



# SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST NEWSLETTER

Winter 2016

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- [SPT Website](#)
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*image above is the  
Home of  
Jim & Merry Boone  
Location of the  
Winter Fundraiser*

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## Historical Commission Members Being Replaced

Three days after the November elections, SHC members Bob McCarroll, Ralph Slate, and Marge Guess received letters from Mayor Dominic Sarno thanking them for their service and wishing them well as they "move on to new endeavors." The Mayor also sent names of three replacements to City Council without realizing that Bob and Ralph are "seated positions" of SPT and Historic New England under city ordinance. The Mayor then withdrew the two names and wrote SPT and HNE to request two nominees from each body.

SPT Board of Directors submitted Stephen Bosworth, a McKnight lawyer with experience serving on municipal boards, and Shannon Walsh, a Forest Park Heights resident with a master's degree in historic preservation. We appreciate their willingness to serve. The Mayor will choose one to send to City Council for confirmation. Bob continues to serve on the SHC until the process is completed.

## Local Historic District Updates

City Council voted unanimously on December 21 to enact the Colony Hills Local Historic District to protect that small suburban neighborhood south of Forest Park. Once signed by the Mayor, Colony Hills will become Springfield's tenth LHD.



Residents of the Forest Park Heights LHD gathered in early December to celebrate 40 years of LHD status. Among attendees were City Councilors, SHC members, and residents who helped create the district in 1975. "These people," said current SHC chair Ralph Slate "had the foresight to protect this wonderful neighborhood. Compare streets within the district to streets immediately outside the district and you'll see the legacy of 40 years of architectural protection."

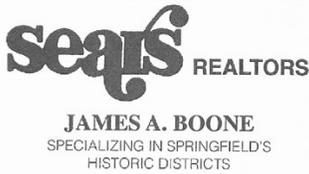
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Pleet



The Springfield Historical Commission is in the process of creating a single building local historic district to protect Bliss House at 44-46 Dale Street.

The Federal style house was built on Main Street for Hubbard and Emily Bliss in 1805. It was moved to Dale Street in the 1870s and extensively altered over the years. Recently restored

on the outside, the house received a 2015 SPT Preservation Award. Owner Bob McCarroll requested LHD status to protect the integrity of the house in the future. The proposed LHD is expected to go to City Council in early 2016.

The SHC is working on a LHD for 270 Liberty Street, a surviving brick Italianate mansion from when the area was residential. Its owner, Rod Sitterly, had filed for a demolition permit, was halted by the Demolition Delay ordinance, and changed



his mind after hearing that the house once belonged to Thomas Wason, founder of the Wason Car Company, an early maker of railroad cars. Mr. Sitterly, is now exploring a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places while the SHC explores LHD status.

### Lost

The 1872 brick Second French Empire style double house at 25-27 Elliot Street was demolished in December, nearly eight years after a devastating fire. The house had been on the SPT Most Endangered List for several years. The duplex was located in the Quadrangle-Mattoon St Historic District next to the Federal courthouse on State Street.



### Annual SPT Winter Fundraiser

This year's winter fundraiser will be held at the home of Jim and Merry Boone, 97 Florida Street, on Sunday, January 31st, starting at 1 PM. Jim and Merry have lived in the McKnight Historic District for close to 40 years and have lovingly restored their 1887 Queen Anne Victorian to its original beauty.



Not only has the house itself been restored inside and out, but the furnishings, decorative details and wallpapers give one the feeling of walking into the late 19th Century. Set on a double lot, the large

~~~~~  
Lou & Lynn Pronovost

~~~~~  
Thomas A. Valentine

## Beome a Supporter

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

**Become a  
member at the  
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to be listed.**

[Click Here  
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## Contractor's List

If you know a skilled craftsman that you would recommend, please let us know.

Please include:

~Name of Contractor  
~Category of work  
~Phone/Email/website

Send information to  
jimboone@hotmail.com

## SPT Board Meetings

SPT members are welcome to attend

### when

First Wednesday  
of each month  
6PM

### where

Mason Wright  
Retirement Center  
74 Walnut Street

## Credits

12 room home has brownstone details on the tower and foundation, 12 stained glass windows and a separate carriage house with its own apartment.



Originally built by Benjamin Stillman in 1887, who only lived there for 4 years, it was then owned by the Bosworth family for 50 years. From 1941, until the Boone's bought it in 1976, the home was a rooming house for older people. Having been rescued from further deterioration, the Boone's started

their restoration. The woodwork is all cherry and the kitchen is original and features a stove and refrigerator from 1927 still in use today. The billiards room on the third floor, with its wallpapered walls and ceiling, is a sight to see.

Please join us for a mid-winters afternoon of socializing, networking, and enjoying the historic home of Jim and Merry Boone. Hors d'oeuvres, wine, and nonalcoholic punch will be served. Tickets are \$35 for SPT members and \$40 for nonmembers. Make your reservations online by [clicking here](#) or by mailing a check to:

Springfield Preservation Trust  
74 Walnut Street  
Springfield, MA 01105

Reservations are limited and tickets must be ordered by January 22nd.

## Most Endangered List Nominations Sought

The 2016 Most Endangered List will be announced at the Annual Meeting on February 28. If you have properties you would like to be considered, please send them by January 20 to

Springfield Preservation Trust  
74 Walnut Street  
Springfield, MA 01105

or [info@SpringfieldPreservation.org](mailto:info@SpringfieldPreservation.org). You can see the 2015 list by [clicking here](#).

## SAVE THE DATE - SPT Annual Meeting

SPT will holds its Annual Meeting at **1PM on Sunday, February 28, 2016**. Annual elections will be held for the Board of Directors, the 2016 Most Endangered Properties will be announced, and a review of the past year will be presented. Additional information and the location of the meeting will be provided closer to the date via email and a postcard mailing to members.

## Spring House Tour Planned

The McKnight Local Historic District will mark the 40th anniversary of its creation in 2016, and SPT is organizing a house tour to celebrate on Sunday, June 12.

We are looking for houses or gardens to feature. If you would like to



participate, contact [info@springfieldpreservation.org](mailto:info@springfieldpreservation.org) or call Bob McCarroll at 736-0629.

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