmental Impact Report Draft had just been published and dispersed to the appropriate agencies. A summary of it was given by Joan Weigel (the consultant hired by the City to do the EIR). Discussion and questions centered around the major concept of retaining the central block of apartment buildings and other individual buildings. It should be noted that this is a revision of the plan presented by the City and developer in August, 1983.

The planner for Carabetta spoke about the major design change, stating that he was not in agreement with it, but nevertheless would work with it so as to move the project along more speedily.

The Mayor stated his (and the city's) concerns and goals regarding the Hollywood area. To quote from the EIR (p.2) "project objectives include responding to present human needs such as reduced density, access to open space, availability of parking, privacy, security and aesthetics." Mayor Neal stated that his administration had unfortunately inherited this situation and he was determined to move the project along without further complications.

The Massachusetts Historical Commission recommended to the City that it should develop better explanations or rationale for the amount and location of demolition.

In regard to the discussion of specific buildings, a consensus was reached about retaining the following buildings :

20-24 Saratoga Street

28 Saratoga Street

10-12 Niagara Street

15 Niagara Street

Other buildings discussed included ones on Oswego and Bayonne Streets.

The April 12th meeting picked up where the previous one ended, with some additional information being provided by the Planning Dept. of the City. Figures for the number of parking spaces currently available and the number of spaces needed for the redevelopment project were provided at the request of The Massachusetts Historical Commission.

The City (Planning Dept.) presented a map which it had developed to show specifically where proposed open space and parking for the project would be located. Again, the planner did not react very favorably to this discussion.

The Massachusetts Historical Commission stated that the City would again have to come up with better rationale for demolition. It also explained the next steps in the process of obtaining a UDAG. We are now in the thirty day period for public comments for the EIR. At the end of the thirty days, MEPA (Mass. Environmental Protection Agency) will collect the responses and give its own response within seven days. The National Advisory Council will give its recommendations as well. The MHC stated that it makes sense to have all local and state organizations come to a consensus about this project before it is presented for approval from the Federal level.

The City and developer expressed its concerns about the deadline for financing from local banks. Further contact will need to be made between MHC, the developer, and the City. The Trust will keep in touch with MHC about this communication.

In conclusion, the Trust has had a positive impact (in terms of Historic Preservation) on the Hollywood Park Urban Renewal Project. As a result of our persistence in persuading others about the Architectural and Historical importance of this area, we have educated many people and gotten them to think more in terms of Historic Preservation.

Whether by choice or other reason, Mayor Neal and other members of City government are listening to the Trust and acting upon our recommendations. I am optimistic that these lines of communication will continue.

Sincerely, June F. Delp-Burdick  
President



## The Graceful Lines of the Restored Forest Park Pavillion Welcome Visitors

The Pavillion at the Sumner Avenue entrance to Forest Park has been restored as the final step in revitalizing this area. Rebuilding began with repairing the foundation, included replacing beams, shingles and roof and ended with a handsome paint job. The Park Commission hopes one day to be able to restore the seating which circled the building.

This beautiful structure originally was a waiting place for passengers as the trolley turned at its final stop coming up Sumner Avenue from downtown. With the increasing use of the automobile around the turn of the century, the Pavillion was used as a gathering place. Through the 1950's band concerts were held there. A similar structure was torn down in constructing the Arena, but others are scattered through the Park.

The Park Commission has also done a fine job in planting trees, reseeding and installing benches along Sumner Avenue, making an attractive entrance to the Park and a wonderful place to enjoy the outdoors.

## **ANNUAL MEETING : JUNE 20** 7:30 at Maple Commons Community Room

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Annual Meeting which promises to be a very worthwhile evening featuring a good speaker and an interesting locale.

Ed Lonergan will present a talk full of interesting historical anecdotes about the Indian Orchard neighborhood, the subject of Ed's recently completed survey. The meeting will be held in the restored dance studio on School Street which now serves as the Maple Commons Community Room. Election of Officers and Summary of the Year's activities will take place and refreshments will be served.

Trust members are encouraged to bring friends to this special event.

## KUDOS

Deeply felt thanks are extended to all loyal Trust members who have renewed for 1984. Our special thanks goes to GEORGE POOLER who has joined as a Supporter and to DAVID SANBORNE, MAURY AND ELEANOR DASHEVSKY AND ROBERT McCARROLL who have renewed as Patrons. We also welcome new members MICHAEL RHEAULT.

## TRUST GOALS BEING MET IN McKNIGHT

The Board of the Trust has voted to sell 67 Thompson Street in an unrestored condition. It has always been the goal of the Trust to preserve vacant vandalized houses and we have always done the work. But it has also been our hope that we might interest others in doing the work. We have found a person whose work is always excellent and has done contracting for the Trust in the past. He will restore the house to the highest of standards and it will be a job we can all be proud of.

The Trust still owns a house on 174 Bowdoin Street and preliminary plans for its restoration are starting. It is a two family that had a bad fire and part of the foundation collapsed. The good news is that it is in a very good location and will be a very desirable property when restored. People have already expressed an interest in it for when it is restored.

Sears Real Estate has been doing an excellent job in marketing and showing 15 Clarendon Street. The house has drawn a lot of attention to McKnight and to the Trust. Though many of the lookers have not bought that house, they have been introduced to the neighborhood and at least two of them have bought other properties in the area. Our goals of housing rehabilitation and neighborhood revitalization are being well met and we should all be proud of our accomplishments.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

\_\_\_\_ Student \$10    \_\_\_\_ Individual \$15  
\_\_\_\_ Family \$25

Mail your check to :  
Springfield Preservation Trust  
1111 Main Street  
Springfield, MA 01103

# IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- May 2 - Board Meeting Forest Park Library 7:30
- May 20 - 8th ANNUAL HISTORIC HOUSE TOUR
- June 6 - Board Meeting Forest Park Library 7:30
- June 20 - ANNUAL MEETING : 7:30  
MAPLE COMMONS COMMUNITY ROOM  
60 SCHOOL STREET
- July 11 - Board Meeting Forest Park Library 7:30

## Don't Be Bored; Join the BOARD!

JUNE DELP-BURDICK is looking for prospective Board members, so if you are interested, don't be shy : give her a call at 732-7959.

MARYANN PELLEGRINI is organizing coffee hours to introduce our organization to neighborhoods, so if you would be willing to host one, please call her at 781-2924.

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

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

Editor wishes to thank the Board of Directors for their help.

# NOW YOU SEE THEM, NOW YOU DON'T.

If you haven't noticed. Those green metal cable TV boxes have disappeared from the streetscape in some of Springfield's historic neighborhoods and never did appear in the others. Instead, underground vaults do the job of housing the necessary amplifiers, taps, splitters and power supplies required to make Springfield's cable system run.

As a result of an agreement between Continental Cablevision of Springfield and the Springfield Historical Commission early in 1983, all of Springfield's Historic districts with underground cable feeds were serviced with the vaults which are flush with the ground and therefore quite hidden from the streetside landscape.

Although it may seem less costly in the long run for Continental to use these vaults since they are considerably more difficult to vandalize and cannot be knocked over by errant automobiles, they are, in fact, much more expensive to install and maintain. Water and ice cause endless maintenance problems for these vaults and many in the city have serious drainage problems which must be corrected with crushed stone this summer.

The Trust, as well as residents in and around the historic districts, appreciate Continental Cablevision's efforts in keeping the streetscape clean and uncluttered.



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