

### 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
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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  
6:00PM

**where**

Virtually through Zoom. Please email [info@springfieldpreservation.org](mailto:info@springfieldpreservation.org) for a link.

### NEWSLETTER CREDITS

**Newsletter contributors:**

- Kira Holmes
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- Kira Holmes
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### 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 businesses.

For nearly 52 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 NEWSLETTER

### SPRING 2024

*image above is from our 2024 Annual Meeting*

### SUPPORTERS

ChooseSpringfieldMass.com

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*Kimball Towers Condominium*

### ANNUAL MEETING

The SPT held its annual meeting at Kimball Towers Condominiums on March 3rd. SPT announced the 2024 Most Endangered Historic Resources List, elected this year's board and officers.

Elected this year was Erica Swallow, *President*, James "Sean" Johnson, *Executive Vice President*, Hope Lewis, *Treasurer*, Mike Stevens, *Secretary*, Robert McCarroll, *Officer-at-Large*, Katherine Anderson Benson, Jim Boone, Stephen Davis, Melvin A. Edwards, Nels Frye, Walter Kroll, Fred Lewis, Robert Louder, Tonya McFall, Bryan McFarland, Paul J. Meagher, Thomas O'Neil, Jennifer Rao, Derek Strahan, and Marilyn Sutin.

Bob McCarroll gave a Springfield Community Preservation Committee update, then Erica Swallow reviewed last year's work and looked ahead to this year's. The meeting ended with a guest speaker Catherine Ratte of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission discussing Springfield's Neighborhood Investment Plans. Below is 2024 the Most Endangered Historic Resource List.

Apremont Triangle and Surrounding Buildings Bridge, Chestnut, and Pearl Street

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 145 Bay Street Saint Luke's Episcopal Church  | 60 Byers Street Thurston Munson House     |
| 139-141 Lyman Street Chapman and Brooks Block | 477 State Street Gunn Block               |
| 241 Maple Street David Ames Jr. House         | 174-184 Maple Street Victorian Row Houses |
| 201 Maple Street Andrew Wallace House         | 225 Maple Street Lewis E. Tiff House      |
| 116 Mulberry Street                           | 63 Mulberry Street                        |
| 282-302 Worthington Street Underwood Building | 15 Hawley Street                          |



### 2025 CITY OF HOMES CALENDAR

SPT is planning its 2025 City of Homes Calendar. SPT needs your help to make it a success by sponsoring our Quadrangle-Mattoon Street Historic homes calendar. Our sponsorship levels are Oriel \$1,500 & up, Palladian \$1,001- \$1499, Gothic \$501- \$1,000, Bay \$101-\$500, and Gable \$100 donation (text-based name mention). Please contact Kira Holmes at [advocacy@springfieldpreservation.org](mailto:advocacy@springfieldpreservation.org) by June 10.

### STOCKBRIDGE STREET UPDATE

The environmental assessment is complete. No surprise, there is some asbestos which needs to be removed. Crack monitors have been installed to determine if the visible settlement continues or has stopped. Both studies have been paid for by a grant from the Springfield Historic Preservation Trust Fund, the casino mitigation money.



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## HISTORIC HOMES TOUR: QUADRANGLE-MATTOON STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

*Article by Derek Strahan*

The Springfield Preservation Trust's Historic Home Tour and social is back for 2024. It will take place in the Quadrangle–Mattoon Street Historic District. This is the oldest local historic district in Springfield, MA. The social this year will take place at Springfield Museums on June 2nd. Tickets will be on sale in April so keep checking our website and Facebook page for details. If you are interested in sponsoring your home to be on the tour or being a docent or greeter please contact [info@springfieldpreservation.org](mailto:info@springfieldpreservation.org).

### HISTORY OF THE HOME AND ITS ORIGINAL OWNERS

These two adjoining houses at 50 (left) and 52 (right) Mattoon Street in Springfield were built around 1872-1873, and they were among the first of the Victorian-era townhouses to be built here on Mattoon Street. These early houses tend to have the finest architecture, as the Panic of 1873 – and subsequent economic recession – curtailed development on the street and led to less expensive, less ornate houses during the later 1870s.

The house in the foreground, at 52 Mattoon Street, was originally the home of furniture dealer Julius A. Eldridge and his wife Catherine. However, they were evidently not here for very long, because by 1880 it was owned by Henry W. Chapin, a patent solicitor of the firm of Chapin & Co. That year's census shows him living here with his wife Sarah, along with three daughters and a son, William, who worked for his father's company. The census also indicates that their neighbor at 50 Mattoon Street was Charles P. Lyman, a veterinary surgeon who lived here with his wife Mary, three young children, and two servants.



*Photo Courtesy of WPA*

The large townhouses on Mattoon Street had been built as single-family homes, and were generally used as such for the first few decades. However, this began to change by the turn of the 20th century, as the street became more middle class. Both 50 and 52 Mattoon were still single-family homes at this point, but many of the neighboring ones had already been converted into rooming houses. The 1900 census shows Horace Eddy renting 52 Mattoon, where he lived with his wife Martha, their son Arthur, and Arthur's wife Florence and son Lawrence. Their neighbor at 50 Mattoon was Thomas Keating, an Irish-born machinist for Gilbert & Barker, and he lived here with his wife Margaret and their three children.

By the time the photo was taken in the late 1930s, many of the houses on the street had become rooming houses, including both of these properties. The 1940 census shows that 52 Mattoon was rented by Alice LeBlanc, who in turn rented rooms to 11 lodgers here. At the same time, 50 Mattoon was owned by Lester Hammond, a city policeman whose wife Fannie was listed as a rooming house proprietor. There were only two lodgers staying here during the census, although they likely would have had room for many more, as indicated by the number of people living next door.

The Trust looks forward to hosting its annual Historic Homes Tour in the Quadrangle-Mattoon Street Historic District. To finish reading this article and learn more about Springfield please visit <https://lostnewengland.com/2019/09/50-52-mattoon-street-springfield-mass-2/>.

### UPDATES TO SPT WEBSITE

Due to the efforts of several board members our WPA section of our website has been updated. Alden Street, Andrew Street, Bartlett Street, Birnie Avenue, Bond Street, Bradford Street, Brightwood Avenue, Burr Street, Catherine Street, Centre Street, Indian Orchard, Chapin Terrace, Charter Avenue, Colton Street, Congress Street, Cooley Street, Dwight Road, Edgewood Street, Essex Street, Everett Street, Extract Place, Florence Street, Genesee Street, Goodwin Street, Greene Street, Greenwood Street, Hawley Street, Hayden Avenue, Edendale Street, Island Pond Road, Ivy Court, John Street, Kibbe Avenue, King Street, Lebanon Street, Ledyard Street, Linden Street, Manhattan Street, Marshall Street, Mayfair Avenue, Miller Street, Monroe Street, Nursery Street, Oak Grove Avenue, Oak Street, Parker Street, Pasco Road, Patton Street, Pendleton Avenue, Pleasant Street, Plymouth Street, Queen Street, Quincy Street, Sackett Place, Sargeant Street, Searle Place, Seventh Street, Stafford Street, Summit Street, Tenth Street, Terrence Street, Tyler Street, Underwood Street, Vermont Street, Vine Street, Warwick Avenue, Wason Avenue, Wilbraham Avenue, Winchester Street, and Wolcott Street. Check out our website today! <https://springfieldpreservation.org/wpa/>. Can you find your home?



*Photo Courtesy of Bellows Family*

John was an active preservationist, Jim says: "John loved old houses and lived in wonderful ones on Florida St, Riverview St, Washington Rd, and Bonnyview St in Springfield and Forest Glen Rd, Lincoln St, and Longmeadow St in Longmeadow."

Bill Malloy, current member and former board member from 1978 to 2002, recalls that John saw the days in the 1970s when the Trust held board meetings at 7-9 Stockbridge Street—which the Trust now owns and is rehabilitating—when the building was under the ownership of architect Peter Zorzi. We know that John's spirit will live on at Stockbridge as we make the Trust's new home there.

"John supported all the activities of the Trust," Bill adds. "His positive energy and delightful personality was appreciated by all those that became close friends."

As we send John's spirit to rest, we leave our membership with the final words of John's December 24, 2022 letter to the Board to decline reinstatement as a Board Director: "It has been a great privilege to have been involved with the Trust from its early days to the present time. What a journey it has been. The Trust has matured from a little known group of a few concerned Springfield residents to a well run organization; recognized by many and greatly effective in shaping city policy and opinions towards preservation."

### SAVE THE DATE

Opening Night: Saturday, TBD, 2024. The Springfield Preservation Trust is pleased to announce a photographic exhibit in collaboration with David Maynard of the Artist Café, 1365 Main St. Springfield. David's vision is to promote community awareness by showcasing local artists, poets, and musicians. What better way than to have an exhibit that focuses on one of our oldest historic neighborhoods.

This historic photographic exhibit will focus on the McKnight Historic District. Included are photographic images from the McKnight 2023 calendar, images from the 1939 WPA project, and interesting historical information on early McKnight residents.

More information will be available on our website and FB page as we get closer to the date.



*Photo Courtesy of SPT*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### VALENTINE MANSION & THE AMES HILL/CRESCENT HILL

#### HISTORIC DISTRICT

Join local historian Derek Strahan on a walking tour of the Ames Hill/Crescent Hill Historic District. The tour will focus on the mansions lining Maple Street, Pine Street, and Crescent Hill and will start with a tour of Valentine Mansion. The tour will begin at 10:30 a.m. on May 11th at the Valentine Mansion 270 Maple Street. This is one of the Second Saturday Walking Tours for the season.



*Photo Courtesy of Derek Strahan*



*Photo Courtesy of Erica Swallow*



*Photo Courtesy of Derek Strahan*

### 2024 PRESERVATION AWARDS

On May 14, attend the SPT Preservation Awards. It will be held at 7 p.m. at Loophole Brewing, 51-59 Taylor Street, with a cash bar. These preservation awards honor individuals or companies that restore appropriately or maintains historic buildings. Please email [info@springfieldpreservation.org](mailto:info@springfieldpreservation.org) to reserve your spot by May 7.

### HISTORIC HOMES TOUR-QUADRANGLE-MATTOON DISTRICT

On June 2, explore the Historic Homes Tour of the Quadrangle-Mattoon Historic District from 1-4 p.m. Then attend our post-tour social at Springfield Museums. Tickets will become available in April please check our website and social media for information.

## 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](https://springfieldpreservation.org/membership)