

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
Third Wednesday of each month at
6 PM.

Where
Currently these meetings are virtual. Please
email info@springfieldpreservation.org for
more information.

NEWSLETTER CREDITS

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VISIT SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST ONLINE

www.springfieldpreservation.org

Instagram: [springfieldpreservation](https://www.instagram.com/springfieldpreservation)

www.facebook.com/preservespringfield

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 50 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, Inc.
74 Walnut Street
Springfield, MA 01105



SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2022

image above is
MCDI Building
140 Wilbraham Avenue

SUPPORTERS

ChooseSpringfieldMass.com

~
Bob McCarroll

~
David & Virginia Neill

~
William Kelliher

~
The Kulig Family
Charitable Trust

~
Michael Noonan

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1695 Main St. LLC

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Smarty Pants, LLC

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**B & B Antiques
Estates & Antiques
Bought & Sold**
Robert Louder
413-746-9341
dogman102@comcast.net



PRESERVATION AWARDS 2021

The SPT held its annual preservation awards ceremony online on November 3. A total of 14 property owners were recognized with awards.

111-113 Bay Street for moving the house
167 Thompson Street for a total rehabilitation
151 Chestnut Steet for rehabilitation
1119 Worthington Street for de-siding
3 Eastern Avenue for rehabilitation
155 Pineywoods Avenue for rehabilitation
171 Saint James Avenue for rehabilitation
175 Saint James Avenue for rehabilitation
187 Westminster Street for a total rehabilitation
1127 Worthington Street for exterior rehabilitation
44-46 Byers Street *Robert Holbrook Award for Stewardship*
72 Dartmouth Street *Edward Sims Award for Stewardship*
223 Forest Park Avenue *George Pooler Award for Stewardship*
835 State Street *Donald Courtemanche Award for Restoration*



Image Courtesy of Jeff Morgan

Starting January 23 we will be accepting nominations for buildings that have been restored since summer 2021. Please nominate your or someone else's building or home here. <https://springfieldpreservation.org/preservationawards/>.

ANNUAL MEETING 2022

Currently due to Covid-19 Springfield Preservation Trust will hold its annual meeting virtually again this year. It will be held on February 27 at 1pm. The meeting will be open to SPT members and the general public. The annual meeting will feature an overview of the past year, election of the board, and announcement of the 2022 Most Endangered List.



Following the meeting will be a 20 minute lecture by the Senior Project Director Lauren Canepari. She will be discussing the Court Square Building redevelopment project on 13-21 Elm Court.

For this event we will need people to pre-register so please email info@springfieldpreservation.org by February 24. Then the day of the event you will receive an email in order to attend the meeting. Covid-19 is changing the format, but by being virtual you will enjoy the event from the luxury of your home. Also, if you pre-register by February 20 you will receive a surprise from the Trust. Also, it will be broadcast to Facebook Live on our Springfield Preservation Trust Facebook page.

SUPPORTERS



~

Beate Bolan &
Matthew Forte

~

Stephen Bosworth &
Karen A. Merchant

~

Neil Daboul

~

Donna & Doug Dreyer

~

Matthew V. Jaquith
& Michael Rheault

~

Karin Johnson
& Jason Alves

~

Carol & Ken Kinsley

~

Robert Markel

~

Mark & Sara Mullan

~

Ben Murphy &
Brian Connors

~

Keith Paul

~

Paul Phaneuf

~

David & Jacqueline Pleet

~

Roger Roberge

~



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BECOME 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.

Visit
[springfieldpreservation.org/
membership](http://springfieldpreservation.org/membership)

MANUFACTURING CENTER OF, SPRINGFIELD, MA

Article Courtesy of Derek Strahan/Lost New England

During the 19th century, Springfield developed into an important manufacturing center. Although best-known for the Armory, the city was home to many different companies that produced a wide array of manufactured goods, ranging from ice skates to automobiles. Among these companies was Bemis & Call Hardware and Tool, which was located here on Main Street for a century and a half.

The company started in the 1830s, when merchant Stephen C. Bemis began manufacturing hardware. One of his early business moves was to purchase Solyman Merrick's patent of the monkey wrench, which would become one of the company's leading products. He subsequently formed a partnership with Amos Call, and in the 1840s Bemis & Call began manufacturing tools and hardware in a factory here on this site along the Mill River. The company initially rented space in a factory building that they shared with several other tenants, but later in the 19th century they would purchase the entire site.

Stephen C. Bemis retired from the company in 1855, and went on to have a career in politics. He served as a city alderman from 1856 to 1858, as mayor in 1861 and 1862, and in between he was the Democratic nominee for lieutenant governor in 1859, although he lost the general election to fellow Springfield politician Eliphalet Trask. In the meantime, his son, William C. Bemis, became treasurer when Stephen retired, and remained with the company for the next half century.

William became president in 1897, and that same year the company built a large addition to the original factory. This three-story brick building, seen in the center of both photos, was joined four years later by the more ornate two-story section on the right, which was used as the company's offices. The original wooden building stood on the left side until around 1920, when it was demolished and replaced with the current four-story brick building. During this time, Bemis & Call continued to specialize in wrenches, but also produced punches, pliers, calipers, and eventually combination locks.

Bemis & Call finally sold their wrench line in 1939, around the same time that the first photo was taken. However, unlike so many other Springfield-based companies, they survived the Great Depression and remained in business until finally closing in 1988. The factory buildings themselves are still standing, though, with hardly any exterior changes since the WPA photo was taken more than 80 years ago. Together, they serve as a reminder of Springfield's legacy as an important industrial city in the 19th and early 20th centuries.



Image Courtesy of WPA



Image Courtesy of Derek Strahan

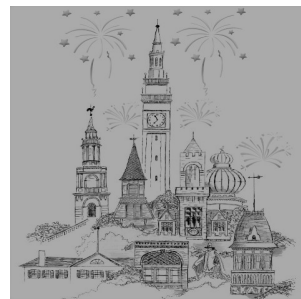


Image Courtesy of SPT



Image Courtesy of SPT
several parties interested. In 2021, a developer was ready to take on the project but in March of 2021 another arson fire occurred, which ended that opportunity. If you want to help the new project for the site take this survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LJNZKJH> . This building was recently demolished in the final months of 2021. This is one example of a historic building lost and why all buildings should never become vacant. Attend the Annual Meeting February 27 to learn more about the Most Endangered List and SPT.

THANK YOU SUPPORTERS

Thank you board members, volunteers, and supporters of SPT. Although it has been a challenging year it is great to see the community support at the virtual lectures, walking tours, arts festival, Cemetery tours, and Giving Tuesday. The Trust appreciates all of you for volunteering, donating, becoming members, and attending programs. The Trust is a non-profit advocating for Springfield's historic building and has been doing this work for 50 years now. In our 50th year depending on the pandemic the plan is to bring back some favorite activities and add new ones. If you would like to volunteer or offer ideas for more events for this year please email the info@springfieldpreservation.org. 50 years of preservation and planning the way for the next 50 years. Want to be SPT board member? Are you a SPT member? Email info@springfieldpreservation.org by February 13.

FAREWELL MCDI BUILDING

Formerly this two-story brick building was constructed in the 1890s along with the Highland Division of the New York, New Haven, & Hartford Rail Road, which spurred industrial development along its line. It was then used by the Brooks Bank Note Company. In recent years, it was used by the Massachusetts Career Development Institute until it closed in 2013.

UPCOMING EVENTS

COLONIAL ERA GRAVESTONES

Based on the results of the 50th anniversary survey, we will be continuing our virtual lecture series this year. The first of these will be on the historic 17th and 18th century gravestones, in Springfield Cemetery. The city of Springfield has no surviving colonial-era buildings. However, some of the gravestones date as far back as 1657, these stones represent a range of styles and individual carvers who worked in the Connecticut River valley during this time. Join historian Derek Strahan on January 27 at 7pm as he traces the history of colonial-era gravestone designs in the area and highlights some of the local carvers whose works can be found here in the city. Learn more about SPT on our website <https://springfieldpreservation.org>.

FREE ADMISSION DAY

All day on January 20 members of Springfield Preservation Trust may visit Springfield Museums. Visit the 2021 SPT Preservation Awards a collaborative exhibit between SPT and Springfield Museums in the Wood Museum and then explore the other museums. Show your membership card or membership confirmation receipt at the admission desk in the Welcome Center to receive free admission. Thank you Springfield Museums for this partnership and membership perk for SPT members.

MORE EVENTS COMING SOON

Events for the Winter will be added to the Trust's website. Check our website <https://springfieldpreservation.org/> , Facebook, Instagram, or call SPT at 413-747-0656 to learn about events. Additionally, if you have program ideas or questions please email info@springfieldpreservation.org .

