



SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2018

picture above is of
3 Crescent Hill, location of this
year's Winter Fundraiser

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SHEAN BLOCK

The [Shean Block](#) at the corner of State and Main Streets is threatened with demolition for a surface parking lot to serve the nearby Court Square Building, which is proposed for rehabilitation. Although the Board of Directors strongly supports renovation of the historic Court Square Building, it opposes the City/SRA acquisition and demolition of the Shean Block to provide parking spaces to the project. The Court Square Building lot can currently accommodate approximately 40 parking spaces. The Shean Block land would accommodate approximately 45 spaces.



The Board commissioned a study by architect Bill Devlin for a parking deck on the Court Square Building lot. His design shows a two-level deck with some surface parking that can accommodate approximately 75 spaces. Construction of such a deck is probably similar in cost to acquiring the Shean Block, providing tenant relocation benefits, demolishing the building, and creating a surface parking lot.

Of equal importance is the fact that MGM is helping to finance the rehabilitation of the Court Square Building as part of its Host Agreement commitment to creating 54 market-rate housing units. MGM is constructing a 3,500 parking garage across State Street, within a few minutes walk of the Court Square Building. Winn Development, a partner in the project and a major redeveloper of buildings in eastern Massachusetts, has recently completed converting a mill into apartments in Lowell. Parking for the apartments is a municipal garage about as far from the property as the MGM garage is from the Court Square Building.

A far less expensive solution for additional parking to serve the Court Square Building is for MGM to provide free parking in its garage for the 54 housing units it is required to create.

Please share your thoughts with your city councilors, who will have to approve any municipal funding to acquire and demolish the Shean Block. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about the Shean Block.

Once it's gone, it's gone forever.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

During the past municipal election, the Trust sent city council candidates a survey with four questions about:



~
Beate Bolen & Mathew Forte

~
Stephen Bosworth

~
Donna & Doug Dreyer

~
Matthew V. Jaquith & Michael Rheault

~
Carol & Ken Kinsley

~
Robert Markel

~
Mark & Sally Mullan

~
Benjamin Murphy & Brian Connors

~
Paul Phaneuf

~
David & Jacqueline Pleet

~
William & Caroline Toner

~
Thomas A. Valentine

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

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

1. Hiring a preservation-trained staff person for the Historical Commission
2. More city funding for rehabilitation incentives than demolition funds
3. Parking options for the Court Square Building besides demolition of the Shean Block
4. Better care of tax-foreclosed buildings awaiting disposition

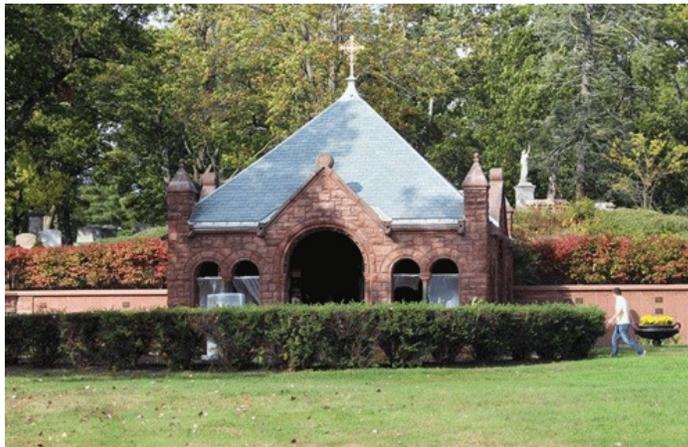
Nine candidates responded. [CLICK HERE](#) to see their responses.

PRESERVATION AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Springfield Preservation Trust is currently accepting nominations for the 2018 Springfield Preservation Awards. Every year SPT honors the people and organizations that are helping to restore and preserve Springfield's historic places.

Nominations can be made for any historic property in Springfield which has been sensitively restored in the last year. Historic structures are those structures that are 50 years old or older but do not need to be in an historic district, have a plaque or otherwise been recognized as historic.

Nominations are due by Friday, February 23rd 2018. For a list of last year's awardees and to learn more about submitting a nomination [CLICK HERE](#).



"VOICES FROM THE GRAVE" CEMETERY TOUR

The Trust hosted its fifth annual tour of Oak Grove Cemetery on Sunday, October 15. Docent-led groups visited the graves of several "residents," where interpreters spoke about that person.



Featured were Orlando Baker, Merriam-Webster president (Don Courtemanche); Michael Maher, house builder for the McKnight brothers (Jim Boone); Estelle Taylor, an early 20th century domestic violence victim (Kathleen Pellegrino), Theodor and Margaretha Geisel, father and sister of author Dr Seuss (Mike and Liz Stevens); housewife Henrietta Goff Stebbins (Wil Stebbins, her great grandson); and Nellie Leland, who took on corporate America to get herself justice in the early 1900's (Alicia Zoeller).

UPCOMING SPT EVENTS

2018 WINTER FUNDRAISER

This year's annual SPT Winter Fundraiser is being held on



Sunday, January 28, 2018 at 1 PM. The homeowner, Ellen Berry, has recently finished restoring this wonderful shingle-style house built in 1888.

The house, located on Crescent Hill in the Maple Hill Local Historic District, was built for Mase Southworth, whose mother lived next door. Southworth was a chemistry professor at Williams College who later worked in the family business, Southworth Manufacturing Company. The family lived here until 1967.

Please join us for an afternoon of socializing. Hors d'oeuvres will be provided by Al Dente Catering, and wine, and nonalcoholic beverages will be served. Tickets are \$35 for SPT members and \$40 for nonmembers. Make your reservation 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 19. Parking will be available at the Center for Human Development at 367 Pine Street.



SPT ANNUAL MEETING

SPT will hold its Annual Meeting at 1PM on Sunday, March 11, 2018 at the old Sumner Avenue Fire Station, 1043 Sumner Avenue. Annual elections will be held for the Board of Directors, the 2018 Most Endangered Historic Resources will be announced, and a review of the past year will be presented. The event is free and open to SPT Members.



This 2016 Preservation Award winner was built in 1925 in the English Cottage Style. The fire station was erected to meet the needs of the growing East Forest Park residential area. It closed in 2010 when a new fire station was constructed. The City sold the structure, which has been renovated into ground floor commercial space and a second floor apartment.

SAVE THE DATE - SPRING HOUSE TOUR

Save the afternoon of Sunday, June 10 for the SPT Spring House Tour. We are in the process of planning the tour of Forest Park south of Sumner Avenue. If your home is in the Colony Hills, Trafton Road, Trinity Terrace, or Manchester Terrace areas of Forest Park and you are interested in opening your home please contact:

Bob McCarroll at bobmccarroll@verizon.net

More information will come in the spring newsletter.



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

SPT BOARD MEETINGS

SPT members are welcome to attend

when

First Wednesday of each month

6PM

where

Mason Wright Retirement Center

CREDITS

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