

## 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](mailto:jimboone@hotmail.com)

## SPT BOARD MEETINGS

SPT members are welcome to attend

**when**

Third Wednesday of each month

6:30PM

**where**

Mason Wright Retirement Community

74 Walnut Street, Springfield

## NEWSLETTER CREDITS

**Newsletter contributors:**

Bob McCarroll

Ben Murphy, Editor

Derek Strahan

**Photography:**

Jeff Morgan

Greg Murphy

Derek Strahan

## VISIT SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST ONLINE

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

[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 45 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

### FALL 2020

*image above is*  
Springfield Masonic Temple  
one of the  
2020 Preservation Awardees

### SUPPORTERS

ChooseSpringfieldMass.com

~

Bob McCarroll

~

David & Virginia Neill

~

William Kelliher

~

The Kulig Family  
Charitable Trust

~

Michael Noonan

~

1695 Main St. LLC

~

Smarty Pants, LLC

~

**B & B Antiques  
Estates & Antiques  
Bought & Sold**  
Robert Louder  
413-746-9341  
[dogman102@comcast.net](mailto:dogman102@comcast.net)

~



79 Bowdoin Street

### 2020 Preservation Award Recipients

- The Donald Courtemanche Award for Restoration goes to Listen Lynda LLC for the adaptive reuse of the historic Masonic Temple at 339 State Street
- City of Springfield for the restoration of the front stairs and decorative cornice of the Springfield Central Library at 220 State Street
- DevelopSpringfield for the restoration of the Trinity Block at 276 Bridge Street
- Icarian Real Estate Advisors for restoration of 120 Mill Street
- Caron Management for stabilization of 116-120 Longhill Street
- Jesse Lederman & Emila Ponikiewski for restoration of the front porch at 129 Spruceland Avenue
- Marianne Winters & Karan Parkin for restoration and preservation of 56 Harvard Street
- Derrick and Lillian Hill for appropriate new construction of a garage at 111 Florida Street
- The Edward Sims Award for Stewardship goes to Sarah Murray & John Toms for 79 Bowdoin Street
- The Robert Holbrook Award for Stewardship goes to James & the late Cynthia Landers for 270 Springfield Street
- The George Pooler Award for Stewardship goes to Mary Ann & the late Francis Maloney for 320 Forest Park Avenue



129 Spruceland Street

## 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

## HISTORIC PLACES OF SPRINGFIELD

### SPRINGFIELD MASONIC TEMPLE - 339 STATE STREET

*Article courtesy of Lost New England*

The first Masonic organization in Springfield was the Hampden Lodge, which was established in 1817. It originally met at the Hampden Coffee House on Court Square, and throughout most of the 19th century Springfield's Freemasons met in a succession of rented spaces in downtown. However, in 1893 they moved into a building of their own, which still stands at the corner of Main and State Streets. This was used for the first few decades of the 20th century, but by the early 1920s the Freemasons were looking to construct a new building, located on this site further up State Street, opposite the Armory.

The new Masonic Temple was designed by local architects Edward McClintock and Charles Craig, both of whom were Freemasons, and it featured a Classical Revival-style design with an exterior of Indiana limestone. The architects also borrowed from ancient Egyptian and Assyrian designs, which was done, according to a contemporary article in the Springfield Republican, in order to “symbolically link the mythology of the past to the reality of the present and represent the earliest beginnings of Freemasonry.” On the interior, it included lodge rooms on the first and second floors, and the third floor consisted of a large auditorium that could seat up to 1,500 people.

Construction began in October 1923, and the cornerstone was laid on June 24, 1924. The building was completed by early 1926, with the formal dedication on February 16. The ceremony was attended by a variety of state and local Masonic leaders, including Frank L. Simpson, the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. After the ceremony, over 500 people gathered in the basement for a banquet, before moving upstairs to the auditorium for speeches by Simpson and other Masonic dignitaries.

The building was used by the Freemasons for far longer than any of their previous locations in Springfield, but they ultimately sold the building in 2007, amid high maintenance costs and declining membership. It was sold to a church organization and renamed the Basilica of the Holy Apostles, but the new owners faced similar financial challenges in trying to maintain and improve the building, so it was sold again just a few years later. Since then, it has undergone a major renovation to convert it into the new home of the Springfield Conservatory of the Arts School. This work was completed last year, with the school opening here in the fall of 2019.

### SPT EVENTS

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the SPT Board has decided not to hold any in-person events until at least the new year, including canceling this year's Cemetery Tour. SPT has also suspended publication of the 2021 edition of our City of Homes Calendar, but hopes to publish a 2022 edition next year.

We hope you are staying healthy and safe in these unusual times.



*Springfield Masonic Temple around 1938-1939.*

*Image from the SPT WPA Collection*



*Springfield Masonic Temple in 2019*

*Image courtesy of Lost New England*

## NATIONAL NEEDLE BUILDING UPDATE

The Springfield City Council approved the creation of the National Needle Building Local Historic District at its September 14 meeting. Enactment, however, came several days after the nine-month demolition delay expired, so the future of the 1880s Romanesque Revival Structure remains in doubt. The owner, who attended the remote meeting, said that he did not object to the designation and was looking for buyers who might want to reuse the building and access historic tax credits. In Springfield, similar historic places like Stockbridge Court and Silverbrick Lofts have been successfully converted from commercial and industrial uses into unique loft apartments. The Willys Overland Building on Chestnut Street is a recent example of this type of conversion.

## 2020 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION PROJECTS

The Springfield Community Preservation Committee has recommended 15 projects totaling \$1.5 million to the City Council. Included in the recommendations are seven projects affecting historic resources:

- \$250,000 for renovation of Elias Brookings School into affordable housing
- \$200,000 for establishment of a grant program in the McKnight Local Historic District
- \$165,587 for exterior restoration of the Smith Art Museum
- \$106,800 for exterior restoration of 51-52 Bay Street
- \$92,755 for exterior restoration of Kilroy House, 63 Chestnut Street
- \$33,600 for window and masonry repair at the School Street School, 57 School Street
- \$20,000 to study preservation needs for the Spanish-American War Monument.

All 25 applications can be seen on the Community Preservation page of [www.SpringfieldCityHall.com](http://www.SpringfieldCityHall.com)

## SPT HIRING A PART-TIME ADVOCACY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

SPT's Advocacy Consultant, Debbie Oppermann, has resigned to take a full-time job. Debbie focused on buildings on our Most Endangered and Watch Lists. She met with owners and city officials and attended Historical Commission meeting as needed. We will miss her talents but wish her well as she joins the staff at New England Public Media.

The board has decided to expand the responsibilities of the position to include community engagement, which will involve seeking sponsors and underwriters for various SPT events. A hiring committee has been working on reviewing resumes and conducting interviews.

Long-time board member Bob McCarroll provided the funds for this position through a Qualified Charitable Distribution.

## 2020 PRESERVATION AWARDS



*Masonic Temple*



*Central Library*



*120 Mill Street*



*111 Florida Street*



*270 Springfield Street*



*116-120 Longhill Street*



*276 Bridge Street*



*320 Forest Park Avenue*



*56 Harvard Street*

## 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)