

The PRESERVATIONIST

Newsletter of
the SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST

Fall 1991

ANNUAL MEETING AND RECEPTION IS SCHEDULED

The Board of Directors has chosen Sunday, November 24 for our annual meeting and recognition reception. The gala event will take place from 4 to 6 P.M. at a location still to be determined. All current members will receive invitations in the mail. Hors d'oeuvres, champagne and cider will be served. Elections will be held for the Board of Directors and Officers. Anyone interested in serving should contact Diane Fisher at 732-2687. The Trust will also honor those who have made contributions to preservation in Springfield. Only current members of the Trust will be invited, so...if you have not paid your dues yet, please pay by the end of October!



IMPORTANT

**TRUST SURVEY
OF CANDIDATES**

**See inside
Page 4**



Bob McCarroll speaks to a group of tour-goers in front of the First Church in Court Square.

TRUST HOLDS "SACRED PLACES" TOUR

On Sunday, September 28th, over two dozen people spent a beautiful autumn afternoon walking around downtown Springfield. Two groups, led by guides Bob McCarroll and Jim Boone, visited six 19th century churches: First Church of Christ, Congregational, Saint Michael's Roman Catholic Cathedral, Grace Baptist Church, South Congregational Church, First Spiritualist Church, and Saint Joseph's Roman Catholic Church. The tour groups were met at each stop by pastors or parishioners who explained the history of each building and its congregation. Along the way, the Trust guides pointed out other local landmarks.

Although not of the same scale as our springtime Historic House Tour, the Sacred Places Tour was a success and will be held again next year to highlight religious buildings in other areas of the city.

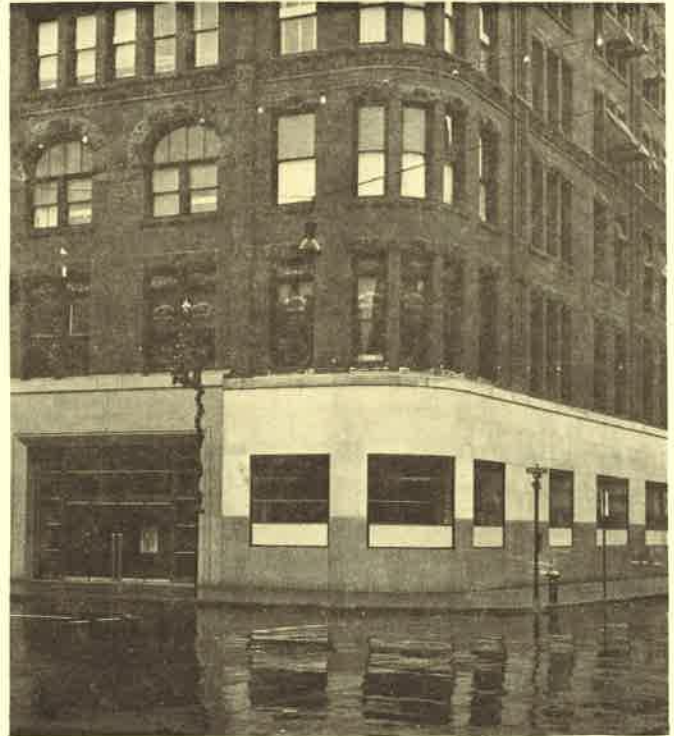
FLAWED STATE POLICY: NEW SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION VS. REHAB

One of the questions on the candidates survey published in this issue concerns the current state funding mechanism for public school construction. Presently, the state provides 90% reimbursement to municipalities for the construction of new schools. However, no such program exists for the rehabilitation of existing school buildings.

There are several flaws in such a system. It is often less expensive to rehab an existing building than to site and build a completely new building. In these tight fiscal times, the State would be wise to look for ways to spend money more efficiently. It will remain difficult to find vacant lots to build new schools on that are in the same neighborhoods as the old schools. Centralization of the primary grades into larger schools is probably not in the best interests of the children. If existing structures continue to be vacated or neglected, then these buildings, along with their fine architectural features, will soon disappear. Finding developers to create profitable new uses for these old buildings is a difficult task even in good times. It makes sense to keep these buildings as fully functioning schools.

The Trust urges that you hold the candidates accountable for the position taken on this issue. We are calling on the City Council to pass a resolution supporting the filing of a bill with the State Legislature to change the current regulations to allow the same 90% reimbursement for the economically feasible renovation of existing school buildings.

--Roger Harris



CAN YOU GUESS?

Do you recognize this building, pictured here in its formerly "remuddled" state? See page 4.



YORK STREET JAIL IN LIMBO

By next Spring, the Hampden County Jail will no longer be needed by the County. Recently, speculative articles have appeared in the newspaper that question what will become of this architecturally significant building. It has long been eyed as a key to riverfront development by some, or as housing by others. There are those who feel it should be kept as a jail to hold persons awaiting trial so that they are not mixed in with convicted people in Ludlow.

Whatever the use, the Trust strongly feels that this National Register-eligible building must be preserved. Special vigilance on the part of all Trust members and friends will be necessary to insure that this takes place.

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<p>graduate, U.S. School of Professional Paperhanging</p>	

HISTORICAL SURVEY COMPLETED

The historic survey of Pine Point, Bay, and eastern Metro Center neighborhoods is now complete. Consultant Kathleen Broomer has submitted her report which contains neighborhood histories, over 300 individual survey forms with photographs, and recommendations regarding properties and districts which are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Copies of the report will be given to the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC), Springfield Historical Commission, and the Connecticut Valley Historical Museum. The survey cost the Trust \$8000, of which half will be reimbursed by the MHC. Future newsletters will carry summaries of the survey.

The board of the Trust is extremely pleased with the quality of the survey and the timeliness of its completion. The Trust hopes to have a slide lecture regarding the history of Pine Point which will be presented to the public some time in the coming months.



CORNELL STREET RENEWAL PROJECT STALLED

The small urban renewal plan drafted by the city to acquire and sell for rehabilitation the deteriorated house at 28 Cornell Street is going nowhere. The plan was passed by the City Council last winter and submitted by the Redevelopment Authority to the State for approval this past Spring. After more than five months, the State has yet to release the plan. Interested members are urged to voice their concern over the lack of action by contacting the Mayor's Office at 787-6100.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome to Trust membership the following new people: Mrs. James Ferris and Linda Gebo.

SPT CALENDAR

Monthly meetings
now held at 7:30 P.M. in
the **Memorial House, Mercy Hospital**
Next meetings are
November 6, December 4 and January 8.

Saturday, November 24
Annual Meeting and Recognition Reception



ALEXANDER HOUSE UPDATE

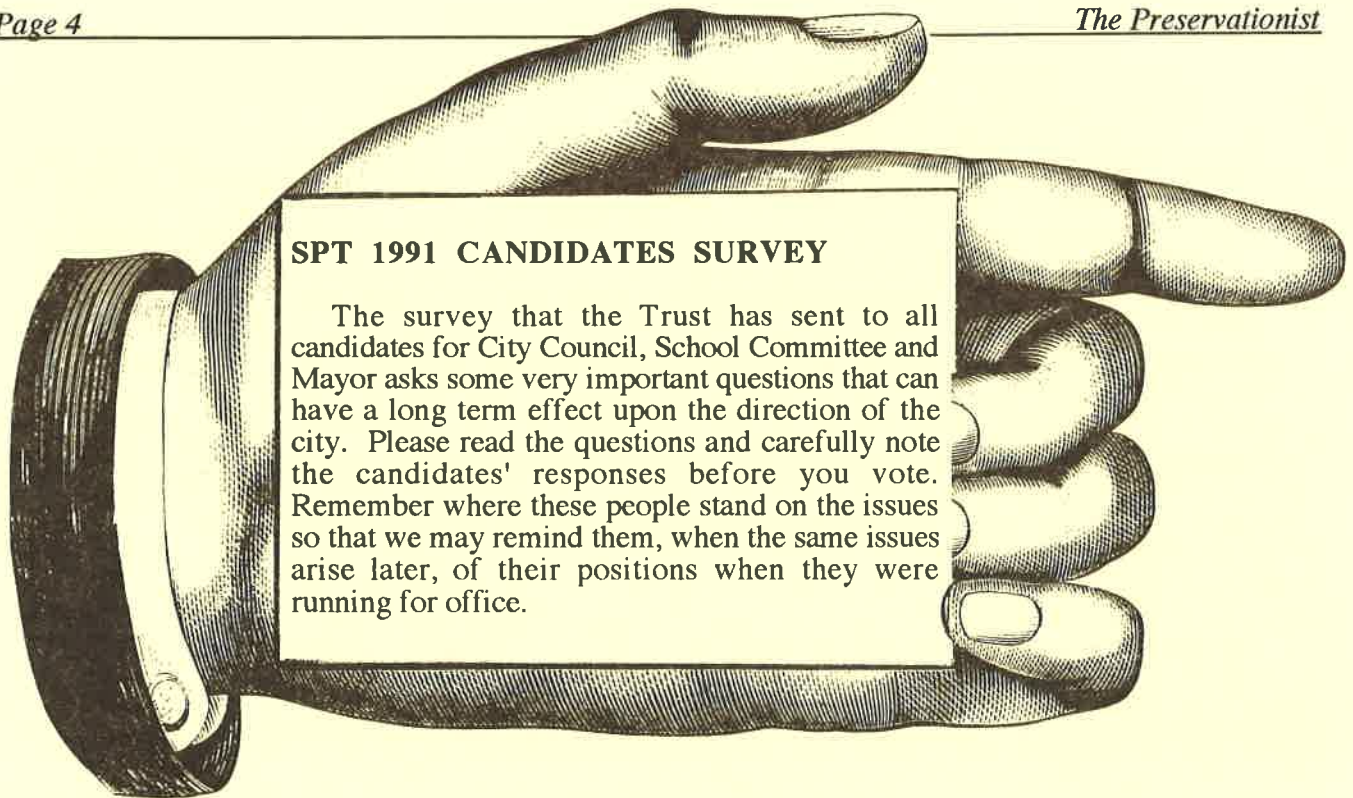
Throughout the Spring of this year, the Trust had become concerned about the continuing deterioration of the Alexander House located on State Street. We communicated our concern to the Historic Commission, as well as to the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (SPNEA). We are pleased to report that, under the watchful eye of the Historic Commission, much work has now been done to the house by the current leaseholders, the Ravosas. All should be commended for working together to stop the neglect that was a serious threat to this exceptional Greek Revival-style home.



JAMES A. BOONE

97 FLORIDA STREET
SPRINGFIELD, MASS. 01109

OFF.: (413) 785-1636
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CAN YOU GUESS? The Fuller Building

This fine building is located downtown at the corner of Bridge Street and Main Street. It demonstrates that there is hope for even the most horribly altered buildings and that the worst "remuddlings" (as the Old House Journal calls them) can be restored to their former glory.



YOU'D BE SURPRISED WHO'S NOT VOTING!

Casual conversations have revealed an alarming fact: many restoration-minded, pro-preservation city residents have not bothered to vote in the last several elections! These are good people who care about their homes, their neighborhoods and the city of Springfield. It would be unfortunate indeed if a candidate for city office who supports our efforts to preserve the historic assets of Springfield were to lose simply because we did not take the time to vote.

The Trust has expended a great deal of effort to determine who among the candidates is sympathetic to our goals of preserving historic neighborhoods and districts. The few minutes you spend in the voting booth is the most crucial, yet the easiest, contribution each and every one of us can and should make.

We cannot take elections for granted. Many are decided by only a few votes, such as the recent Mayoral primary. The Trust has learned that it can take years for our goals to be accomplished if the local government is not sympathetic to our aims. Study the results of this survey. Consider which candidates thought it was important enough to respond to. Then show it was also important to you by voting for those who support our efforts.

QUESTIONS FOR MAYORAL CANDIDATES

- (1) **A.** Springfield has a very fine stock of older architecturally significant schools. Do you support the retention of architectural detail on buildings rather than their removal, i.e. cornices, windows, decorative work?
B. Do you support the inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places any school that qualifies?
C. Do you believe that the maintenance and upkeep for all of our old and new schools should be a priority?
- (2) **A.** Do you support efforts to have the State Statutes changed to allow for 90% reimbursement for rehabilitation of old or abandoned schools for school use?
B. Would you support a change in the State building codes to allow old, unused schools to be used as schools again?
- (3) A Historic Survey of the South End identified York Street Jail as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Would you support its reuse according to federal standards for rehabilitation of historic buildings.
- (4) **A.** The City Council is currently on record requiring any proposed demolition of any part of the Railroad Station or the Hotel Charles, both listed on the National Register of Historic Places, to come to City Council for approval. Do you feel a preferred developer should be required to preserve both buildings?
B. Would you support an independent structural assessment of the Hotel Charles prior to any action being taken?
- (5) There are six historic districts in the City of Springfield now. Do you favor the enlargement of existing historic districts and the creation of additional historic districts provided there is public support for them?
- (6) Historic Surveys have been conducted for all neighborhoods except East Springfield, Sixteen Acres, East Forest Park and Boston Road. Would you support city funding of a survey of these neighborhoods?
- (7) Do you believe that a building listed on the National Register of Historic Places should be protected from demolition?
- (8) In the past, Community Development Block Grant money has been used in part to support the preservation and restoration of historic buildings. Do you favor the continued use of CDBG money for this purpose?
- (9) The ordinance governing the Quadrangle/Mattoon Street Historic District exempts the Library/Museums Association from the restrictions otherwise applicable to properties within the historic district. Do you feel the ordinance should be revised to protect these significant holdings?
- (10) The City of Springfield owns many buildings of historic and architectural significance that are currently unused and vacant. Do you think the city should do all that is possible to secure, protect and market these valuable assets that belong to the people of Springfield?

(1)A. B. C. (2)A. B. (3) (4)A. B. (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10)

<i>Ray DiPasquale...</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Bob Markel.....</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes#	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

* "Yes, but not as a top priority. Schools, police and fire department must be our top priorities with funds".

"Federal Community Development Funds".

QUESTIONS FOR CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

- (1) **A.** The City Council is currently on record requiring any proposed demolition of any part of the Railroad Station or the Hotel Charles, both listed on the National Register of Historic Places, to come to City Council for approval. Do you feel a preferred developer should be required to preserve both buildings?
B. Would you support an independent structural assessment of the Hotel Charles prior to any action being taken?
- (2) There are six historic districts in the City of Springfield now. Do you favor the enlargement of existing historic districts and the creation of additional historic districts provided there is public support for them?
- (3) Do you believe that a building listed on the National Register of Historic Places should be protected from demolition?
- (4) In the past, Community Development Block Grant money has been used in part to support the preservation and restoration of historic buildings. Do you favor the continued use of CDBG money for this purpose?
- (5) The ordinance governing Quadrangle/Mattoon Street Historic District exempts the Library/Museums Association from the restrictions otherwise applicable to properties within the historic district. Do you feel the ordinance should be revised to protect these significant holdings?
- (6) The City of Springfield owns many buildings of historic and architectural significance that are currently unused and vacant. Do you think the city should do all that is possible to secure, protect and market these valuable assets that belong to the people of Springfield?

	(1)A.	B.	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
<i>Michael J. Albano</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes#	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Edgar Alejandro</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Yes
<i>William Boyle</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Frank H. Buntin</i>	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>William T. Foley</i>	No	---	Yes	Yes#	Yes	No	Yes
<i>Trent Formaggioni</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes#	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Barbara L. Garde</i>	Yes*	Yes	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes*	Yes*
<i>Bruce A. Guindon</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Morris Jones</i>	NO RESPONSE						
<i>Francis G. Keough</i>	NO RESPONSE						
<i>H. F. Buddy Langford Jr</i>	?	Yes	?	Maybe	?	?	Maybe
<i>Mitchell Ogilewicz</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Antonette Pepe</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes#	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Anthony W. Ravosa</i>	NO RESPONSE						
<i>Brian A. Santaniello</i>	NO RESPONSE						
<i>Kateri B. Walsh</i>	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Yes	No	Yes
<i>Bud L. Williams</i>	NO RESPONSE						
<i>Darnell L. Williams</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

* If economically feasible
 # If structurally sound
 ? Don't know

QUESTIONS FOR SCHOOL COMMITTEE CANDIDATES

- (1) A. Springfield has a very fine stock of older architecturally significant schools. Do you support the retention of architectural detail on buildings rather than their removal, i.e. cornices, windows, decorative work?
 B. Do you support the inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places any school that qualifies?
 C. Do you believe that the maintenance and upkeep for all of our old and new schools should be a priority?
- (2) A. Would you support the Mayor in efforts to have the State Statutes changed to allow for 90% reimbursement for rehabilitation of old or abandoned schools for school use?
 B. Would you support a change in the State building codes to allow old, unused schools to be used as schools again?
- (3) Currently the curriculum for all students includes a section on Local Springfield History. Would you support the expansion of that curriculum to include a section on architectural styles in Springfield and their appreciation?

(1)A. B. C. (2)A. B. (3)

<i>Beth Conway</i>	NO RESPONSE					
<i>Ludwig DePaz</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Candice Early Lopes</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Robert McCollum</i>	NO RESPONSE					
<i>Gerald Phillips</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes



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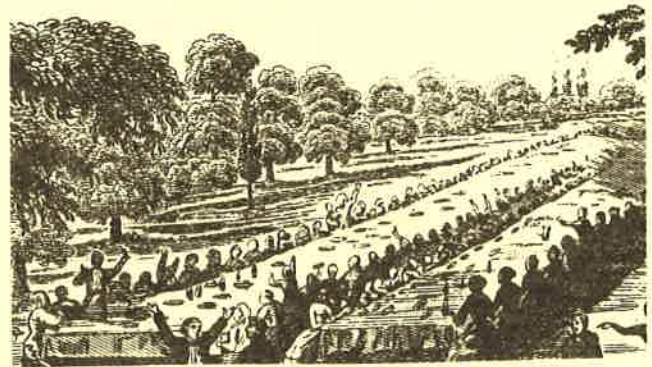
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The Springfield Preservation Trust

This newsletter is published quarterly for the members of the Springfield Preservation Trust, Inc., 979 Main Street, Springfield, MA 01103.

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Springfield Preservation Trust is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of historic structures in the City of Springfield, Massachusetts.



TRUST HOLDS ANNUAL PICNIC

The Trust held its annual picnic on September 2nd at the home of members Jim and Merry Boone. It was a beautiful day for this outdoor event and some 40 current Trust members attended, as well as old friends and members from years past. A wonderful pot luck supper was served and all had a good time.



HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

We are reviewing our mailing list. Only current, paid members will receive invitations to our annual reception and copies of our newsletter, **The Preservationist**.

So please...send in your payment today. If you are unsure about the status of your membership, please phone Dan Sotak-Cooper at 781-6927 for further information.

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