



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 5, 2014

Jointly Issued by  
DevelopSpringfield &  
Springfield Preservation Trust

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**SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST ANNOUNCES SALE OF  
77 MAPLE STREET TO DEVELOPSPRINGFIELD**

(SPRINGFIELD, MA) The Springfield Preservation Trust (SPT) announces the sale of 77 Maple Street to DevelopSpringfield for \$35,000. The property, built in 1832 as the Springfield Female Seminary, had fallen into a state of disrepair and near collapse in 2009 when the Trust intervened to save the property from demolition.

“Today’s sale represents the completion of the Trust’s important preservation work and the transfer of the property to a responsible owner who is doing great things next door at 83 Maple Street,” said Don Courtemanche, President of the Springfield Preservation Trust. “We believe having these properties together under single ownership will ultimately be in both properties best interests in terms of preservation and marketability.”

“We are thrilled to add this wonderful property to our portfolio,” said Jay Minkarah, President and CEO of DevelopSpringfield. “It makes so much sense for us to include the rehabilitation of this building in our plans for rehabilitation of the Ansel Phelps House at 83 Maple Street.”

Since purchasing the property, SPT has made significant structural repairs including the critical rebuilding of a collapsed wall as well as foundation repairs, roof and trim repairs, and the repair and restoration of 24 of the buildings large historic windows. The project has been the beneficiary of a great deal of public support including contributions from the City of Springfield CDBG Program, Massachusetts Historical Commission, the 1776 Foundation, MassMutual Financial, the Hampden Bank Foundation, Bob McCarroll, and a vast number of SPT members and friends through year round SPT special events.

“We are an all-volunteer organization and could not have saved this building without the support of the community and funders,” said Courtemanche. “This truly was a community effort and we’re thrilled to now be passing along this important building to a new owner that we have great confidence in breathing new life into this now structurally stable building.”



One of only 25 known buildings still standing in Springfield that pre-date 1835, 77 Maple Street is the city's oldest extant school building and the place where Sarah Porter (of Miss Porter's School) started her teaching career.

“Springfield Preservation Trust has made terrific progress in stabilizing the structure and preparing it for the next stage of rehabilitation,” said Minkarah. “We are ready to begin redeveloping the property as part of a truly unique professional office park. The rehabilitation of these historic homes as professional offices will provide exceptional quality space for those who appreciate history and architecture in a highly visible location within walking distance of the downtown core.”

In addition to the Ansel Phelps at 83 Maple Street, DevelopSpringfield also owns a former carriage house and row of garages on an abutting parcel and an adjacent vacant lot that will provide parking, access and green space to support both buildings

For information on leasing opportunities, please contact Jay Minkarah, DevelopSpringfield President and CEO, at (413) 209-8808 or by email at [jminkarah@developspringfield.com](mailto:jminkarah@developspringfield.com).

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### ***About Springfield Preservation Trust***

The mission of the Springfield Preservation Trust is to preserve and protect properties in Springfield which have architectural, historic, educational, or general cultural significance for public edification and enjoyment. As the only non-profit/non-government advocate group for historic preservation in Springfield, the Springfield Preservation Trust will continue to be the voice of preservation into the future.

### ***About DevelopSpringfield***

*DevelopSpringfield was formed in 2008 as a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) corporation to advance development and redevelopment projects, to stimulate and support economic growth, and to expedite the revitalization process within the City of Springfield. The organization's board of directors includes representatives from the city, state, and local business community. The organization's mission is to help create conditions that encourage private development with a bricks-and-mortar focus and always with an eye toward understanding and meeting Springfield's unique and diverse redevelopment needs.*