

## 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](mailto:info@springfieldpreservation.org) for  
more information.

## NEWSLETTER CREDITS

### Newsletter Contributors:

Kira Holmes  
Bob McCarroll  
Derek Strahan  
Michael Stevens  
Marilyn Sutin

### Photography:

Kira Holmes  
Jeff Morgan  
Derek Strahan  
Marilyn Sutin

## VISIT SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST ONLINE

[www.springfieldpreservation.org](http://www.springfieldpreservation.org)

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

[www.facebook.com/preservespringfield](https://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

### SUMMER 2022

*image above is*  
Barney Estate Carriage House  
50th Celebration  
Marilyn Sutin photo

### SUPPORTERS

ChooseSpringfieldMass.com

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### 50th SPT CELEBRATION

Thank you Barney Estate at the Carriage House, Al Dente Catering, Mayor Dominic Sarno, Springfield City Councilors, former mayor, Robert Markel, Springfield Preservation Trust members, attendees, and SPT board members! Without each of you the Trust could not have had a historically splendid evening. Two proclamations, displays, silent auction, walking tour brochures, bingo cards, and conversation filled the evening of everyone supporting historic preservation.



*Springfield City Councilors Courtesy of Marilyn Sutin*

The Trust advocates for historic preservation now and for the next 50 years. The Trust would like to include more people by becoming board members, members, volunteers for events as a Second Saturday walking tour guide, an advocate and seller for Mattoon Street Arts Festival September 10 and 11, and Voices from the Grave October 16. If you want to learn more about these opportunities please email [info@springfieldpreservation.org](mailto:info@springfieldpreservation.org) or call (413) 747-0656.



*Derek Strahan and Robert Markel Courtesy of Marilyn Sutin*

Additionally if you have any historic building concerns please contact Kira at [advocacy@springfieldpreservation.org](mailto:advocacy@springfieldpreservation.org).

### 2023 SPT "City of Homes" Calendar

Our highly successful calendar will return for its eighth year and will debut at the Mattoon Street Arts Festival on September 10-11, 2022. Want to sponsor the calendar? Email [advocacy@springfieldpreservation.org](mailto:advocacy@springfieldpreservation.org).

The calendar is a great way to highlight Springfield's wonderful built environment and to encourage preservation efforts in our city. Each year we feature a different theme and this year will highlight our largest historic district. Here is a little tease before the big Reveal.



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Interested in being listed  
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SPT Quarterly Newsletter?

Become a member at the  
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or higher to be listed.

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

HISTORIC PLACES OF SPRINGFIELD  
THE WIGHT AND CHAPMAN BLOCK

Article Courtesy of Lost New England

During the mid-19th century, the neighborhood of Indian Orchard transformed from a sparsely-settled corner of Springfield into a small factory village along the Chicopee River. Located some five miles from the center of Springfield, Indian Orchard’s growth was largely independent from the rest of the city, and the village came to include a small downtown area, with its own Main Street that was lined with brick commercial blocks. Among these was this three-story, Italianate-style building at the corner of Oak Street. Built in 1875, it was located at one of the busiest intersections in the neighborhood, and included stores on the first floor, plus offices and a public hall on the upper floors.

The building was originally owned by businessmen Henry K. Wight and George H. Chapman, who each had stores on the ground floor. Wight was a partner in Wight, Rivers & Co., a grocery store that occupied the corner storefront. Next to this store, on the left side of the building, Chapman had a store where he and business partner Charles Bengle sold men’s clothing, boots, and shoes.

Charles Bengle eventually purchased Chapman’s interest in the company in 1886, and he remained in business in this building until 1905, when he built a new commercial block, directly across Oak Street from here, and moved his store into the new building. Then, around 1910, the Wight & Chapman Block was sold to Charles Rieutord, the proprietor of the nearby National House hotel on Oak Street. Upon purchasing this building, he set about renovating it, including extending the storefronts along both the Main Street and Oak Street sides.

Rieutord opened a wholesale liquor store on the left side of the ground floor, and ran it for about a decade, until Prohibition was enacted in 1920. He was also involved with the Springfield Breweries Company, which attempted to adapt to Prohibition by producing non-alcoholic beverages. By the mid-1920s, he was the company’s vice president, serving under president Theodor Geisel—the father of Dr. Seuss—but the brewery ultimately went out of business before the end of Prohibition.

By the time the WPA photo was taken in the late 1930s, the building’s retail tenants included Frank J. Livi, an Italian immigrant who ran a clothing shop in the corner storefront throughout the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Since then, the exterior of the building has remained well-preserved, and it stands as a good example of post-Civil War commercial architecture in Springfield.

**NOMINATION DEADLINE FOR PRESERVATION AWARDS 2022**  
September 6th is the deadline for submitting Preservation Awards applications. The Preservation Awards will be held in November with more details coming soon.



Image Courtesy of WPA



Image Courtesy of Derek Strahan

SPT CEMETERY TOUR COMING OCTOBER 16, 2022

The SPT’s 9th historic cemetery tour, “Voices from the Grave” will take place at Springfield Cemetery on Sunday, October 16, 2022. Please mark your calendars for another afternoon of education and entertainment in the pastoral setting of one of America’s oldest “garden” cemeteries. More volunteers are needed to put this event together. We especially need individuals who are portraying people who were buried in Springfield Cemetery.

This year we are concentrating our efforts in the area of the cemetery that has some of the oldest graves. The graves along Pine Street. Here are a few of the people whose monuments are in the area.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Capt. Henry L. Bunker (1798-1865) Whaler & merchant; | Capt. James Day (1780-1852) Soldier;      |
| Hon. Thomas Dwight (1758-1819) Congressman           | Nathaniel Ely (1605-1675) Innkeeper       |
| Capt. Edmund Palmer (1795-1864) Steamboat captain;   | Capt. William Day (1715-1797) Sea captain |
| Rev. Sanford Lawton (1798-1882) Schoolmaster;        | Rev. Bezaleel Howard (1753-1837) Minister |
| Daniel Lombard (1764-1856) Postmaster & merchant;    | Hon. Samuel Orne (1786-1830) Lawyer       |

If you have an interest in being a portrayer, please e-mail Mike Stevens at [mlsteven@comcast.net](mailto:mlsteven@comcast.net) ; text or phone him at (413) 686-3140. The logistics of the tour requires that we have between 5 and 7 stops and that they are in a reasonably compact area. Other people may be portrayed such as Nancy Bliss, Susan Freedom, and several others as long as they are in the same general area in Springfield Cemetery.

The cemetery tour will need volunteers for docents on the day of the tour and possibly for costuming by October 3. This year’s subjects lived in the 18th and early 19th century. Contact the SPT office if you are interested in helping in these areas. The e-mail is [info@springfieldpreservation.org](mailto:info@springfieldpreservation.org). Or, you can leave a message by calling (413)747-0656.



Image Courtesy of Kira Holmes

UPCOMING EVENTS



Image Courtesy of Derek Strahan



Image Courtesy of Jeff Morgan



**SPRINGFIELD’S LOST RIVERFRONT:  
SECOND SATURDAY WALKING TOUR**

Derek Strahan will be leading the Second Saturday walking tour on July 9 at 10:30am. it will start at Riverfront Park, at the parking lot directly across from the end of State Street. No charge for this walking tour and no pre-registration required. The SPT walking tours this season are sponsored by the Springfield Cultural Council and Mass Cultural Council.

**HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT:  
SECOND SATURDAY WALKING TOUR**

Robert McCarroll will be leading the Second Saturday walking tour on August 13 at 10:30am. The tour will depart from Springfield Museums. This tour will explore the older buildings behind newer facades. The Trust is looking for tour guides, an honorarium is available so if you are interested in leading a historic Springfield tour please email [info@springfieldpreservation.org](mailto:info@springfieldpreservation.org).

**MORE EVENTS COMING SOON**

Events for the Summer will be added to the Trust’s website. The SPT Second Saturday walking tours this season are sponsored by the Springfield Cultural Council and Mass Cultural Council. Upcoming tours will be September 10, October 8, and November 12. 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](mailto:info@springfieldpreservation.org) .