



# SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2018

picture above is of Watershops, one of Springfield's Most Endangered Historic Resources

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## 2018 MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC RESOURCES

The Springfield Preservation Trust has announced the Most Endangered Historic Resources List for 2018. The historic resources on the list are architecturally, historically, and intrinsically valuable to the City of Springfield, and are all endangered of being lost forever. The historic resources represent a

cross section of historic properties. There are three commercial buildings, four residential properties, five industrial properties, and one former fire station.

The properties are endangered for a number of reasons, from redevelopment pressure for the National Needle Building and Shean Block, to demolition by neglect for the Watershops and Oak St. Fire Station, to the Ames and Wallace Houses that have not yet been repaired from the 2011 tornado or the Gunn Block that does not have enough resources available to be restored.

Most Endangered Historic Resources for 2018:

- [Watershops](#), One Allen Street
- [Gunn Block](#), 477 State Street
- [Shean Block](#), 1208 Main Street
- [Underwood Building](#), 282-302 Worthington Street
- [Oak Street Fire Station](#), 97 Oak Street, Indian Orchard
- [Knox Automobile Company](#), 53 Wilbraham Road
- [Hutchins Narrow Fabric Building](#), 140 Wilbraham Avenue
- [Chapman & Brooks Block](#), 71 Lyman Street
- [National Needle Building](#), 55 Emery Street
- [Dr. Philip Kilroy House](#), 240 Longhill Street
- [David Ames Jr. House](#), 241 Maple Street
- [Andrew Wallace House](#), 201 Maple Street
- [63 Mulberry Street Carriage House](#)

[CLICK HERE](#) for additional information along with photos of this year's Most Endangered Historic Resources.

## 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

The SPT Annual Meeting was held on March 11 and was attended by over thirty SPT Members. Held at the recently renovated old Sumner Avenue Fire Station, which has



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**Beate Bolen &  
Mathew Forte**

~

**Stephen Bosworth &  
Karen A. Merchant**

~

**Neil Daboul**

~

**Donna & Doug  
Dreyer**

~

**Bob & Maura  
Goulart**

~

**Matthew V. Jaquith  
& Michael Rheault**

~

**Christ Kamages Faia**

~

**Carol & Ken Kinsley**

~

**Mark & Sally Mullan**

~

**Ben Murphy &  
Brian Connors**

~

**Paul Phaneuf**

~

**David & Jacqueline  
Pleet**

~

**William & Caroline  
Toner**

~

**Thomas A. Valentine**

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recently been renovated and converted into office space on the ground floor and an apartment on the second floor. Attendees were able to tour the facility. SPT President Don Courtemanche made a presentation of SPT activities over the previous year and Bob McCarroll presented the 2018 Most Endangered Historic Resources. G. Michael Dobbs, managing editor of Reminder Publications was the guest speaker.



The 2018 Board of Directors was elected and includes:

- Don Courtemanche, President
- Marilyn Sutin, Treasurer
- Roberta Kilkenny, Secretary
- John Bellows
- Jim Boone
- JoAnne Cardell
- Stephen Davis
- Melvin A. Edwards
- Jesse Lederman
- Robert Louder
- Robert McCarroll
- Denise Moccia
- Kathleen Pellegrino
- Mike Stevens
- Derek Strahan
- James Woolsey

Below are three board profiles which represent a two new board member, James Woolsey and Derek Strahan and a past board member that is returning after a number of years, Jim Boone.

**Derek Strahan** is the author of *Lost Springfield Massachusetts and New England Then and Now*, and the website *LostNewEngland.com*. He is a graduate of Westfield State University, with degrees in English and Regional Planning, and he teaches English at The Master's School in Simsbury, Connecticut. He lives in Springfield with his wife Melissa and their son Isaiah.

**Jim Boone** is returning to the Board after several years. Having served from 1976-2007, he stepped off though remained active. Jim was President for several years. Having moved to the McKnight neighborhood in 1976, Jim was involved in many projects that helped revitalize the area as well as being a Realtor for 30 years specializing in homes in Springfield's historic districts. Jim also served on the Springfield Historical Commission.

**James Woolsey** has worked for 26 years protecting some of America's most significant natural and historical sites. The first 15 years were with the National Park Service (NPS) working at the National Mall, Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, Lowell National Historical Park, Bryce Canyon National Park, and Mojave National Preserve. In 2006, he took a five-year assignment in France with the American Battle Monuments Commission, an agency that manages 24 overseas United States military cemeteries. In 2011 he returned to the NPS to become Superintendent of Springfield Armory National Historic Site and Coltsville National Historical Park.

## **WINTER FUNDRAISER**

More than 50 people enjoyed the annual Winter Fundraiser on Sunday, January 28 at the wonderful home of Ellen Berry at 6 Crescent Hill in the Maple Hill Local Historic District.



Ellen is only the third owner of the Shingle Style house, built in 1888 for Mase Southworth, a former professor of chemistry at William College.



Ellen opened the entire house for touring during the event.

Refreshments were provided by Cecy Galvin of Al Dente Catering and board member Robert Louder.

## **PRESERVATION AWARDS**

SPT held the 2018 Preservation Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, May 16 at Tower Square. in Downtown. Fifteen individuals and organizations that help restore and preserve historic structures in Springfield were honored. SPT will print the list of awardees in the summer edition of the newsletter.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.

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## **UPCOMING SPT EVENTS**

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### **SPRING HOUSE TOUR**

SPT will host a spring house tour in Atwater Park on Sunday, June 10 from 1 pm to 4 pm.

Much of the Atwater neighborhood was developed from the 300-acre estate of George Atwater, founder of the Springfield Street Railway. In 1902, his heirs hired the Boston firm of Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. to create a plan for a pleasant residential neighborhood. Noted local architects designed many of the houses. Development was encouraged by the neighborhood's park-like setting, proximity to the Springfield Hospital, and access to the trolley line.



The tour will feature Colonial Revival and Shingle style houses from the early 1900s through the 1930s. [CLICK HERE](#) to purchase your tickets now. Tickets will also be available at Flowers, Flowers after Memorial Day, and at the corner of Springfield and Cunningham Streets between 12:45 and 2:00 pm the day of the tour. SPT members receive a discount.

### **SPT NEEDS HELP FINDING HISTORIC HOMES FOR FUTURE TOURS**

SPT house tours are one of the most visible events of the SPT year. Tours have opened hundreds of homes, showcased the wonderful neighborhoods of Springfield, and even encouraged people to buy homes in the city. Finding homeowners willing to open their homes for a tour, however, can be very difficult, especially as SPT strives to show historic homes that have not been open in the past. We need your help with this challenging task. Please ask your friends, family, and neighbors that have historic homes in Springfield to open for a future tour.

Tours are usually three hours long on the second Sunday of June. Homeowners may open as much of their home as they are comfortable with. Some homeowners open only the first floor, while others open their second and third floors. While tours are open to the public, only those who purchase tickets are invited into the homes, and SPT volunteers make sure that only guests with tickets may participate. In our experience guests on the tour are very polite and respectful.

If you or someone you know would like to volunteer to open their home for a future house tour, [CLICK HERE](#) and complete the online form.

### **SECOND SATURDAY WALKING TOURS**

Enlightening strolls through the downtown area. Tours begin at the Springfield Museums Welcome Center, 21 Edwards Street on the Second Saturday of each month, April through November. Tours are rain or shine and start promptly at 10:30 am and usually end around noon. Tours are free for SPT members along with Armoury-Quadrangle Civic Association and Springfield Museums members. \$5 for nonmembers.

#### **2018 Schedule:**

- June 9: George Kingston – Buildings of Fred T. Ley & Co.
- July 14: Bill Devlin – Changes in how buildings are used
- August 11: TBD
- September 8: Jacqueline Lynch – Melzar Mosman & The Puritan statue
- October 13: Susan Ashman – Springfield Armory National Historic Site



- November 10: Jim Boone – Springfield Railroad Stations

### 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

**Newsletter contributors:**

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Greg Murphy

Ben Murphy, Editor

## About the Springfield Preservation Trust

*The mission of the Springfield Preservation Trust (SPT) is to preserve and protect properties in Springfield, Massachusetts which have architectural, historic, educational, or general cultural significance for public edification and enjoyment.*

*SPT believes historic preservation is an important part of making Springfield a great place to live, work, and visit. Historic Preservation is crucial to tourism and economic development and creating a unique sense of place. It's a means of creating jobs, attracting investment, generating tax revenue, and supporting small business.*

*For 45 years, SPT has been an independent voice supporting historic preservation. Over the years we have held countless events to showcase how our old buildings can be part of our modern lives and show off the historic places that make Springfield unique. We've helped pass legislation on the state and local levels that averts the needless loss of historic places. Our online resources help homeowners with restoration and educate the public on the beauty, quality and value of older homes. These activities have helped save and restore Springfield's threatened historic treasures so that they are here for future generations to enjoy.*

Springfield Preservation Trust  
info@springfieldpreservation.org

