



SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST NEWSLETTER

Summer 2015

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quick links

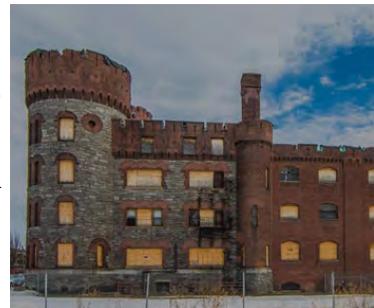
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*image above is of
The Willys-Overland
Building in 1939*

SUPPORTERS

MGM Casino Update

A final consultation meeting took place on June 30 with MGM, Mass Historical Commission (MHC), Mass Gaming Commission, and SPT. A Memorandum of Agreement is being prepared to summarize the results.



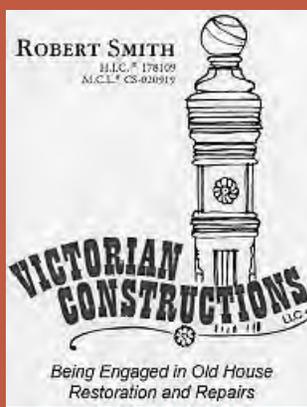
MGM will go forward with the demolition of the rear of the State Armory. It will, however, establish a \$350,000 fund to aid rehabilitation of historic buildings within a half mile of its development.

Previously discussed was:

- retaining the façade of the United Electric Company and recreating most of its ornate lobby in another location on the site.
- retaining and restoring the Main Street façade of Union House and the first window bay of the Bliss Street elevation.
- demolishing the YWCA and reproducing much of its façade in front of the cinema complex at the foot of Howard Street.
- relocating the Spiritualist Church to Union Street.

It is a sad-but not unexpected--outcome for preservation, which received no support from the City or the Gaming Commission. We are fortunate that a few more historic elements are being retained than MGM originally proposed and that a small preservation fund is being established.

The fund would not have been created but for the insistence of the MHC, which also insisted that a majority of the controlling board be representatives of preservation organizations, including SPT and SHC.



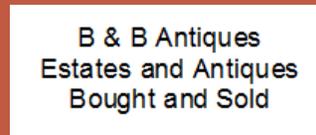
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Charitable Fund



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Mathew Forte



Mark & Sara Mullan



David & Jacqueline
Pleet



Thomas A. Valentine

Willys-Overland Update

On June 15, the Springfield City Council took the first of three votes necessary to create the Willys-Overland Local Historic District. It was a unanimous voice vote. Councilors Allen, Edwards, Luna, Twiggs, Walsh, and Williams all spoke in favor of passage. The matter now returns to the Council on July 20 for the required two thirds majority roll call vote.



This four-story brick building at 151-157 Chestnut Street was erected in 1916 for the Willys-Overland Motor Company. It has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1983 for its connection to Springfield's early automotive history. The building has been neglected for many years and then was damaged by the Gas Blast. It seems, however, to be still structurally sound. The owner applied for a demolition permit in January, and the nine month demolition delay has begun but will expire in early October. There is a twin building in Detroit which has been turned into residential units. Historic district status will protect the building while redevelopment options can be pursued.

Please contact your city councilors before July 20 to urge passage.

2015 Summer Fundraiser August 9th, 1PM

Join us at the lovely home & garden of Anne & Daryl deVillier in historic Atwater Park. Hors d'oeuvres, wine, and non-alcoholic beverages will be served.



\$35 SPT Members ~ \$40 non-members

[Click Here](#) to make your reservations online

or send a check by August 1st to:

Springfield Preservation Trust
74 Walnut Street
Springfield, MA 01105

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Beome a Supporter

Interested in being listed as a Supporter in the SPT Quarterly Newsletter?

Become a member at the Greek Revival level or higher to be listed.

[Click Here to become a SPT Member](#)

SPT Meetings

Monthly meetings of the Springfield Preservation Trust are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m., at the Mason Wright Retirement Center, 74 Walnut Street. SPT members are welcome to attend.

Credits

Newsletter contributors:

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Marilyn Sutin, **Editor**

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2015 Preservation Awards

SPT held its annual Historic Preservation Awards Reception at Center Court of Tower Square on Wednesday, May 20th to honor the people & organizations that are helping to restore and maintain historic structures in Springfield.



Every year the Trust showcases exemplary properties that represent the best preservation in Springfield over the previous year. Preservation awards are commonly given to properties that have restored the historic look of a building by removing inappropriate siding, repairing or replicating original details or generally bringing back a building that was in disrepair. Display panels of the award winning properties were on display at Tower Square through the end of May.

Awards broaden public awareness of Springfield's historic treasures. There is a strong connection between historical preservation and economic recovery. Springfield's greatest assets - procured during two centuries of profound prosperity - are its historic places and its history. If protected, preserved and repurposed, these assets will propel our city forward. [Click here](#) to view images and descriptions of the award winning properties.

2015 Preservation Awards:

- 44-46 Dale Street
- 83 Maple Street
- 83 Bowdoin Street
- 385 Worthington Street (The McIntosh)
- 122-124 Florida Street
- 68 & 78 Elliot Street
- 71 Adams Street
- 22-24 Winthrop Street
- 91-93 Pine Street
- 116 Hancock Street
- 54 Fairfield Street
- 155 Florida Street
- GEORGE POOLER AWARD FOR STEWARDSHIP Thomas & Sandra Valentine for 400 Maple Street
- EDWARD SIMS AWARD FOR STEWARDSHIP Dieter Lutz for 138 Dartmouth Terrace
- ROBERT HOLBROOK AWARD FOR STEWARDSHIP Melinda Phelps for 192 Springfield Street

June 7 House Tour

SPT's annual spring house tour on June 7 featured Forest Park Heights north of Sumner Avenue. More than 200 paying visitors enjoyed the great selection of homes on a beautiful day. Houses represented the Colonial Revival, English Cottage, and American Four Square styles of the early twentieth century.



Thanks go to Sue Lavoie, Lew and Elaine Lamson, Kerri Saucier and Donald Mitchell, Elizabeth and Shawn Rairigh, and Paul and Margret Martin for sharing their lovely homes.

Planning will now start for the October cemetery tour and next year's home tour.

Mattoon Street Arts Festival

The Mattoon Street Arts Festival is the longest running arts festival in the Pioneer Valley. Celebrating 43 years, the festival will take place on Saturday and Sunday, September 12th and 13th. The festival features 100 exhibitors, vendors and strolling musicians. The Springfield Preservation Trust will have a table set up with information about the Trust and will be **selling the City of Homes 2016 calendar**.



Contractor's List

Looking for a good contractor? the Preservation Trust would like to continue featuring a list of contractors on our website that are reliable, do a good job, and are sensitive to the wonderful old houses and buildings we cherish so much. If you know a skilled craftsman that you would recommend, please let us know.

Please include the following contact information:

- Name of Contractor or Business:
- Category of work such as electric, plumbing, finish carpentry, roofing, etc.:
- Phone:
- Email/website:

You can mail your suggestions to SPT 74 Walnut St 01105 or email jimboone@hotmail.com.

Springfield Preservation Trust
info@springfieldpreservation.org