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If you know a skilled craftsman that you would recommend, please let us know.

Please include:

- ~Name of Contractor
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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

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

NEWSLETTER CREDITS

Newsletter contributors:

- Kira Holmes
- Bob McCarroll
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Photography:

- Dr. Kate Benson
- Springfield Museums
- Turnkey Media
- Erica Swallow



SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST NEWSLETTER

VISIT SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST ONLINE

www.springfieldpreservation.org www.facebook.com/preservespringfield Instagram: springfieldpreservation

ABOUT THE SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST

The mission of the Springfield Preservation Trust is to preserve, protect, and promote properties in Springfield 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



FALL 2025

images above are
Future Victorian Wonderland
Fundraiser at 220 Maple St.

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UPDATE STEARNS SQUARE BENCH



Photo Courtesy Erica Swallow, 2024

Councilor Zaida Govan brought a resolution before City Council on November 18 to request from City the Parks Department a plan for the return of the historic Stearns Square granite bench. At public speakout, representatives from SPT, Metro Center Neighborhood Council, and the Kimball Towers Condominium Board spoke in support of the resolution. Despite all speaking City Councilors seeming to be in support of the bench's return, the consensus was that a resolution was not the right instrument. The resolution failed. Instead, the matter was referred to the Maintenance & Development Subcommittee, chaired by Malo Brown, with the expectation that the committee would see the issue through to a plan from the Parks Department for the bench's return.

MassLive's Jeanette DeForge authored an article on this meeting. 2024

2024 VOICES OF THE GRAVE: CEMETERY TOUR



Photo Courtesy Turnkey Meddia, 2024

SPT's annual "Voices from the Grave" cemetery tour, a significant event that brought to light important figures in Springfield history, took place on October 20.

This year, attendees had a unique opportunity to explore six influential figures in Springfield's history. The tour highlighted residents including Civil War nurse Anne Sophia(Clapp) Merrick; a dry goods store porter and free Black man Eli Baptiste; printer & game pioneer Milton Bradley; soldier and carpenter John Howell; hotel operator Marvin Chapin; and railroad executive and soldier James Barnes and his wife Elizabeth Sanford Barnes.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our sponsors, whose generous support made this event possible: Springfield Cemetery & Crematory, Turnkey Media, Turnberg & Swallow Team/ Coldwell Banker, Crystal Miller Photography, and Focus Springfield.

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[springfieldpreservation.org/
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A VICTORIAN WINTER WONDERLAND

– 2025 WINTER FUNDRAISER

Article by Erica Swallow and Kira Holmes

SPT's 2025 Winter Fundraiser—with the theme “A Victorian Winter Wonderland”—will be held at the Loomis-Wesson Mansion, a stately High Victorian Gothic style home at 220 Maple Street with a rich historical significance, courtesy of homeowner and host Angelene Huang.



Photo Courtesy of Works Progress Administration, 1939

Enter the mansion and travel back in time to the Victorian period. Victorian-inspired attire is encouraged but optional—think brightly colored waistcoats, vests, puff ties on the masculine side, or long skirts, bonnets, and shawls on the feminine side—like a Charles Dickens novel!

The event, taking place on January 26, 2025, at 1:00 pm, will be an exciting afternoon featuring music, hors d'oeuvres, wine, beverages, a silent

auction, a 50/50 raffle, and a historic home tour of the mansion. Buy Tickets through Eventbrite for \$50 for members and \$60 for non-members.

HISTORY:

Since the 1880s, Springfield has been known as the “City of Homes,” and features hundreds of historic late 19th and early 20th century houses with a variety of architectural styles. Despite this, though, very few of these were designed by nationally-recognized architects. One of the exceptions was this house on Maple Street, which was designed by the Boston firm of Ware & Van Brunt. Their works were primarily Gothic in style, and the two men had previously designed

Harvard's Memorial Hall, which is considered one of the finest examples of High Victorian Gothic architecture in the country.

While Memorial Hall was still under construction in Cambridge, Ware & Van Brunt was hired by Frances Loomis to design a house for her on Maple Street, near the top of the hill that overlooks downtown Springfield and the Connecticut River. The actual construction was done by Chauncey Shepard, an architect and builder who, nearly a half century earlier, had designed and built the nearby David Ames, Jr. House. Shepard built the Loomis house from 1873 to 1874, at a cost of \$25,000, and he died the following year, at the age of 78. To learn more historic details please go to this Lost New England article link lostnewengland.com/2017/04/loomis-house-springfield-mass.

7-9 STOCKBRIDGE UPDATE

Architect Steve Jablonski has drawn specifications for a new roof, and we will be seeking prices from companies to do this work. Masonry repairs to the facade will also take. These activities will be funded by the Community Preservation Act grant awarded last year

SPT NEWS

The SPT is thrilled to announce the success of its Giving Tuesday campaign, which raised \$800, well above our \$500 goal. Thanks to all who generously donated and shared our posts on Facebook, making this achievement possible.

The SPT City of Homes 2025 calendar, featuring the picturesque Mattoon Street, is now available for purchase. Hurry, this is your final opportunity to own this unique calendar. springfieldpreservation.org/2025-calendar

We can't contain our excitement as we announce the return of the Second Saturday Walking Tour series. Get ready for fascinating historical topics and delightful walking opportunities. Keep an eye on our website, Facebook, Instagram, and Eventbrite for these events and more as the year unfolds.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE UNDER REVIEW BY SPRINGFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION

By Erica Swallow

The City of Springfield has hired national zoning consulting firm ZoneCo to assist in reviewing and making recommendations for Springfield's historic preservation ordinances. The effort, led by the Springfield Historical Commission in partnership with ZoneCo Lead Principal Sean Suder, seeks to bring the city's preservation ordinances, procedures, and planning more in line with best practices.

In a presentation to the Commission on November 14, 2024, Suder presented eight recommendations relating to Springfield's Historic District (§ 49) and Historic Preservation (§ 218) ordinances. Recommendations included language and organizational recommendations, as well as more specific or updated guidelines for application procedures, minimum maintenance and repair of historic properties, and historic district criteria. Suder also recommended the City hire a dedicated full-time preservation planner to process and review applications, write detailed reports, serve as the Commission secretary, and interface on all issues of historic preservation.

The Trust was in attendance to the meeting and the Board of Directors submitted its recommendations for Commission consideration the following week.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Photo Courtesy of Derek Strahan, 2024

DECIPHERING SPRINGFIELD CEMETERY'S OLDEST GRAVESTONES

Join local historian Derek Strahan via virtual lecture on January 9th at 7:00 pm as he explores some of the highlights from the old section of Springfield Cemetery. The lecture will be streamed on the Springfield Preservation Trust Facebook in partnership with Springfield Museums.



Image Courtesy of Springfield Museums

SPT MEMBERSHIP WEEKEND AT SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS

This year, Springfield Museums is offering an "SPT Weekend" on January 11-12. Members can visit all five Museums, including the Wood Museum of Springfield History, which currently displays the Springfield Preservation Trust's 2024 Preservation Awards exhibit.

OVER 50 YEARS OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN SPRINGFIELD

Join Co-Advocacy Chair James Boone via virtual lecture on February 13th at 7:00 pm as he explores over 50 years of SPT historic preservation efforts. The lecture will be streamed on the Springfield Preservation Trust Facebook and is in partnership with Springfield Museums.

SPRINGFIELD'S LITERARY LEGACY

Join Dr. Kate Benson for a virtual lecture on March 13th at 7:00 pm as she explores Springfield's literary legacy through its famous authors and literary landmarks. The lecture will be streamed on the Springfield



Photo Courtesy of SPT, 2024



Photo Courtesy of Dr.. Kate Benson