

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
6:00PM

where
Virtually through Zoom. Please email
info@springfieldpreservation.org for a link.

NEWSLETTER CREDITS

Newsletter contributors:
Kira Holmes
Bob McCarroll
Derek Strahan
Erica Swallow

Photography:
Abbott Family
Digital Commonwealth
Kira Holmes
James Johnson
MassLive
Cliff Smith YMCA Postcard Collection

VISIT SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST ONLINE

www.springfieldpreservation.orgwww.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 51 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 2024

image above is
Community Music School of
Springfield held the
2023 Preservation Awards

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ANNUAL PRESERVATION AWARDS

The SPT held its annual preservation awards ceremony at the former Bank and Trust Company. There were 15 property owners who were recognized and received awards. Thank you to Community Music School of Springfield, SPT board members, SPT staff, the awardees, the press, and the public for a fabulous award ceremony. More wonderful SPT events are coming up in 2024.

- Don & Nancy Evans for the exterior and porch restoration of 233 Forest Park Ave
- Hedgehog Industries for the restoration of 122 School Street
- Susan Raschi for the exterior siding restoration and painting of 42 Cherryvale Avenue
- Deborah, Kenneth, and Zachary Breault for the exterior restoration and painting of 34 Cornell Street
- Jane Wanda Pashko for the porch restoration of 115 Thompson Street
- Patricia Coleman for the restoration of 6 Cornell Street
- PAH Properties LLC for the restoration of 110 Mill Street
- Leon Woods for the exterior and porch restoration and painting of 70 Buckingham Street
- Mazhar Iqbal & Tahmina Kausar for the exterior and porch restoration and painting of 325 Longhill Street
- Springfield Museums for major exterior restoration of 74 Fairfield Street
- Contractor Award for Historic Preservation goes to Victorian Constructions
- The Donald Campion Award for Outstanding Achievement in Historic Preservation goes to Concerned Citizens for Springfield, Inc.
- The Edward Sims Award For Stewardship goes to Carlo DiLizia and Gina Bellucci-DiLizia for 23 Ingersoll Grove
- The Robert Holbrook Award for Stewardship goes to Daniel and Janice Keyes for 45 Atwater Terrace
- The George Pooler Award for Stewardship goes to Deborah Kogut for 92 Magnolia Terrace

SUPPORTERS

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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

WINTER FUNDRAISER TO BE HELD IN FEBRUARY AT THE FREDERICK HARRIS HOUSE

Article by Derek Strahan

The Springfield Preservation Trust’s 2024 Winter Fundraiser, with the theme “For the Love of the City—A Valentine Soirée,” will be held at the Frederick Harris House, at 270 Maple Street, on February 4, 2024, at 1:00pm. The home—historically known as the Frederick Harris House, and now as Valentine Mansion—was built in 1886 and is owned by Katherine Prewitt, who runs the home as an events space and owner-occupied bed and breakfast.

HISTORY OF THE HOME AND ITS ORIGINAL OWNERS

Frederick Harris and Emily Osborne were married in 1879, and shortly afterward they moved into this new house near the crest of the hill on Maple Street. Frederick was the son of Frederick H. Harris, a banker who came to Springfield in 1838 at the age of 15 and found work as a bank clerk. After a few years, the elder Frederick began working in the lumber industry, but later returned to banking as the cashier of Pynchon Bank. In 1864, he joined Springfield’s Third National Bank as cashier, and became the company president in 1886.

Emily, however, came from an even more prominent family. Originally from Auburn, New York, her father David was a prominent businessman and mayor, but her family was even better know for social activism. Her grandmother, Martha Coffin Wright, and her great aunt, Lucretia Coffin Mott, were both leaders of the abolitionist and women’s rights movements, and her brother, Thomas Mott Osborne, was the warden of Sing Sing and an influential prison reform advocate. Her sister, Helen Osborne Storrow, was a wealthy philanthropist, and Helen’s husband was James Jackson Storrow II, a Boston businessman who briefly served as president of General Motors in the company’s early years.

The younger Frederick Harris followed his father’s footsteps as a banker, starting out as a messenger for Third National in 1871. He steadily advanced in the bank, though, and eventually became vice president and then president, succeeding his father after his death in 1911. In addition, he was also active politically, and served as an alderman and as a member of the school committee. When the house was completed, it was considerably smaller than its current appearance. The first major expansion came in 1886, followed by the addition of a ballroom in 1900, bringing the house to over 10,000 square feet of living space.

Frederick and Emily had two children, Florence and Helen, but they were hardly the only residents of this house. Like other wealthy families of the era, they regularly employed multiple servants who lived here. In the 1900 census, they had three, and by 1910 they had four: a housekeeper, waitress, cook, and laundress. Florence moved out after her marriage in 1907 to Frederic Jones, and the couple later moved into a nearby house on Maple Street. Like his father-in-law, Frederic Jones would later go on to serve as president of Third National Bank.

The Trust looks forward to hosting its annual winter fundraiser at this and is grateful for Katherine Prewitt for opening it up to us in support of our mission to protect, preserve, and promote historic properties of Springfield. To finish reading this article and learn more about Springfield please visit <https://lostnewengland.com/2017/04/frederick-harris-house-springfield-mass/>.

SPT VIRTUAL LECTURES ARE BACK FOR 2024

- Jan 18, 7pm: "Built in Springfield: Colonial Houses from Springfield's Original Borders," a virtual lecture with Derek Strahan, land use and environmental planner at PVPC.
- Feb 22, 7pm: "African American Influence in Springfield History," a virtual lecture with Sam Bradley, executive director of PAHMUSA.



Photo Courtesy of WPA



Photo Courtesy of the Abbott family

Beyond his own historic homes, Hilton took an interest in greater preservation in his neighborhood and the city. He was active in the revitalization of the Springfield Preservation Trust in the mid-1970s, served on the Trust board for several years, and was an active member while residing in Springfield. Along with a small group of dedicated activists, Hilton was involved in the creation of the Forest Park Heights Local Historic District in 1975, and was an engaged member of the Forest Park Civic Association, as well, serving as editor of the group’s "Picturesque Forest Park Heights" book, which many consider to be the foremost historical overview of the neighborhood. Hilton, too, was an early organizer of the effort to save the Indian Motorcycle building—now the Mason Square Apartments—when it was destined for demolition in the 1970s.

Hilton will be missed, but his legacy lives on through the everlasting impact he impressed upon this city. May he rest in peace, and may all who loved him find solace in the legacy he leaves behind.

7-9 STOCKBRIDGE STREET REHABILITATION UPDATE

Rehabilitation of our vacant, deteriorated building at 7-9 Stockbridge Street is slowly progressing. We were fortunate to receive a \$100,000 grant from the Springfield Historic Preservation Trust Fund, the casino mitigation fund, and \$150,920 from the Community Preservation Act program. These rehabilitation funds are in addition to the \$200,000 zero-interest, zero-payment forgivable loan from Bob McCarroll, which enabled us to purchase the building in April 2023.

Architect Steve Jablonski is coordinating environmental and structure analysis and drawing up interior layouts. An environmental firm has conducted an assessment, which found some hazardous material. Removal specifications are being written, and we will be looking for a company to do removal. A structural engineer is determining whether building settlement occurred in the past or is continuing. Crack monitors were installed in early December, and results are due in three months. Unless serious problems are detected, we will then proceed with repairs to the brick façade, roof replacement, installation of historically appropriate windows, and exterior painting.

We are exploring additional funding possibilities to help with the build-out of SPT’s office and the upper two floor apartments.



Photo Courtesy of WPA

UPCOMING EVENTS



Logo Courtesy of Springfield Museums



Photo Courtesy of Lost New England



Photo Courtesy of Cliff Smith

FREE ADMISSION DAY

On January 20, members of Springfield Preservation Trust may visit Springfield Museums for free. Visit the 2023 SPT Preservation Awards a collaborative exhibit between SPT and Springfield Museums in the Wood Museum. Thank you Springfield Museums for this partnership and membership perk for SPT members.

FOR THE LOVE OF THE CITY-A VALENTINE SOIREE

On February 4, attend the "For the Love of the City—A Valentine Soirée" Winter Fundraiser. It will be held at 270 Maple Street, the Frederick Harris House at 1pm. This is the first winter fundraiser since Covid-19, and this house was built in 1886.

ANNUAL MEETING

On March 3, attend the Annual Meeting at Kimball Towers, 140 Chestnut Street, at 1pm. Please email info@springfieldpreservation.org to reserve your spot by February 25.