



SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST, INC

74 Walnut Street, Springfield, MA 01105
Telephone Number – 413-747-0656

www.springfieldpreservationtrust.org

Dedicated to Preserving Springfield's Architectural History

August 2010

77 Maple Fund Raising Appeal

Over the course of the previous year the Springfield Preservation Trust has been restoring the Springfield Female Seminary at 77 Maple Street. Due to the extent of deterioration, the estimated costs of the restoration will far exceed the fair market value of the property. SPT can't do it alone; we need the help of the community. Fundraising from corporations and individuals is essential to complete renovations of this very significant property. Costs associated with repairing the South wall of the main building have rose considerably because of unexpected shifting of the foundation. SPT is now in the process of trying to secure additional funding for this aspect of the project.



SPT has previously been awarded a Community Development Block Grant from the City of Springfield which enabled important structural repairs to the building. SPT has also contributed considerable funds through its own fundraisers and house tours, including purchasing the property, making emergency repairs, ongoing maintenance and other soft costs.

SPT has been looking at creative ways to raise funds in these challenging financial times. Recently SPT got word that the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) has awarded SPT a \$13,555 matching grant to repair windows and replicate

missing windows. Repair of the windows will be one of the most visible signs of the renovations thus far as the structural repairs have been mostly hidden from view. Project architect William Devlin has begun production on plans for the window restoration and has already met with a representative from MHC about the project.

Preservation funds from the state have become very competitive as fewer resources have been available in the last few years. It's encouraging that the MHC feels it's important to award these scarce resources to the 77 Maple Street project. SPT is responsible for contributing at least \$13,555 to this project. To provide the match for the MHC grant SPT board member Robert McCarroll has offered to extend the deadline for donations to his generous \$10,000 matching grant. To-date, the matching grant has been able to leverage over \$5,000. For those of you who thought it was too late, you can still make a donation and double your gift.

As part of our fund raising efforts, the Preservation Trust is sponsoring an Ice Cream Social Fund Raiser at 28 Ingersoll Grove on August 29 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Please join us and help support this very important restoration.



Preservation Massachusetts Most Endangered

It came to the attention of the SPT board that Mercy Hospital administration was moving ahead with plans to demolish one of the city's great landmark buildings: The original Mercy hospital building located in the W.H. Allis house built in 1867. The builder of the home was involved in the brick industry and was therefore able to use copious amounts of the material in the construction of this truly remarkable home.

As a response the SPT board has decided, as one action among many possible actions, to nominate the property for the status of "Most Endangered Historic Resources" as selected by the group Preservation Massachusetts. Founded in 1985, Preservation Massachusetts is the statewide non-profit organization that actively promotes the preservation of historic buildings and landscapes as a positive force for economic development and the retention of community character.

The process involves describing the characteristics of the building itself and its "context" within the setting of the neighborhood, as well as informing Preservation Massachusetts of any efforts to inform the community at large, as well as the local preservation community, about the endangered status of the property. The final nomination includes photographs, maps, diagrams and a narrative piece which allows the nominator to explain the overall importance of the building.

According to the group, the Most Endangered list at its core is an advocacy and education "PR" program. Preservation Massachusetts utilizes their statewide visibility, resources and networks to promote the importance of these resources and work with the nominators and other involved parties to find a solution to the preservation challenge. Since the first listing in 1993, only 17 resources have been lost, over 40 completely saved and restored, and many more progressing well on the long road back from the brink.

Let's hope this priceless piece of Springfield's history can join these other properties as a wonderful success story!

Spring House Tour

The May 16th spring house tour went well. Unlike last autumn's tour, we were fortunate to have sunny weather. The tour featured Tudor Revival and Colonial Revival homes in the Trafton Road area. Thanks go to Ginnie White, Ken and Sue Shea, John and Julie Powers, Shawn and Renee Grenier, Jacques Labreque, and Paul Mann for sharing their lovely homes.

SPT Annual Preservation Awards

The SPT 2010 annual preservation awards were handed out on June 10 in the center court of Tower Square. This event honors property owners who have made contributions towards preserving and renovating buildings in the city. The awards selection committee received 16 nominations this year which given the economy, was great! In all, nine properties which met our requirements were selected.

Sarah Gorski, 99 Elliot Street
Concerned Citizens of Springfield, 134 Forest Park Avenue
The City of Springfield for the Forest Park Library and the replica of the Wait Monument
The Pellegrino family, 56 Temple Street
181 Chestnut Street LLC, 181 Chestnut Street
The Community Music School, 127 State Street
Bay252 Realty Trust, 252 Bay Street
Elija and Lauren VanSteenvoort, 37 Parkwood Street

The Preservation Trust also inaugurated the Edward Sims Award for Stewardship in honor of Dr. Edward Sims who passed away earlier this year. The Stewardship Award recognized the late Ed Sims, and his partner Paul Kenny, for care of their home at 179 Clarendon St.

A few photos of the recipients are below, for additional before and after photos, please visit the SPT website at www.SpringfieldPreservationTrust.org.





Congratulations to this year's recipients!

New Board Members

In March the Preservation Trust held its annual meeting and elected new officers. We are pleased to introduce you to two of our newest board members.

Steven Shultis – Director, is a school teacher who joined the board for a second time. He has previously served on the Armoury Quadrangle Civic Association, C.A. Board, and was President of the Friends of Springfield Trees. He joined SPT because Springfield is his hometown; he loves and believes that preservation of the city's heritage is key to its future.

Personal Statement: When I was in my early teens my mom took a job at a small shop in Baystate West. She would let me take the bus from our home in the Forest Park neighborhood to downtown to visit her from time to time and I remember falling in love with all of the buildings and the streets and the parks. Later I attended Classical High School and every day I enjoyed the opportunity I had to see the lovely architecture of the downtown, from the Central Library, to the Municipal Group. That helped me to see just how much I had been overlooking in my own neighborhood. Later I had the

opportunity to spend a few years in Europe. I'm thrilled that Spain has won the World Cup! While I've been a fan of "La Furia Roja" since I first lived in Andalucia in the early 1980's, I have to acknowledge that it was in the cities of southern Spain I first understood how enjoyable an urban lifestyle could be, especially when coupled with beautiful cityscapes.

Michael Rheault – Director, is a local musician and composer, and a longtime trust member. He and his partner, Matthew, have lived in Forest Park Heights for the past seven years and received a preservation award in 2005. Michael is Director of Music at First Park Memorial Baptist Church, Director of Choral Activities at Bay Path College, and freelances as music director and accompanist for local community theater and college productions. During the summer months you can find Michael selling Bart's Ice Cream at farmers markets and local events, including the Mattoon Street Arts Festival.

Jim Boone, Honored

This Spring, the Trust's own Jim Boone was honored for his decades of preservation work in Springfield.

Jim, one of SPT's founders in 1972, was one of several people from Western MA to be so recognized. He went to Boston to receive the Paul E. Tsongas Profiles in Preservation Award, from Preservation Massachusetts. This newly-established award commemorates our late U.S. Senator, who was so important to the preservation work in the milestone mill town of Lowell, MA.

Recently Jim explained that the Springfield Republican, once notified of this matter, ran a nice story about it. The story ran on Monday, 17 May 2010, on p. 29. The ceremony and reception at the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel were nicely done, and he enjoyed mingling with his fellow honorees.

Jim is also a recipient of the Trust's Champion award, named for a late pioneer of preservation here in Springfield. One of Jim's many public contacts for SPT has been as the presenter of our annual Preservation Awards. He also served on the Springfield Historical Commission, and has a wonderfully-cared-for Victorian home in one of Springfield's historic districts.

SPT Time Capsule

While data diving through the file cabinets of archives supplied by Jim Boone and Sarah Murray, a discovery was made that we have SPT newsletters (NL) dating back to 1980! Given the non-digital years of the 80's & 90's it's impressive that these moments in time have been maintained. We have 25 years worth of information to reflect on.

On June 29, 1983, the Trust bought 67 Thompson St., a vacant 1874 house. The flat roofed Italianate was built

for Insurance agent Whiteman Steere and his wife. The home has seen many changes in its 109 years giving its exterior attributes of both Gothic and Queen Anne, along side its Italianate beginnings, making the home a true "Renaissance" house.



In the winter of 1983, the Preservation Trust and the Connecticut Valley Historical Museum announced a "Porches, Pergolas and Parlors" lecture series. Three dates were slated for such topics as "Introduction to Exterior Architecture" by Sandy Gibson-Quigly of Preservation Worcester, "Gardens and Gazebos" by Nancy Grimes and Humphrey Sutton owners of New England Garden Ornaments of North Brookfield, MA, and "Seeing inside the Period Home" by Bill Hosley, curator of American Decorative Arts at the Wadsworth Atheneum.

Future Events

Ice Cream Social Fund Raiser at 28 Ingersoll Grove on August 29 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Holiday Tour

December 5 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

SPT is in the process of developing an e-newsletter that will run parallel to our quarterly print newsletter. We hope to cut down on printing and postage expenses by mailing and printing less newsletters and sending more e-newsletters. To sign up for the e-news visit www.springfieldpreservationtrust.org. Fill in your name and email address in the right hand column and click the "Subscribe" button; it's that easy.

Monthly meetings of the Springfield Preservation Trust are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., at the Mason Wright Retirement Center, 74 Walnut Street. All Trust members are welcome.

Newsletter contributors:

- ❖ Bill Devlin
- ❖ Steve Shultis
- ❖ Michael Marcinkewich
- ❖ Bob McCarroll
- ❖ Ben Murphy

Photography:

- ❖ Michael Marcinkewich

Marilyn Sutin, Editor