

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
6:30PM

where
Mason Wright Retirement Community
74 Walnut Street, Springfield

NEWSLETTER CREDITS

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VISIT SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST ONLINE

www.springfieldpreservation.orgwww.facebook.com/preservespringfield

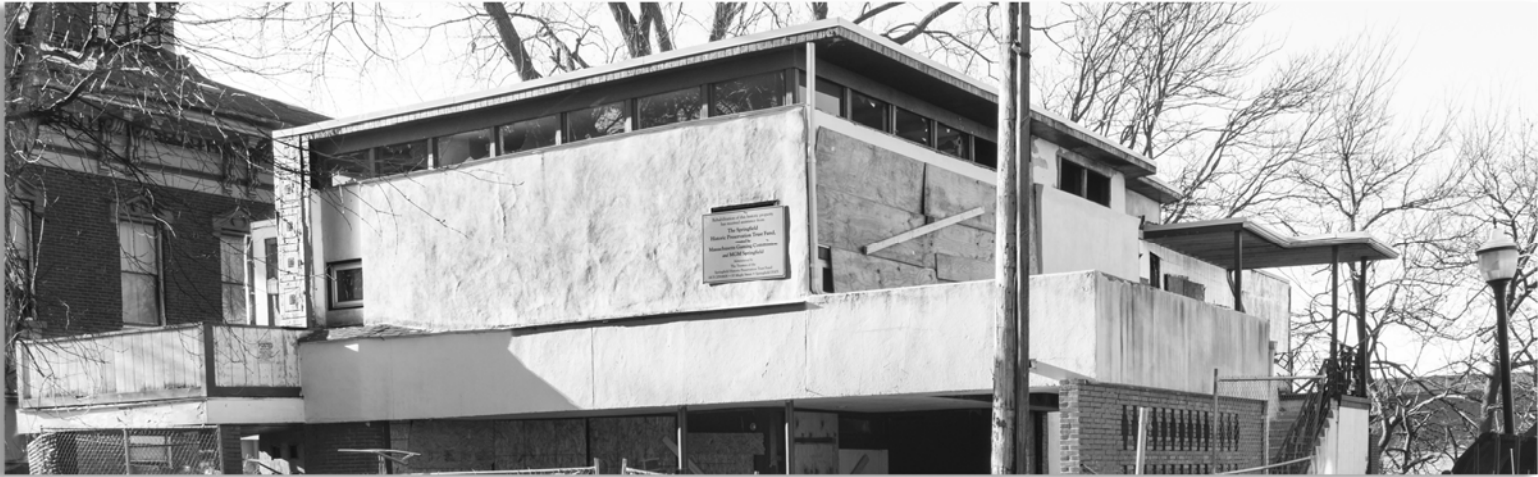
ABOUT THE SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST

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 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

SPRING 2020

image above is
Thurston Munson House
on this year’s
Most Endangered List

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2020 MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC RESOURCES

It’s an annual tradition, producing our List of Most Endangered Historic Resources. We cull our information from a city-wide review of historic properties to let you know which ones face imminent challenges and threats of being lost. Our list draws attention to the predicaments that endanger historic buildings, including the difficulties of raising adequate funding, neglect and deferred maintenance, and the need for creative adaptive reuses. It also serves to rally public opinion and attract new perspectives and ideas to sites in desperate need of creative solutions.



63 Mulberry Street



116 Mulberry Street

- The 12 properties on this year's list are:
- 116 Mulberry Street
 - Thurston Munson House at 60 Byers St.
 - 63 Mulberry Street & Carriage House
 - St. Luke’s Episcopal Church at 145 Bay St.
 - Gunn Block at 477 State St.
 - Oak Street Fire Station, Indian Orchard
 - Chapman & Brooks Block at 139 Lyman St.
 - National Needle Building at 55 Emery St.
 - MCDI Building at 140 Wilbraham Rd.
 - Underwood Building at 280 Worthington St.
 - Shean Block at 11208 Main St.
 - Wallace House at 201 Maple St.
 - David Ames Jr. House at 241 Maple St.

The Most Endangered List keeps you informed so that you can advocate for prioritizing historic preservation in city planning efforts and use preservation as a positive tool for revitalization. It may even prompt you to consider redeveloping one of these properties yourself!

Let’s face it, Springfield’s got character -plenty of it. And it’s due in large part to the city’s irreplaceable historic resources. They’re key to neighborhood livability and quality of life, tangible remnants of our past that allow us to experience our history. They make our city unique. For more information on this year’s list visit springfieldpreservation.org.

SUPPORTERS

- Stephen Bosworth &
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Donna & Doug Dreyer
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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](http://springfieldpreservation.org/membership)

HISTORIC PLACES OF SPRINGFIELD
MYRTLE STREET SCHOOL - 64 MYRTLE STREET

Article courtesy of Lost New England

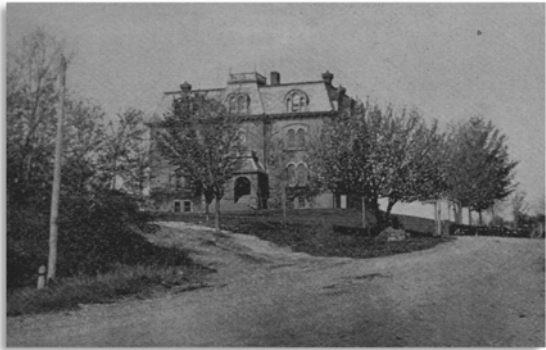
In the aftermath of the Civil War, Springfield saw a significant population growth, fueled in large part by the Armory and other wartime industries in the city. With this growth came a dramatic overhaul of the city’s school system, led by school committee member Josiah Hooker. These reforms included a new high school building, along with six new grammar schools. All of these new schools were located in or near the downtown area, with the sole exception of the Indian Orchard school, at the corner of Worcester and Myrtle Streets, which opened in 1868.

The original school building featured a Second Empire-style design, which was the work of Springfield architect James M. Currier. He designed three other schools in Springfield, but probably his most notable commission involved designing a house for his brother in Ottawa, Canada. Although heavily altered over the years, this house is still standing today, and it serves as the official residence of the Prime Minister of Canada.

Like the Prime Minister’s residence, though, the Indian Orchard school has also been extensively modified over the years. By the turn of the 20th century this building had become too small for the growing population of the village. As a result, in 1904 a large wing was built on the west side of the original building, facing Myrtle Street.

This Classical Revival-style addition was designed by local architect Eugene C. Gardner, and it featured eight new classrooms. However, within a decade there was again need for more space, and in 1914 Gardner was hired to design a matching, nearly symmetrical wing on the south side of the building. Located on the left side of the 1904 addition, just out of view from this angle, the new wing doubled the size of the building. It was completed in 1915, and included eight more classrooms, plus a lunchroom, gymnasium, and an auditorium that could seat nearly 700 people.

The school, which became known as the Myrtle Street School after the additions, remained in use until the early 1980s. Like several other historic Springfield school buildings, it has since been converted into condominiums, and is still standing with few significant exterior changes. Even the original 1868 section is still there, and it now stands as the oldest existing school building in the city, as well as the only one of the original six grammar schools that is still standing.



Myrtle Street School, around 1892.
Image from Picturesque Hampden (1892)



Myrtle Street School in 2017
Image courtesy of Lost New England

2020 ANNUAL MEETING

This year’s Meeting was held at The Drama Studio, 41 Oakland Street, on Sunday, March 1st. Steven Hays, of the Drama Studio, gave a presentation about the history of The Drama Studio, including its time as a tenant of the Episcopal Church and its time since purchasing the building in 2018, and plans for the building’s future.

President, Derek Strahan, made a brief presentation of the events and activities of SPT during the previous year and shared information on upcoming events. He also reviewed preservation achievements that have been made over the past several years. Debbie Oppermann presented the 2020 Most Endangered List and Bob McCarroll gave an update on the Community Preservation Act. The membership also elected the following to the SPT Board of Directors:

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| • Derek Strahan, <i>President</i> | • John Bellows | • Melvin A. Edwards | • Robert Lauder |
| • JoAnne Cardell, <i>Vice President</i> | • Jim Boone | • Roberta Kilkenny | • Bob McCarroll |
| • Marilyn Sutin, <i>Treasurer</i> | • Stephen Davis | • Jesse Lederman | • Bryan McFarland |
| • Mike Stevens, <i>Secretary</i> | | | |

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION

The Community Preservation Committee has begun the 2020 funding process. More than 20 projects were submitted for consideration by the April 29 deadline. The CPC will now meet with each applicant, deliberate, and send its recommendations for funding to City Council. There is an estimated \$1,700,000 to aware this year. Applications involving historic resources are:

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Former Brookings School - adaptive reuse for housing | • Former School Street School - window rehabilitation |
| • Memorial Square Spanish American War statue preservation work | • Kilroy House (Museums administrative building) exterior rehabilitation |
| • George Walter Vincent Smith Art Museum window rehabilitation | • Former Classical High School window rehabilitation & masonry work |
| • Rehabilitation of houses on Mulberry Street by the Springfield Community Land Trust | • McKnight Revolving Loan Fund by the McKnight Community Development Corporation |
| • McKnight Housing Rehab Program by the Office of Planning & Economic Development | • McKnight Streetscape Improvements by McKnight District Improvement Association |

EVENTS

SPT SPRING EVENTS POSTPONED

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the SPT Board has decided to postpone the annual Spring House Tour and Preservation Award Ceremony. We hope to be able to reschedule these events in the fall and will make announcements on those events in future communications. We are currently keeping the Second Saturday Walking Tours on the schedule but will cancel them if necessary closer to the tour date (see article below). We hope you are staying healthy and safe in these unusual times.

2020 SECOND SATURDAY WALKING TOURS

This year, SPT is introducing some changes to the Second Saturday Walking Tours, including:

- Some tours will be held in historic neighborhoods outside of Downtown
- The tour season has been condensed from eight tours to six tours

Unless otherwise provided in the tour description, tours will begin at the Springfield Museums Welcome Center, 21 Edwards St. on the Second Saturday of the month, May thru October. Tours are rain or shine and start at 10:30 am and end around noon and are free for SPT and Springfield Museums members; \$5 for nonmembers.

The circumstances of this year have forced us to cancel the May tour. While we hope to still hold the remaining five tours, additional tours may be canceled, so please always refer to the most recent communication for any tour changes or cancellations. We will provide updates via email if changes are made.

2020 Second Saturday Walking Tour Schedule:

- June 13 - Betsy Johnson, “Springfield Street Patterns - A Historical Look at Whether for People or Cars”
- July 11 - Derek Strahan, “Historic Buildings of Indian Orchard” (*to depart from the Indian Orchard Library, 44 Oak St. IO*)
- August 8 - Ben Murphy, “History and Architecture of the Atwater Park Neighborhood” (*to depart from park at Springfield & Cunningham Streets*)
- September 12 - Bill Devlin “Tracking-down the railroads of old, in Springfield”
- October 10 - Bob McCarroll, “Early 19th Century Houses”

