

SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST

Quarterly Newsletter

SUMMER 1987



One of Springfield's finest. This magnificent home just one of many to open for "At Home in Maple Hill."

Circle Your Calendar: September 27 for Maple Hill Tour

September 27 has been set for the fourth annual AT HOME Walking Tour. This year's tour will focus on the Maple Hill Historic District to mark its tenth anniversary as a local historic district. The area developed as Springfield's "Gold Coast" and contains many large homes dating from the 1820's through the 1920's. Nine houses are already committed to open, and the Trust hopes to have at least a dozen houses to view that "super Sunday."

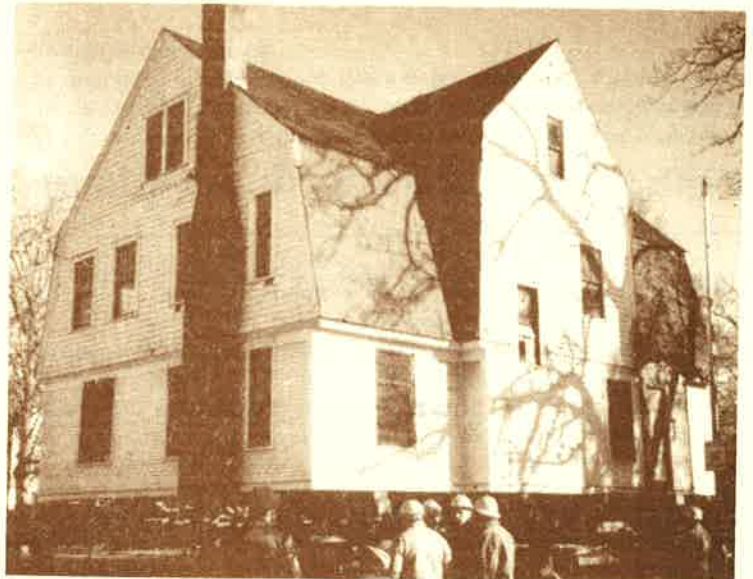
For the fourth year Bank of Boston will sponsor the tour which will take place between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Tickets will be seven dollars for the general public and six dollars for Trust members. Advance tickets can be purchased at Longmeadow Flowers in Downtown Springfield, Longmeadow, and West Springfield. Tickets will also be sold on the day of the tour. Last year we ran out of tour booklets by early afternoon, so we recommend purchasing tickets ahead of time.

Anyone interested in working on the tour or opening their home should contact Bob McCarrroll.

ANNUAL MEETING AND PICNIC

The annual meeting and pot-luck picnic will take place on Sunday, August 23 at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Elaine and Mike Godek at 135 Forest Glen Road, Longmeadow. Election of board members and

officers for the 1987-1988 year will be the only order of business and will be followed by the picnic. The long-awaited *Guide to Springfield Residential Architecture* should be available. Elaine encourages everyone to bring a bathing suit and towel and to enjoy their pool. Members planning to attend should contact Elaine at 567-7331 to confirm the number of people in their party and to co-ordinate the dish they will bring.



Difficult maneuver around corner onto Bowdoin Street.

146 Bowdoin Street Being Renovated

The Trust has received a grant to do exterior work on our vacant house at 146 Bowdoin Street. The Trust acquired the house from the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Church which planned to build a new parish hall on the site. After purchasing land on Bowdoin Street, the Trust had the house moved from Concord Terrace. The relocation was both difficult for the housemover and expensive for the Trust. The ten-room house is in need of extensive interior and exterior renovation. A new roof and back porch are being done as well as much shingle repair. Negotiations are progressing with a potential buyer, and a purchase and sale agreement should be consummated in the near future. The new owners will complete the remaining work within a pre-agreed time frame. Phil Burdick, vice president for restoration, has been working very hard on co-ordinating this project. The Colonial Revival style house is the ninth property in McKnight which the Trust has purchased through its revolving fund. It adds to the streetscape of Bowdoin Street and complements the neighboring house, a property whose relocation the Trust also helped.

HOUSE PROFESSOR

By Sanford H. Wilk

What kind of questions should I ask the contractor about painting, and what sort of answers should I expect from a professional?

Dear C.T.,

C.T., Spfld.

The most important question to ask your painter is what kind of service preparation is she/he going to perform. Poor "surface pre" is the main reason for paint failure. As you might already know, sandblasting is about the worst crime that can be perpetrated against a historic structure. With sandblasting, details are often destroyed and the surface is pitted — giving a poor aesthetic appearance and allowing for faster material degradation. A professional painter familiar with historic structures will never advise sandblasting. If he or she does, they probably do vinyl siding work to fill-in between jobs.

If your house needs to be stripped, there are civilized alternatives. The most popular is hand sanding with disk sanders. While this method is used more often than others in your area, it, too, can be dangerous. A hand-smithed blade can produce brilliant results in the grasp of a chef, and can be deadly in the possession of a child. If the user does not have total control (and understanding of the limits) of the use of a disk sander, the surface can be permanently scarred. I have seen worse effects from novice use of disc sanders than from sandblasting! Another alternative is chemical stripping. This is the method that I use most often now. While it is a little more expensive than hand sanding, and can be more dangerous, it is also the best way to maintain the "virginity" of a surface. Do not suggest that your painter use this form of stripping. If he or she has had experience with this method, and the situation so fits, then they will suggest it to you. Since chemical stripping is dangerous if misused, (So far, our scientist friends say liver cancer and bone marrow damage), don't allow your house to become the "great experiment." Stick to the more tried and true hand sanding.

Look in the next issue for the House Professor's comments about paint color and type.

Architectural Booklet to be Ready for Annual Meeting

The *Guide to Springfield Residential Architecture* is nearing completion and should be ready for distribution at the annual meeting and picnic on August 23. Delayed for months because of an unsuccessful search for additional sponsors, the booklet will be sponsored by Studio One Architects and the Springfield Newspapers. The 36-page guide to local architectural styles from the 1800's through the 1980's will be

available free of charge to the two sponsors as well as to Trust members. Surplus copies will be sold through a local outlet yet to be selected. The publication will mark the fifteenth anniversary of the Trust and has been underway for a year.

SPRING HOUSE TOUR WAS GREAT SUCCESS

Over four hundred people sampled the City's historic houses in the Eleventh Annual Historic House Tour on Sunday, May 3. The tour featured older homes in McKnight, Maple Hill, Forest Park Heights, and Quadrangle/Mattoon Street. It also provided a preview of Classical High School which will be converted to condominium apartments and of a new in-fill condominium unit on Mattoon Street to be completed this summer.

The 1987 tour was co-sponsored by the Greater Springfield Board of Realtors and Shawmut First Bank and Trust Company. The Trust would like to thank the co-sponsors as well as the participants — Darlene and Russ Omer, Linda and Hilt Abbott, Michele and Philip Brady, Cindy Senk and Tony Restivo, Steve Haddad, and Noyes Associates — for their help in making this year's tour a success. Any members who would like a copy of the tour booklet should send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the Trust at 979 Main Street, Springfield.

TRUST RECEIVES AWARD

At ceremonies at Harvard University during National Historic Preservation Week, the Trust received an award from the Massachusetts Historical Commission. The MHC presented the award in recognition of our contribution to historic preservation and revitalization in Springfield through ten years of historic house tours. Accepting the award on behalf of the Trust was president Jim Boone, who reported that the ceremony reminded everyone that historic preservation is a very vital and active force in Massachusetts.

Membership Drive Winding Down

The spring membership drive is almost over. If you have not yet joined or renewed, please make your commitment to preservation in Springfield by mailing your membership check to the Trust at 979 Main Street, Springfield, MA 01103.

SPT CALENDAR

ANNUAL MEETING AND PRESERVATION POT-LUCK PICNIC
August 23
AT HOME IN MAPLE HILL TOUR
September 27

Meetings at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Forest Park Library:
no August meeting October 7
September 2 November 4



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