

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

Newsletter Contributors:

Jim Boone
Kira Holmes
Bob McCarroll
Jen Rao
Derek Strahan
Michael Stevens

Photography:

Kira Holmes
Jeff Morgan
Derek Strahan
Erica Swallow

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

SUMMER 2023

images above are
Historic Homes Tour & Social
in Forest Park Heights

SUPPORTERS

ChooseSpringfieldMass.com

~

Bob McCarroll

~

David & Virginia Neill

~

William Kelliher

~

The Kulig Family
Charitable Trust

~

Michael Noonan

~

1695 Main St. LLC

~

Mark S. Fuller

~

**B & B Antiques
Estates & Antiques
Bought & Sold**
Robert Louder
413-746-9341

dogman102@comcast.net

~

WinnCompanies
Development | Residential | Military

~

Slate & Copper
Specialists

MAHAN
Slate Roofing Co.

P.O. Box 2860 - Springfield, MA 01101
www.MahanSlate.com

(413)788-9529
(413)737-3002 Fax
(800)347-9529 Toll Free

CT Lic. # 0628970
MA Lic. # 008760
MA Reg. # 161091
NH Reg. # 678600

WELCOME BACK HISTORIC HOME TOUR FOREST PARK

Thank you home owners, volunteers, SPT board, staff, and visitors for attending the June 25 Historic Home Tour and post tour social. This is the first historic homes tour since 2019. This tour included four historic homes and two churches that over 150 visitors toured. Then a post social in another historic home with over 50 in attendance. Thank you to all who participated in the Historic Homes Tour & Social in Forest Park Heights Historic District—from the homeowners, docents, and door greeters to the visitors, musicians, artists, and caterers! SPT looks forward to next year.



Post Historic Home Tour Social

The Trust advocates for historic preservation and is always recruiting volunteers for events as this one. Additionally, the Trust wants volunteers to advocate for SPT and sell Calendars for Mattoon Street Arts Festival Sept. 9 and 10, and Voices from the Grave Oct. 15. If you want to learn more about these opportunities please email info@springfieldpreservation.org or call (413) 747-0656.

SPT PURCHASED 7-9 STOCKBRIDGE STREET

SPT is ecstatic to announce that we have purchased the third oldest building in downtown Springfield, with a goal of rehabilitating the three-story brick icon for reuse as our office and rental space. After rehabilitation, the building will house our office on the first floor, and the second and third floors will be leased out, enabling the Trust to cover building costs from the revenue generated from the rented units.

7-9 Stockbridge Street—known as the Guenther and Handel's Block and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. SPT has received a \$100,000 grant from Springfield Historic Preservation Trust Fund, which will be used for engineering and environmental studies and any remediation needed. Built in 1845, it originally served as one of a line of stores and rooms on Stockbridge Street, as laid out by Elam Stockbridge in 1839. Early tenants included bootmaker Frederick Goff (1858). The first floor was turned into a grocery/deli by Mr. Greim (1888-1893), who later sold the business to Peter Vogel (1893-1903). The business was sold again in 1913 to brothers-in-law Emil Guenther and Richard Handel, of the famed Guenthers & Handel's Deli, which was located at the premises until 1972.



Photo Courtesy of SPT

SUPPORTERS

Teresa Bendzinski
~
Beate Bolen
~
Stephen Bosworth &
Karen A. Merchant
~
Donna & Doug Dreyer
~
Paul Hetzel
~
Matthew V. Jaquith
& Michael Rheault
~
Karin Johnson
& Jason Alves
~
Carol & Ken Kinsley
~
Jesse Lederman
~
Robert Markel
~
Mark & Sara Mullan
~
Ben Murphy &
Brian Connors
~
David Neil
~
Keith Paul
~
Paul Phaneuf
~
David & Jacqueline Plect
~
Roger Roberge
~
David Sanborn

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

HISTORIC PLACES OF SPRINGFIELD
THE FORT BLOCK

Article Courtesy of Lost New England

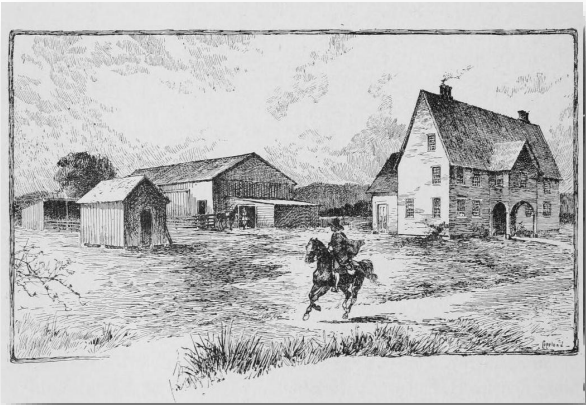
The building at the northwest corner of Fort and Main Streets has long been known as the Fort Block, and its name refers to the fact that this was once the site of John Pynchon’s house. Built around 1660 by Windsor mason Edward Griswold, this was a rare example of a brick house in the Springfield area during this time period, and it reflected Pynchon’s wealth and prominence as the son of Springfield’s colonial leader William Pynchon.

His house became known as the “Fort” because it served as a fortification during the 1675 Native American raid on Springfield. The raid was part of King Philip’s War, and it led to the deaths of four residents, along with the burning of 25 houses and 35 barns. John Pynchon also lost a corn mill and a sawmill, but his fortified house survived the attack, with its two-foot-thick brick walls providing shelter for many of the town’s residents. In subsequent years, the house became a Springfield landmark, with its role in the raid becoming a part of local lore. It would remain in the family for more than 150 years, and the final owner was William Pynchon, the great-great-great grandson of John Pynchon. The house was one of several early colonial buildings in Springfield that survived into the 19th century, but it was ultimately demolished in 1831.

In the late 1850s, the property was sold to the Springfield Fire and Marine Insurance Company. Established in 1849, it was the first insurance company in Springfield, although it lacked permanent offices until 1858, when this commercial block was built on the site of the old Pynchon house. Originally, the building had an Italianate design that was similar to many other commercial buildings of this era, and this style can still be seen on the left side along Fort Street. However, the Main Street facade was altered in the early 20th century, and it now bears little resemblance to its original appearance.

In 1886 the Springfield Fire and Marine Insurance Company expanded the building along Fort Street in order to accommodate the growing company. Subsequent tenants included Hampden Savings Bank, the Bay Path Institute (which later became Bay Path University), and the Springfield Union. However, the building is probably best known today as the home of the Student Prince, one of Springfield’s oldest restaurants, which opened here in 1935.

NOMINATION DEADLINE FOR PRESERVATION AWARDS 2023
September 6th is the deadline for submitting Preservation Awards applications. The Preservation Awards will be held in November 14 with more details coming soon.



Woodcut Illustrations from *Springfield, 1636-1886: History of Town and City*



Image Courtesy of Derek Strahan

CALL TO ACTION

It is time for all Springfield Preservation Trust members to act to save the historic Springfield Isolation Hospital on State St. This building, across from Mass Mutual, and part of the old Municipal Hospital, is Springfield’s largest and most significant Art Deco building. It was built in 1930. It is threatened with demolition if not protected by a Local Historic District Ordinance.

The Trust, as well as Preservation Mass and the Massachusetts Historic Commission and the Springfield Historical Commission have all recommended the creation of a single-building Local Historic District. Surrounding neighborhoods support it becoming a Local Historic District as it is an important part of their community and heritage. The Springfield City Council voted unanimously on Step One to create the local district.

Throughout the entire process there was never a word from the owners for or against. Suddenly, the owners objected at the last moment as they do not want to be restrained from demolishing this historic building as they want to sell it as possible cleared site. The owners, who are associated with a large national company, will be ending their operations at the site shortly and no longer want to undertake any responsibility to maintain the building.

Why save this building? It is an architecturally significant Art Deco style structure, one of the few in Springfield, with its distinctive exterior lines, brick work, and copper work, and its marble-lined entry stair. Most major cities have protected their iconic art deco landmarks, like the Empire State Building in NYC or the Chicago Board of Trade Building. We need to preserve our Art Deco landmark. Also, it is a memorial to all in our community who came through its doors during the epidemics of the past and all who provided care there.

The owner’s arguments for demolishing the structure are easily refuted. The building will be eligible for State and Federal Historic Investment Tax Credits if protected, providing developer incentives for rehabilitation. It occupies only a limited portion of a 17-acre parcel, so there is plenty of room for other development (only the 1930 building is being preserved, not the large modern wing added on in the 1950’s. It is an ideal building for housing or offices. Once it is gone, it is gone.

Now, we need every member to personally contact their Ward Representative and each of the four At Large City Councilors so they know you, their constituents, want this building protected as a Local Historic District. For contact info go to: <https://www.springfield-ma.gov/cos/council-2014> . If they object or have questions, have them contact Jim Boone at jim-boone@hotmail.com for clarification and answers to their concerns. Thank You. NOW is the time to be a preservationist. Please do it today.

Jim Boone and Jen Rao Advocacy Committee.



Image Courtesy of Jeff Morgan

THE GARDEN PARTY

Join us for the Springfield Preservation Trust’s Annual Garden Party Fundraiser, featuring music, hors d’oeuvres, wine, beverages, and a gorgeous garden setting, courtesy of homeowners and hosts Vana Nespor and Alfred Whitehouse at 48 Park Edge Avenue in the Forest Park neighborhood.

Support SPT in its mission to preserve and protect properties in Springfield, Massachusetts which have architectural, historic, educational, or general cultural significance—including properties such as this one!—by attending our Annual Garden Party Fundraiser this year! Buy tickets through Eventbrite or our website <https://springfieldpreservation.org/eventandtour/annual-historic-house-garden-party-fundraiser/>

Additionally, if you want to sponsor this event please contact Kira Holmes at advocacy@springfieldpreservation.org. We are looking for sponsors and she will tell you about the perks.



Image Courtesy of Jeff Morgan

UPCOMING EVENTS



Image Courtesy of Erica Swallow

FOOD: SECOND SATURDAY WALKING TOUR

Sean Johnson will be leading the Second Saturday walking tour on August 12 at 10:30am. It will start at Springfield Museums. The SPT walking tours this season are sponsored by the Springfield Cultural Council and Mass Cultural Council. Thank you Springfield Museums for partnering on this event with the Trust. Upcoming tours will be September 9, and October 14. Check our website for more details about the last couple of walking tours.



Image Courtesy of Kira Holmes

VOICES FROM THE GRAVE: CEMETERY TOURS

The SPT’s 10th historic cemetery tour, “Voices from the Grave” will take on Sunday, October 15, 2023. Please mark your calendars for another afternoon of education and entertainment. If you have an interest in being a portrayer, please e-mail Mike Stevens at mlsteven@comcast.net ; text or phone him at (413) 686-3140. The project will need volunteers for docents and parking attendants on the day of the tour by October 6. If you are interested in helping in these areas please e-mail info@springfieldpreservation.org , or you can leave a message by calling (413)747-0656.