



SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST NEWSLETTER

Spring 2017

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*image above is
327 Maple Street; on the
Spring House Tour*

SUPPORTERS

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The Kulig Family
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PRESERVATION AWARDS CEREMONY

On Wednesday, May 17, 2017 at 6:00 p.m., SPT will hold its annual Preservation Award Ceremony at Tower Square, 1500 Main Street, Springfield. The Springfield Preservation Trust honors the people and organizations that help restore and preserve historic structures in Springfield. If you are the owner of or have ever resided in an historic property, you can truly appreciate the



time, expense, and labor of love that historic preservation brings. Every year the Trust showcases exemplary properties that represent the best of preservation in Springfield, as well as honoring those who are stewards of historic properties. Please join us to help congratulate the awardees and be a witness to preservation in action! [Click Here](#) for additional information.

2017 SPRING HOUSE TOUR

Do you drive by beautiful homes and wonder about the interiors?

Does living in an historic neighborhood sound appealing?

Do you enjoy walking in a beautiful and friendly neighborhood with brick sidewalks?

Yes? Then the 2017 Spring House Tour is just for you!

The three local historic districts along Maple Street: Lower Maple, Ridgewood, and Maple Hill, mark the 40th anniversary of their creation this year and SPT is celebrating with a house tour.

The tour will be between 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm on Sunday, June 11, 2017 and will feature seven houses as well as South Congregational Church. Houses will be on Maple Street, Dexter Street, and Crescent Hill and will represent a variety of styles: Greek Revival, Second



French Empire, Victorian Gothic, Stick, Shingle, and Jacobean Revival. Not only do the homes represent a variety of exterior styles, but their interiors are varied as well. One home has an elevator; another features its relaxed family functional approach

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Brian Connors



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David & Jacqueline
Pleet



Lou & Lynn Pronovost



William & Caroline
Toner



Thomas A. Valentine

while respecting the home's fine details. Each of these homes has been lovingly maintained, restored, or decorated. Some properties are opening for the first time ever.

The tour is being supported by the Hampden County Sheriff's Department- Western Massachusetts Recovery & Wellness Center who will be providing volunteer way-finding guides to assist tour attendees in walking or driving directions from location to location. Sheriff's Department volunteers will also be beautifying the neighborhood for the tour.

Advance tickets are \$15. [Click Here](#) to purchase tickets online now or after Memorial Day at Flowers Flowers, 758 Sumner Avenue and The Flower Box, 596 Carew Street. Tickets can be purchased for \$20 on the day of the tour from 12:45 p.m. until 2:45 p.m. in front of Center for Human Development, 367 Pine Street. SPT members receive a discounted price.

2017 MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC RESOURCES

At the SPT Annual Meeting held this past March, the 2017 Most Endangered List was revealed. Many of the properties from the 2016 List have continued onto this year's list. New this year is the Wallace House at 201 Maple Street and the Shean Block at 1208 Main Street. For additional information on the most endangered historic resources [Click Here](#).

- Dr. Philip Kilroy House, 240 Longhill Street, built 1895
- Andrew Wallace House, 201 Maple Street, built 1844
- David Ames Jr. House, 241 Maple Street, built 1826
- Chester Bliss Carriage House, 63 Mulberry Street, built 1895
- Knox Automobile Company, 53 Wilbraham Road, built 1891 and 1910
- Willys-Overland Building, 151-157 Chestnut Street, built 1916
- Chapman & Brooks Block, 139-141 Lyman Street, built 1910
- National Needle Building, 55 Emery Street, built 1888
- Shean Block, 1208 Main Street, built 1927
- Underwood Building, corner of Worthington & Dwight Streets, built 1916
- Brightwood & Homer Street Schools, built 1896

SIX YEARS LATER...

REMEMBERING THE JUNE 1, 2011 TORNADO

On the afternoon of June 1, 2011, two local historic districts, including the Maple Hill Historic District, and surrounding neighborhoods were hit hard by the EF-3 tornado that cleared a 39 mile long path from West Springfield to Monson. Many historic properties were heavily damaged or destroyed. Rebuilding has been a slow and expensive process for property owners, but successes are visible. The Central Street corridor has undergone a significant transformation with new owner-occupied houses built with historically sensitive details including front porches, architectural details, and interesting color palates. The former MacDuffie Campus is not yet whole and is highlighted on the 2017 Endangered Historic Resources list.

Two houses open for the 2017 Spring House Tour were damaged by the tornado. Tour attendees will have the opportunity to view both the interiors and exteriors of these properties that have been painstakingly restored by their owner-occupants. 220 Maple Street had significant storm damage (over \$500,000) including

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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

roof, interior water damage, and near obliteration of landscaping and outdoor amenities. 32 Dexter Street was damaged by falling mature locust trees that sheered a dormer and architectural details from the house.



213 Pine Street WPA Photo
1938



213 Pine Street Google Street
View 9/2011

While enjoying the Spring Tour, attendees are encouraged to visit the 2011 Tornado Memorial located at the triangle of Pine and Central Streets. Dedicated by the neighborhood residents in 2012 to mark the one year tornado anniversary, the Memorial features the redstone stairs from 213 Pine Street that were salvaged and moved to the triangle as the base for a memorial plaque. The house at 213 Pine Street was photographed as part of the WPA Project. The first reader to correctly email the first line of text from the memorial plaque to

sptnewslettereditor@gmail.com will receive a complimentary pair of tickets to the 2017 Spring House Tour.

SPOTLIGHT ON MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC RESOURCES

The Shean Block & Underwood Building

Both the Shean Block at the corner of State & Main Streets, and the Underwood Building at the corner of Worthington & Dwight Streets, are threatened with demolition. Both buildings are two story Classical Revival Style commercial blocks with ground floor retail, located on busy



Shean Block

corners in Downtown Springfield. Plans exist for both buildings to be replaced by auto oriented uses, the Shean Block with a parking lot and the Underwood Building with a drive thru business. While neither building is remarkable on their own, they are part of the wonderful urban fabric that can be found in Downtown Springfield. The proposed uses will erode the streetscape and negatively affect neighboring buildings, which are historically and architecturally significant, like the Walker Building on Main Street or the Bicycle Club building on Worthington Street. Even those not familiar with urban planning and good design know that a parking lot at prominent intersections in the city is absurd.

These two buildings are handsome and have great potential. With the MGM developed directly across State Street from the Shean Block, it's feasible that a desirable retail mix will occupy the building. With the renovated Stearns

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Underwood Building

Square and planned Dinning District the Underwood Building would be perfect for reuse as a restaurant. These types of buildings help create an urban lifestyle experience, which is critical to creating a robust Downtown. A study by the National Trust for Historic Places found that the most vibrant areas of American

cities are found where there are smaller, pedestrian scale commercial buildings, like the Shean Block and the Underwood Building. Revitalizing these buildings for continued use for small retail businesses and restoring the second floor for offices or loft style apartments would help create a more vibrant downtown.

We need to keep vigilant and advocate against the continued loss of the historic places that make Springfield a unique place. Even though the Shean Block and Underwood Buildings are not the most architecturally or historically significant, they contribute a great deal more to Downtown than a parking lot and drive thru business ever could.

To learn more about these buildings and the other 2017 Most Endangered Historic Resources [Click Here](#).

ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

On February 26, 2017, the Springfield Preservation Trust held its Annual Meeting at 270 Maple Street. Over forty people attended and enjoyed informative lectures by board member Robert McCarroll and Derek Strahan. The members of the Board of Directors were also announced.



Don Courtemache

Mr. McCarroll noted several local preservation highlights from the last year including the restoration of three previously vacant fire stations at Oakland and Dickinson Streets, Page Boulevard near Roosevelt Avenue, and Sumner Avenue. Other projects include the State Street wing of the Indian



Bob McCarroll

Motorcycle Building being repaired and the use of the Westinghouse General Office Building on Page Boulevard preserved by CRRC MA for general offices. The Junior Officers Quarters at the Armory are being rehabbed and have been secured from the elements.

Derek Strahan, author of the blog "Lost New England" and the new book "Lost Springfield" spoke about the history of Maple Street and focused on some of the lost mansions that once graced Springfield's "Gold Coast."

Jesse Lederman, Board Member of Springfield Preservation Trust noted that the event was held in an "incredible property overlooking downtown Springfield" and that "Springfield's greatest asset is our history and Springfield Preservation Trust is about preserving that history and making sure

that it can be passed down generations from now. As a young person in the City I am especially glad to see this work being done. " Merry Boone, a long time Trust supporter and volunteer, echoed Mr. Lederman's sentiments noting the "fabulous setting" of the event.



Robert Louder and
Rosemary Morin

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