

The South End Historical Society Newsletter

Fall 2015



Dick Card (left) with friends and neighbors David and Doe Sprogis at the 2006 South End Historical Society Ball.

Remembering Richard Card

By Stacen Goldman

The SEHS lost two of its founding members this year. Richard Card and Doe Sprogis were both integral members of our organization for over 40 years and their impact on the South End cannot be overstated. Their passing is a great loss to us as an organization and we will use this newsletter and the next to remember their impact on the neighborhood. We will start by honoring Dick Card, our founding President and long-time Historian, and we will dedicate our next newsletter to Doe Sprogis's memory. Our hearts and thoughts go

Richard Card and Doe Sprogis were both integral members of our organization for over 40 years and their impact on the South End cannot be overstated.

out to the families and friends who were affected by the deaths of these two wonderful people.

A native of Maine, Richard Card (known to us at the SEHS as Dick) was born in Bath in 1932. He lived in Maine for his entire early life, moving to Boston to pursue graduate school. After his graduate studies, Dick settled in the city permanently. He worked for The First National Bank of Boston, where he would stay for 33 years, first as project director in Systems

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South End House Tour
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The SEHS newsletter is a benefit of membership in the Society; a nonprofit organization dedicated to recognizing, preserving and recording the historical buildings, monuments, parks and artifacts of Boston's South End and through advocacy, documentation and education to preserve them for future generations.

Individual membership is \$25 per year, Family/Dual memberships are \$40, and opportunities to support the Society at the Supporting (\$100), Patron (\$150) and Benefactor (\$250) levels are also available.

The opinions expressed by the contributors to the newsletter are not necessarily those of the SEHS. Ideas for stories and manuscripts are welcome. Unsolicited manuscripts submitted for possible publication and not used will be returned if they are accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Those interested in reprinting articles must obtain written permission from the editor.

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Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

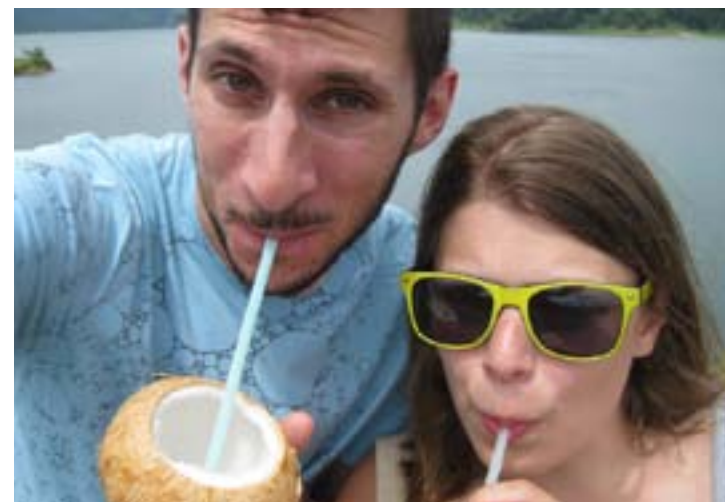
Every season in the South End has its own special charm, but Autumn is my personal favorite. The crisp fall air is perfect for enjoying a pastry and hot beverage in any of our neighborhood's wonderful cafes, and the brightly turning leaves lend a festive air to the South End's many well-treed parks. The fall is also the season of our major fundraiser: The South End House Tour, which is coming up in just a few short weeks. We've been working hard on this year's tour, which is promising to be our most exciting yet, and I am very excited to share it with all of you!

I am also excited to announce that my husband, Evan, and I are expecting our first child in early December. I will be taking a short leave while we get to know the newest addition to our family (and the Historical Society's youngest member!) and will be returning to the SEHS in early March. In the meantime, our dedicated Board of Directors will keep the organization running with the help of a temporary Administrator. You can, as always, direct all inquiries to admin@southendhistoricalsociety.org or call us at 617-536-4445.

On a more somber note, this year the South End Historical Society has lost two of its oldest and most dedicated members, Richard Card (Dick, to us at the SEHS) and Doe Sprogis. We are dedicating this and the next newsletter to their memories. This newsletter is focused on Dick's impact on the neighborhood; he was the Historical Society's founding President and long-time official Historian. Our next newsletter will focus on Doe, another founding member of the SEHS and, along with Dick, the original signer on our Articles of Incorporation. We are profoundly sad over the loss of these two wonderful people and hope that you will join us in celebrating their memories and their dedication to the neighborhood they both loved dearly. Though they are gone, we know their legacies will live on for a long time.



Stacen Goldman,
Executive Director



SEHS Executive Director Stacen Goldman and her husband Evan on vacation in Costa Rica in 2014.

(continued from page 1)

Development, and later as Vice President in Management Information Systems. It was during this period of his life that Dick moved into the South End, purchasing a row house at 183 West Brookline Street in the mid-1960s.

A lover of the Victorian Era, Dick restored the original interior features in his new home, doing much of the work himself and decorating entirely in Victorian style. An admirer of the South End's Victorian architecture, Dick, along with many of his neighbors, recognized that aggressive urban renewal endangered the neighborhood's unique built environment. In response, he organized a group of concerned neighbors to advocate for the protection and preservation of these buildings. In February of 1966, that group organized as the South End Historical Society and elected Dick its first President.

Those first years under Dick's leadership were defining for the South End Historical Society. It was during that time that the organization would launch its very first South End House Tour, which still continues to this day. Under his direction, the board also took up the cause of saving the historic Allen House, an effort that would continue for 30 years until the property was successfully restored in the 1990s. Dick felt that it was important that the SEHS also establish itself as an education organization during this time, so he advocated for the publication of booklets and newsletters for circulation in the neighborhood while hosting lectures by a number of historians and architects for its growing membership. After serving two terms as President, Dick would move into the position of board Historian, which he would continue to occupy for decades.

That he should take on such a position was completely appropriate. By all accounts, Dick's knowledge of South End history was unparalleled. Hope Shannon, former Executive Director of the SEHS and my direct predecessor, credited Dick with a great deal of her knowledge of the neighborhood. "The research he did as the SEHS historian laid the foundation for my knowledge about the 19th- and early-20th century South End, as well as the SEHS' early history," she continued, "what I couldn't find in Dick's notes I learned talking to him in long conversations about

anything from architecture and urban planning to sidewalk horse tethers and long-shuttered factories." And Dick's knowledge was not just an enthusiast's collection of trivia and hearsay; he was a true scholar. Neighbor and SEHS Vice President Maryellen Hassell told me that whenever she wanted information, she always went to Dick first "because I knew that his information was always going to be exhaustively researched and factually correct."

This encyclopedic knowledge was in many ways fueled by his incredible eye for collecting. For years, his home on West Brookline Street was a repository for all things South End. He had photographs from all eras of the neighborhood's history, 150 year-old letters, historic maps, Victorian newspapers, in addition to an incredible collection of materials relating directly to the Historical Society's administration — all of which he mined for information and shared liberally with friends and neighbors. He once brought Maryellen and her husband Charlie a history of their house completely unprompted, "he was just thoughtful that way," she told me. He was so overflowing with information that the most basic things



Dick (left) with SEHS Member Ted Vasiliou at a South End Historical Society Annual Meeting, 2006

became little history lessons. "He loved to walk," Maryellen remembered, "often we would walk together, and walking with Dick was like getting a mini historical tour. Not just in the South End, but anywhere in the city. His knowledge

was that expansive.” More than once she would come back from her own outings curious about something she had seen and she would stop by Dick’s house, “I’d come back from a walk and ask him, ‘Dick, what’s the story behind this?’ and he’d just give you the whole story.”

Generous as he was with his knowledge, he was nonetheless careful with his collections, recognizing their importance to his own scholarship and to the neighborhood. Local writer Alison Barnet remembered, “He’d invite me over to his house where he’d find what I was looking for, usually leaving me downstairs while he went upstairs to get it. If I wanted to make a copy, he’d go with me to Mail Boxes, Inc. on the corner. When the day came that he let me take something to Mail Boxes by myself, I knew I’d made the grade.” Maryellen remembered that whenever you had a question, often he’d go upstairs and find the exact item that



Dick (left) with early SEHS Members Betty Gibson (center) and Susan Park (right) at a South End Historical Society fundraiser, ca. 1970

would give you the answer. Protective as he was, once earned, Dick’s trust was easy to keep. Alison told me, “He wasn’t at all happy but didn’t give up on me after I spilled wine on a Roxbury history he’d lent me.”

Dick was always there to offer support for other writers and history enthusiasts. Remembering the first time she met him, Hope Shannon noted, “I didn’t know it then, but Dick would become one of the core people that I relied on for advice and assistance during my four years at the SEHS.” Alison also emphasized his positive influence on her as a writer, “Once I showed him a draft of a History Press-type history I’d written, short objective passages that I thought he’d approve of, but all he said was, ‘Where are you in this?’ and I realized how important my voice is.”

Having read Dick’s writing, I can tell that this attitude was characteristic. In his own work, his wit and personality often shine through. He was a prolific writer and the driving force behind many of the Historical Society’s earliest newsletters. Every historical piece in the newsletters of the 60s and 70s is signed “R.O.C.” (for Richard O. Card). These often had clever titles such as “Sticking Our Neck Out” (about land-making in the South End), “God and the Devil on Warren Avenue” (about the infamous belfry murder at the Warren Avenue Baptist Church), or “Cinderella with a Past” (about the old Parker Memorial Meeting House). Every last piece is painstakingly researched and incredibly thorough, but in none of them is his voice lost. Dick also authored a regular history column called “The Early Years” in *The South End News*. Alison, who was a founder and editor of the paper during those years, told me, “He asked me not to edit and there was no reason to.”

Dick’s attention to detail and dedication to scholarship come as no surprise. Not only was he the Valedictorian of his High School, but he was a winner of the State of Maine Scholarship to Bowdoin College, where he would graduate magna cum laude in 1954. He would later go on to study Business Administration at the graduate level at Harvard Business School. He was clearly bright, hard-working, and curious. In many ways, his intellectual curiosity expanded beyond the reaches of his own mind. It was the fuel that

drove a multitude of neighbors, scholars, friends, and even the SEHS to their best potential.

Dick was also intensely community-oriented. He was involved with an astonishing number of neighborhood groups – his official obituary had a list 15 organizations deep. He served actively on the boards of organizations dedicated to building community, preserving architecture, teaching history, and supporting the arts. The list of titles he held is equally impressive: President, Chairman, Historian, Founder. It’s really no wonder he was chosen one of 350 “Grand Bostonians” at Boston’s Jubilee 350, in recognition of his contributions to his neighborhood.

He demonstrated this commitment to community in unofficial ways as well. He was often out in the neighborhood walking his dogs, running into friends along the way. He knew everyone and was always making connections between neighbors. Once he got to know you, Dick would never forget your name, your interests, or your birthday. He was always thoughtful, sending cards for birthdays and holidays, sharing gifts, and supporting local causes. As Maryellen told me, “he was always generous with his time, talent, and treasure.”

In fact, “generous” is the word that comes up the most when asking people about Dick. Hope Shannon told me

that he never shied away from a request, “[he] always made time for me and my questions.” Maryellen later echoed this, “I feel very blessed that he was in my life. He was a dear friend and neighbor, and he’d do anything for

“generous” is the word that comes up the most when asking people about Dick... he never shied away from a request...“I feel very blessed that he was in my life. He was a dear friend and neighbor, and he’d do anything for you.”

Thoughtful as he was, he never wanted to be a burden on others, making great efforts for his neighbors and never asking for anything in return.

For all his authority in the neighborhood, Dick always remained humble. He didn’t advertise his accomplishments or ask for praise. Though he painstakingly restored much of the interior of his home himself, he never let on to admirers how much work he put into it. When he manned the SEHS office for the annual South End House Tour in 2009, he spoke to nearly every person who passed through the door. Hope, who was with him at the office that day, told me, “I’ll never forget Dick sitting in the parlor, people surrounding him, answering visitor questions about neighborhood history and his role in the establishment of the SEHS. He was too

The South End in the MFA

Thank you to everyone who came out to our spring fundraiser, The South End in the MFA. Over 60 members came to the MFA for a cocktail reception and silent auction. Following the event, attendees were invited to tour the Museum’s galleries with our South End in the MFA guidebooks, which explores the history of the South End through the lens of the MFA’s fine and decorative arts collections.



Did you miss the fundraiser but still want to take our South End in the MFA self-guided tour? You’re in luck!

Guides are on sale in the SEHS offices for \$5. Purchase a guidebook and you can take the tour anytime you like – perfect for a weekend outing, date night, or entertaining guests!

modest to identify himself as the SEHS' founding president but I made sure people knew. The visitors were fascinated by what he had to say and were even more awed when they found out who he was."

Even in his later years, Dick remained young at heart. He had a wonderful sense of humor and he was never afraid to share it with his friends. Cards and gifts from Dick always included a humorous touch and he relished an ongoing prank war with his good friends and neighbors, Dave and Doe Sprogis. Over the years, Dick and the Sprogises would deck out each other's homes for the holidays with outlandishly ugly wreaths, pink flamingoes, and garish inflatable decorations. He also had an incredible sweet tooth.

His love for both pranks and sweets merged on his favorite holiday, Halloween, which was consequently also his birthday. On Halloween night, he always sat on his stoop with a bowl of candy at the ready for trick-or-treaters...

He saw dinner as a necessity, but dessert was a pleasure. When friends were visiting, he would often ask "would you like some ice

cream?" and open his freezer to reveal rows of ice cream cartons. His love for both pranks and sweets merged on his favorite holiday, Halloween, which was consequently also his birthday. On Halloween night, he always sat on his stoop with a bowl of candy at the ready for trick-or-treaters, making sure to have a few extras left over at the end of the night to satisfy his own sweet tooth.

Dick remained active at the SEHS very late in his life. Hope told me of that 2009 House Tour, "The day was memorable at the time but is even more memorable now because it ended up being the last time he represented the SEHS in an official capacity." He would remain involved tangentially for a few more years, keeping in regular touch with Hope in the SEHS office and spending time traveling between his South End row house and his ancestral home in Maine, but the trips (and the stairs in his 5-story row house) became difficult. Due to ailing health, Dick finally sold his South End home at the end of 2012 and returned to Maine, where he would live out the rest of his days. It was very painful for him to leave the South End behind, but in that time, it certainly has not forgotten him.

By the time I began working at the South End Historical Society, Dick had already moved back to Maine. Although I never knew him myself, I still feel his presence in the office every day. Many of the most interesting pieces in our collections were donated to us by Dick during his lifetime. Without him, I wouldn't have the historic maps I reference

...the historic maps... the incredible Everett Letters, which are (as far as I know) the only comprehensive account of life in the South End in the 1850s... walking tours and newsletter articles... A day doesn't go by that I don't feel extremely thankful for everything that he left us.

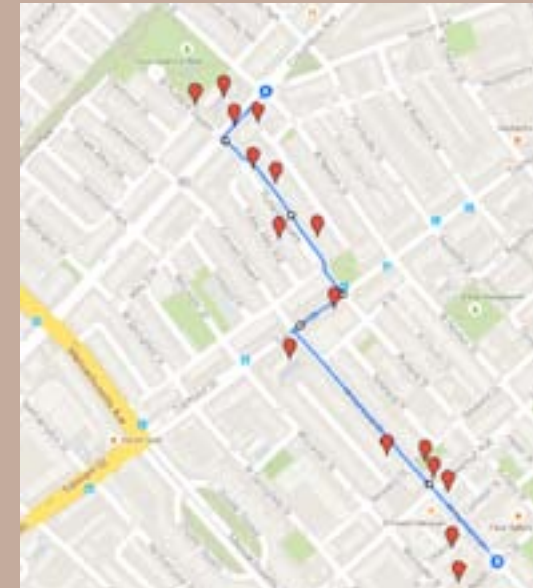
for all manner of research inquiries or the incredible Everett Letters, which are (as far as I know) the

only comprehensive account of life in the South End in the 1850s. Additionally, he left us with extensively researched walking tours and newsletter articles that served as my primers for all things South End when I started at the SEHS. His written pieces were invaluable to me in my earliest days and I still find them useful now when I need a quick refresher on a date, the history of a church, or just some useful context for my own research. A day doesn't go by that I don't feel extremely thankful for everything that he left us.

I now find myself in possession of a great deal more of his collections, generously donated to the Historical Society upon his death. I have begun to go through the boxes and opening each one is like discovering buried treasure. One box yields binders full of historic photographs, another folders full of original SEHS newsletters, while yet another has papers from the earliest years of the Boston Center for the Arts. I hope that as I go through these boxes, I might get to know Dick a little better, even though I never got the chance while he was alive.

Richard Card passed away on May 7, 2015 at Hillhouse Assisted Living in Bath, Maine. In his memory, we have reprinted a walking tour that Dick wrote, originally printed in a 1986 newsletter. ✂

WALKING TOUR



The following is a walking tour written by Richard O. Card, founding President and longtime Historian of the South End Historical Society. This tour was originally published in the March 1986 Newsletter of the South End Historical Society. It has been edited slightly for length. Content that is no longer accurate is noted in brackets. (all photos owned by the SEHS)

STARTING PLACE: This walk starts at the corner of Columbus Avenue and West Newton Street.

At the corner of Columbus Avenue and West Newton Street shall first proceed along Columbus Avenue towards Roxbury – away from downtown, in other words.

The most prominent feature of the Columbus Square intersection is surely the English country Gothic style church, built of Roxbury puddingstone in 1870 from the design of Alexander Estey (who was also the architect of the oldest section of Emmanuel Church, on Newbury Street). It was built for the Union Congregational Church, which dedicated the building in November of 1870, though the church's stone spire was not completed until 1875. (When you walk down Rutland Square, be sure to look back at the dramatic view of this spire.)



Union Congregational Church, later Union Methodist Church ca. 1900

In 1949 the remaining members of the Union Congregational Church joined Old South Church, on Copley Square, and their Columbus Avenue building was sold to the Fourth Methodist-Episcopal Church, a Black congregation previously on Shawmut Avenue. The latter group then changed its name to Union Methodist Church, and under this name continues to worship here today.

At number 202 West Newton Street, just behind the church, for many years was located the New England Home for Little Wanderers, an organization still providing for homeless children in its present location on the Jamaicaaway. [The Home for Little Wanderers' headquarters is now at 10 Guest Street, with additional locations throughout the Boston Metro area] Its former West Newton Street site is now occupied by Titus Sparrow Park.

Now proceed along Columbus Avenue past the ivy covered church to Rutland Square.

Number 480 Columbus Avenue was the home through the 1870's of Henry F. Miller, manufacturer of the once widely sold piano of the same name.

At number 488 Columbus Avenue there is a particularly elaborate set of front doors – a pleasant example of Victorian decorative exuberance.

Turn left onto Rutland Square. Here you will see one of the narrow South End street parks. Such parks follow the English plan of urban squares, rather than the French plan of broad avenues (which became the main influence in the Back Bay development). The houses on both sides of the Columbus Avenue end of Rutland Square have high front steps to the parlor level, with English basement below. Starting with number 23 and 24 (on the left and right respectively) the remaining houses to Tremont Street all have less formal main entrances close to street level.

At number 43 Rutland Square, Walbridge Field, Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Court lived for many years – continuing here well after the square had fallen from its original fashion. (His was a high stooped house from which the steps were lost in a later modification.)

Across the street, at number 28, for more than 35 years lived Louse Chandler Moulton and her husband William. He was a partner in the publishing firm of

Moulton and Lincoln, and later an editor of *The Youth's Companion*, while she was a world famous writer and poet. Although her fame has not survived the years, she wrote extensively and was in her own day a celebrity who enjoyed the friendship of much of the literary and artistic world. Louise Chandler Moulton lived on Rutland Square until her death in 1908, entertaining so many notables that her home itself achieved some notoriety as a literary salon.

As you stand in front of the Moulton House, it is probably a good time to look back at the spire of the Union Methodist Church, a spire which the Moultons would have watched going up. The perspective is a pleasing one.

Further along on the same side of the square, notice the stylized female heads over each entrance, from number 4 through number 24.



The Moulton House at 28 Rutland Square, 1972



A Rococo/Gothic Row House at 15 Rutland Square, 1972

On the left side of the square, numbers 7 through 23 are unique examples in the South End of a wedding of Rococo and Gothic styles. It would be difficult to call the archways over the front doors anything but Rococo – especially with the flower blooming in the center. Yet the groups of five narrow windows in each wooden bay are distinctly Gothic in feeling, and the half-timbered sort of decoration suggests Eastlake. [Charles Locke Eastlake was a British architect and furniture designer and one of the principal exponents of Modern Gothic style in the 19th Century] Perhaps we should just call it all Victorian eclecticism which happens to be pleasing to the eye.

... a safe found under the kitchen floor. In it were found scores of letters to Wilson from such notables as Frederick Douglass, Hannibal Hamlin, Henry Cabot Lodge, John Greenleaf Whittier, Wendell Phillips, Sarah Orne Jewett, and Edward Everett Hale, as well as a ticket to the 1888 Republican National Convention ...

On number 13 you will see a plaque put up by the Heritage Guild to honor Butler R. Wilson (1861-1939), a prominent Black attorney admitted to the Boston Bar in 1884 and president of the Boston Branch of the NAACP from 1916-1936. In the mid-60s, Arthur Ducharme, who then owned this house, cut open a safe found under the kitchen floor. In it were found scores of letters to Wilson from such notables as Frederick Douglass, Hannibal Hamlin, Henry Cabot Lodge, John Greenleaf Whittier, Wendell Phillips, Sarah Orne Jewett, and Edward Everett Hale, as well as a ticket to the 1888 Republican National Convention. This is the sort of bonanza of which many a history buff might dream.

At Tremont Street turn right and proceed to West Concord Street.

Only the end buildings remain of the block which once stood on your left, the others having been demolished to build the fire station. This row was once known as "Poet's Row," since each of the eight houses originally had a carved wooden head of a different poet over its portico. No trace of these wooden head remains, though you can see where one was attached.

At the corner turn left onto West Concord Street.

The New Hope Baptist Church, on the corner, is an active congregation, preserving through careful use another architecturally important South End Church.



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Pictures from the South End Historical Society's collections are available for reproduction. Fees vary depending on the photograph and the intended use.

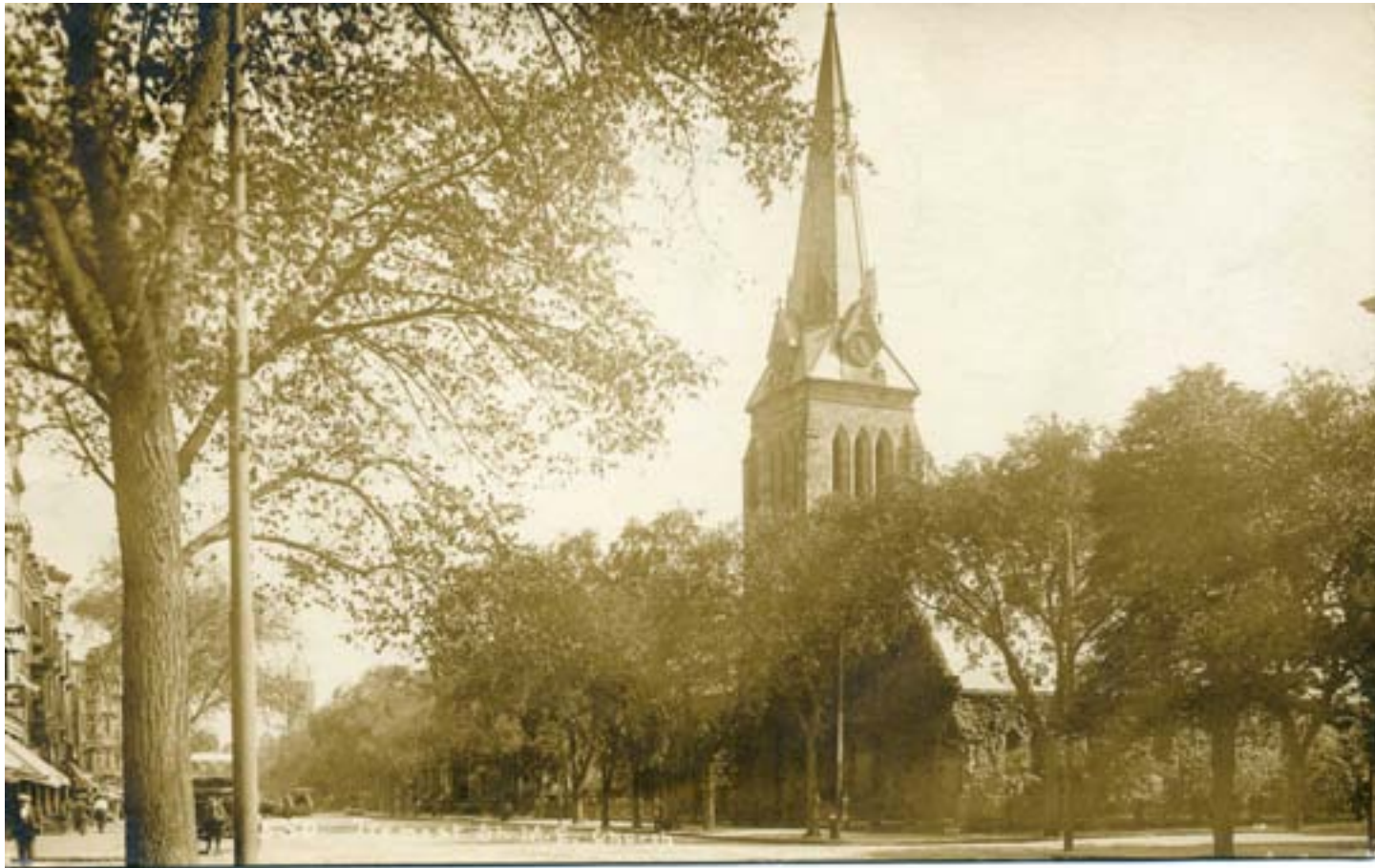
Most reproduction requests ask for images from our popular 1972 South End Streets Survey. The Streets Survey includes approximately 3,000 images taken by the Historical Society in 1972 documenting every extant South End building. These images were used in the Historical Society's application to place the South End on the National Register of Historic Places, which was successful. Image reproductions from the South End Streets Survey carry a fee of \$30 each for a 300 dpi digital copy.

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Image from the 1972 South End Streets Survey





Tremont Street Methodist-Episcopal Church, later New Hope Baptist Church, 1912

[New Hope Baptist sold the church in 2012 and the building is now undergoing a residential conversion] This building was designed by architect Hammatt Billings and built in 1860-61, as the Tremont Street Methodist-Episcopal Church. Billings used Roxbury Puddingstone as his material, and expanded upon the revival of 14th Century English Gothic style. This church, with its two asymmetrical towers, was much admired even in its own day, and copied by other architects.

After well over a century of activity, the Tremont Methodist congregation became financially insolvent and was dissolved about 1970, perhaps having overtaxed itself in community social works. The building was sold at that time to New Hope Baptist Church. In addition to its religious work and fine gospel choir, this church today may impress the casual stroller by the simple beauty of the flowers which bloom in well-tended gardens along the edge of the sidewalk, giving pleasure to all who pass. [the landscaping has been drastically changed since the residential conversion]

Walk now down West Concord Street to Shawmut Avenue.

On your left, just before you cross Newland Street (a narrow street that is frequently mistaken for an alley), once stood a Boston public school originally called the Rice Primary School. This was later renamed the Louisa May Alcott School, and stood until the widespread demolition of the 60's.

Across Newland Street is a little park containing a modern sculpture called "Cityscape III," done by Miriam Knapp in 1984.

Now cross Shawmut Avenue and proceed along West Concord Street to Washington Street.

On your left as you cross, note one of the relatively few surviving original cupolas, which may be seen on the corner house.

On your right, midway between West Concord and Worcester Streets, stands a remnant of the famed Deacon House. This mansion was designed by Charles Lemoulnier, and built in 1848 for Mr. and Mrs. Edward Preble Deacon, though paid for by Mrs. Deacon's wealthy father, Peter Parker. It had the first mansard roof in Boston – possibly the first in America.



This 1854 print of sleigh racing on the Boston Neck prominently features the Deacon House in the background

One entered into the courtyard of the Deacon house from West Concord Street, through a gateway in the surrounding brick wall, and driving under a porte cochere. [a covered entrance for vehicles] Inside this "swell Paris house out on Washington Street" was an elegance dazzling to austere Boston. The great entrance hall had a gallery running around its upper level, and there were also an elegantly furnished drawing room, ballroom, dining room, and boudoir. The back of the house, facing towards Worcester Street, had windows extending along its entire first floor level.

Caroline Gardner Cary, in her *Memories of Fifty Years*, says that "What I especially remember were the boudoir — walls covered with quilts satin, ceiling dotted over with butterflies — and some beautiful panels by Fragonard... Beside a beautiful ball given there, I especially remember some charming small dances, ending in a supper, announced to us by tall Frenchmen in livery."

Mr. Deacon was without visible property, as Miss Cary noted, hence father-in-law Peter Parker continued to pay the bills. As extravagant furniture orders went out to Paul, the upholsterer of the day, neighbors said that this was really "robbing Peter to pay Paul."

The Deacons did not live here long, but travelled to Europe, where the dashing Mr. Deacon died. Mrs. Deacon and her son returned to Boston for a time, but she was called "too queer to be popular," and soon left permanently for Europe. With the death of Peter Parker, the Deacon house was sold at auction in 1871. A set of decorative panels from the house — by Claude-Nicholas Ledoux and originally in the Louis XV Hotel de Montmorency — were sold in the 1871 auction and may

now be seen in the French rooms of the Museum of Fine Arts.

By 1875 this building housed an elegant restaurant, said to rival Delmonico's in New York. In 1881 the Massachusetts Normal Art School (established in 1873 to train drawing teachers for the public schools) took over the entire house for what eventually became Massachusetts College of Art. After a fire (about 1888) gutted the building, it was drastically modified into a dance hall and club rooms. The "1897, Deacon Halls" sign now visible from Washington Street dates from this reconstruction. [the sign is no longer present] By that time it had been hemmed in by other buildings on both the West Concord and Worcester Street sides, and in front was built a one-story structure housing Pond's Restaurant.

The Pond's Restaurant portion today house Siegel's Paint and Supply Company, which bought this and the connecting Deacon Halls (now used for storage) in 1945. Customers still occasionally come in and tell of the days when the likes of Glenn Miller and Tommy Dorsey would entertain at the Deacon Halls nightspot, and fragments of its onetime grandeur may still be found in the interior. [The Siegel's building is now gone, but started roughly where the wrought iron fence on Washington Street stands now and extended across the entire footprint of the adjacent building. Deacon Halls is now luxury apartments]



Deacon Halls ca. 1970, as it would have looked at the time Dick Card first published this walking tour

It is interesting to note that Edwin Parker Deacon, son of the original owner, lived on into the present century, [meaning the 20th Century] though confined to the Waverly Asylum for many years following his killing of a man falsely accused of being his wife's lover.

The tour ends here. ❖

Join us for our
**47th Annual
 South End House Tour!**

Advance Tickets: \$25
 Day of Tour: \$35

For Advance Ticketing and more
 information, visit
[www.southendhistoricalsociety.org/
 housetour](http://www.southendhistoricalsociety.org/housetour)

or call
617-536-4445

Tickets can be purchased the day of the
 Tour at the Boston Center for the Arts
 Plaza Theater, 539 Tremont Street.

All proceeds benefit
 the South End Historical Society

**SOUTH END HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 HOUSE TOUR**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17 • 10AM-5PM

Historically Beautiful *Décor for Stylish Living*

It's all about striking the balance and play of texture, color and light to create the mood that reflects your taste.

Natalie King

A cozy cashmere scarf thrown over shoulders, stepping out of your apartment and it's off to face the autumn day. There are many beautiful things about living in the South End - the restaurants, chic boutiques, and some of the best neighbors around. Walking down the tree-lined streets, the homes, from ornate Italianate to more reserved Federal style, create a sense of time and history that is the real charm of living here.

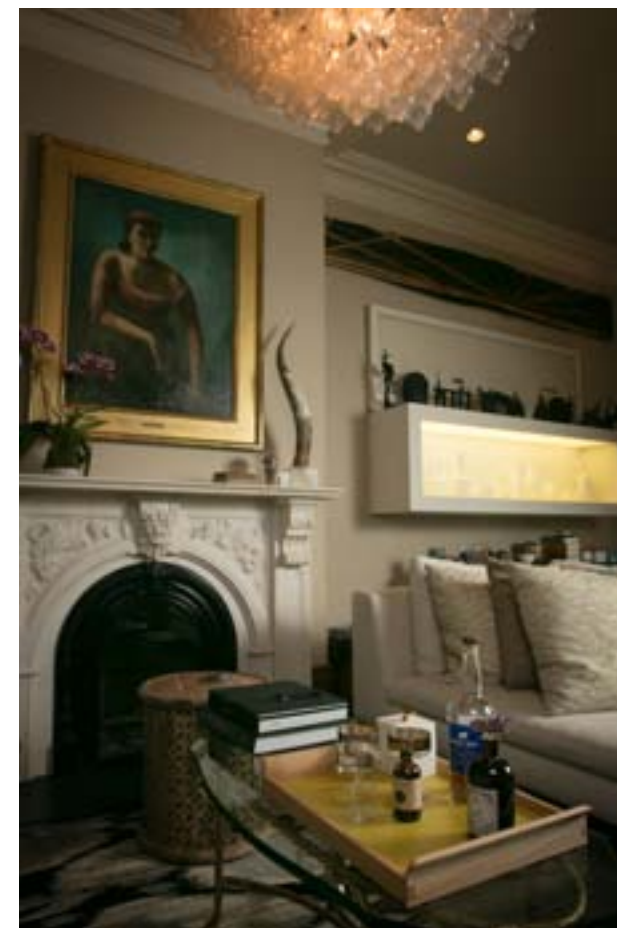
Cooler temperatures inspire chic reinvention of personal style and home décor. There are many décor elements that can be incorporated to highlight the historic elements of your home, or to modernize a deeply traditional space. Living a modern lifestyle in a historic home is something that takes a bit of restraint and balance in design. Often, modern can become too cold and disjointed from the Victorian exterior, and historically relevant interiors can look too much like a museum. As with many things, it's good to trust your gut and let yourself be drawn to what catches your eye and heart. Certain design elements are perennially in style: a crystal chandelier, marble, wood floors, large windows, and silver tea sets. These elements conjure feelings of timeless grace and are excellent investments in terms of finish work and home accessories.

Juxtaposing classic elements with more current pieces allows trends and personality to show. Trays are a pallet to create a vignette of objects that you love - from a collection of perfume bottles, to magazines on a coffee table, to an impromptu wet bar. Croissants and hot coffee on a tray in bed creates one of those simple-yet-perfect moments on a Sunday morning.

Keep the last moments of light alive in your home by clearing spaces of clutter and positioning a mirror to bounce the light from a window into the rest of the room. A minimal approach to décor does not have to equal cold - it can have quite the opposite effect. Homes with historically influenced architecture look chic when designed in a more airy, minimal way. Clean spaces adorned with tall crystal candlesticks or a single orchid in a vase create the perfect canvas for accessory colors such as rich emerald green or deep sapphire blue. Mix materials to create interest. Rich velvet adds drama, while nubby linen creates texture and soft wool creates depth. It's all about striking the balance and play of texture, color and light to create the mood that reflects your taste. A quick trip to Pioneer Goods on Tremont Street is the perfect place to snap up a vintage find to add rustic eclecticism. Walk over to Follain and pick up some Saipua Lavendar soap to brighten the look of your powder room. For classic architectural finds, Restoration Resources is a source for everything

from Victorian pocket doors, to lighting, crown molding and artwork.

Try finding a new favorite space in your home where you can have a moment of relaxation. A faux fur throw, coffee table book and candle can transform the corner of your sofa into a haven. If you don't have a fireplace but crave the ambiance, a quick fix is a candle from DayNa Decker, who makes candles that omit a soothing crackling sound when lit.



The Arrival Tray from designer Mark Brunke makes for the perfect accessory to tie in traditional and modern decor at this South End home. Mark uses his expertise in historic home restoration in the craftsmanship of his designs. Image credit: dFilm Concepts

The Victorian homes of South End have remained largely unchanged on the exterior - while the interiors have been reimagined to fit modern life and trends. Many of the ornate parlors, separate dining rooms and libraries have been opened to reveal larger, more open plans where often one large room encapsulates all living and dining spaces. This is where classic, timeless elements can

be brought in to help ground the space and bring back some of the original splendor of the property. When decorating, consider even the slightest nod to the exterior of the space and original use in your décor so that the exterior and interior don't appear as two fragmented stories. This is achievable by taking inspiration from the surroundings. Love the glow from the street lamps outside? Create the same feel with warm lighting inside. Have an all-white, clean interior? Browse through antique shops and find an oversized vintage mirror or candle sticks. These small nods to the history of your home will create a harmony that will make the space feel more thoughtfully designed.

Paint color is the easiest way to transform a room. Historically accurate paint colors can look effortless when décor is kept more neutral and airy. Valspar Lyndhurst Castle Sand 5008-LC is part of the Victorian paint color set for National Trust for Historic Preservation and is a neutral perfect for living rooms.

Farrow and Ball Stone White 11 is the perfect green, taupe, gray combination, while Benjamin Moore Horizon 1478 is a sure-bet pale gray to lighten a space.

Think of your home as many different incarnations of the same style. One room can exhibit harmonious blends of gray and cream, while the next can carry the same color scheme but offer a bit more opulence with touches of velvet or a tall floral arrangement potted in chinoiserie. Add liveliness to a space with touches of verdant - be it a rich moss, subtle jade, a zing of chartreuse or rich and timeless emerald. If you are hesitant to invest in green paint or accessories - try a potted palm, Bells of Ireland in a vase, and a kitchen pot overflowing with basil and mint to give your space an instant lift. Good design does not have to equal a huge budget. Edit out what you do not love and then slowly start dreaming about the colors, textures and placement that would bring you the most happiness.

Whether your space calls for more drama with antiques accurate to architectural history, or you crave a bit of lightness and serenity throughout with minimal decor, it's all about striking the balance and play of theme, texture, color and light to create the home that you love. ✨

- Links:
- www.daynadecker.com
 - www.shopfollain.com
 - www.restorationresources.com
 - www.pioneergoodsco.com
 - www.markbrunkedesign.com

Volunteer Opportunities

Want to be more involved with the SEHS?

We always need new volunteers! We have opportunities for volunteers in: the SEHS newsletter, fundraisers (Spring Ball and/or House Tour), collections, office tasks, preservation, history related projects, programs and events

Interested or have questions?

Call Stacen Goldman at 617-536-4445 or email her at admin@southendhistoricalsociety.org.



MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

Our membership year runs from January 1 to December 31. If you have not yet renewed for 2015, please do so soon. Individual memberships are \$25 and family/dual memberships are \$40. Additional opportunities to support the Society include the supporting membership at \$100 (\$60 tax-deductible), the patron membership at \$150 (\$110 tax-deductible), and the benefactor membership at \$250 (\$210 tax-deductible).

Checks for membership payments can be made out to South End Historical Society and sent to the same at 532 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, MA 02118. Or you may visit our website at southendhistoricalsociety.org/membership and renew online with a credit card.

All memberships that aren't renewed by May 1st are considered lapsed and membership benefits will cease.

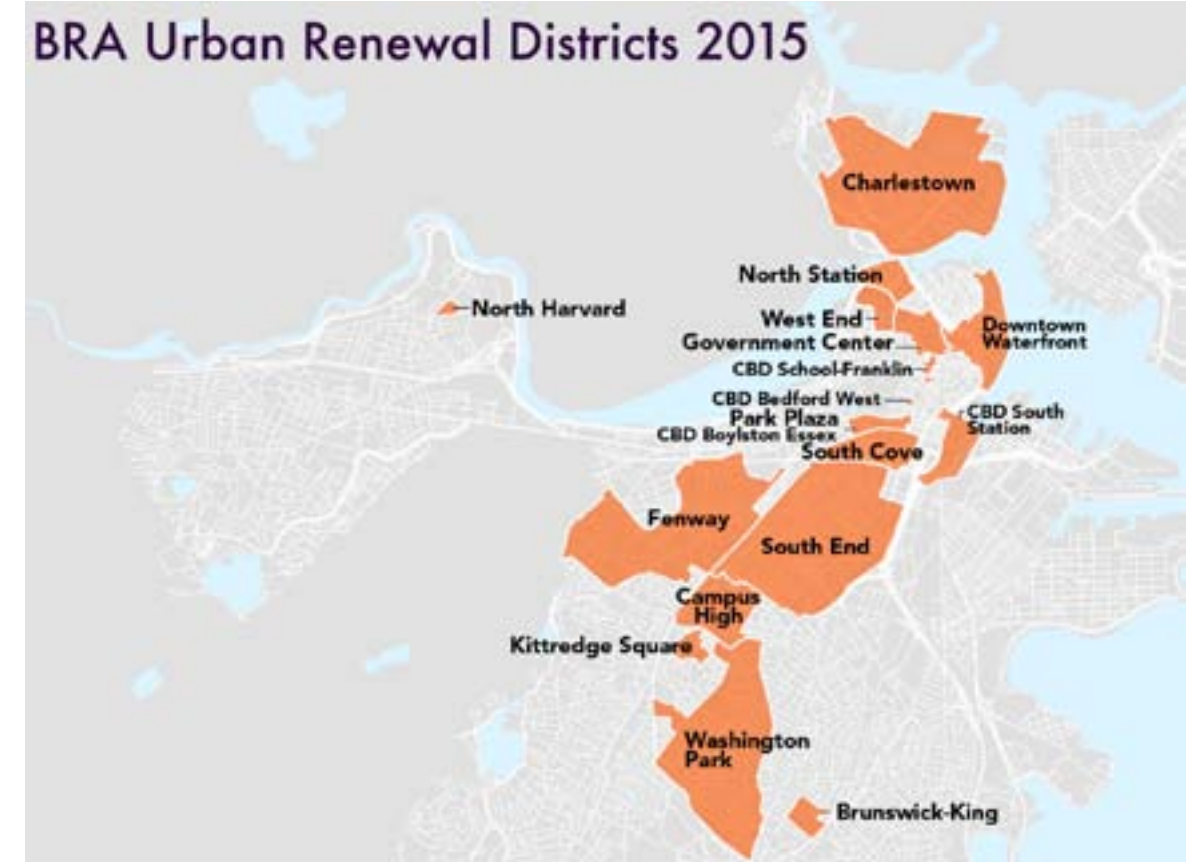


Cast Iron Questions?

Need help restoring, repairing, or replacing your cast iron fence? The South End Historical Society can help! Call or email us at 617-536-4445 or admin@southendhistoricalsociety.org for more information.



Historical Society Takes Stance Against BRA Urban Renewal Plan Extension



Boston's Urban Renewal agency, The Boston Redevelopment Authority, is currently seeking to extend Boston's urban renewal plan agreements, including jurisdiction over the South End and its historic district. This jurisdiction was established in the mid-20th century to address "blighted areas" in the city and involves, among other things, an extension of the BRA's eminent domain rights in the district.

On July 14, 2015, the Directors and Officers of the South End Historical Society voted unanimously to oppose the Boston Redevelopment Authority's proposal that its Urban Renewal Plan be extended, and that one of its "project areas" include the South End. Visit

www.southendhistoricalsociety.org to learn more about the Urban Renewal Plan extension and to read the full text of the Historical Society's letter of opposition, sent to BRA Director Brian Golden and copied to Mayor Walsh, Governor Baker, Boston City Council, and our State Representatives.

We highly encourage all interested SEHS members, South End Residents, and South End Neighborhood Associations to draft and submit their own letters to the BRA, City Council, and Mayor's office regarding the extension of the Urban Renewal Plan Area in the South End. Whether you are for or against the measure, it is important that the South End makes its voice heard during this process. ✂

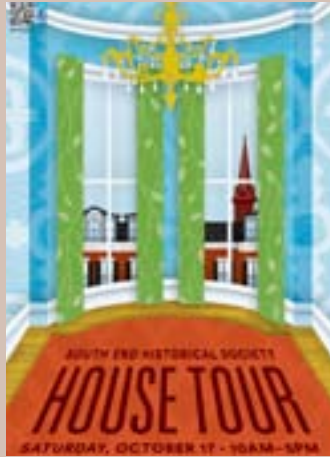
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Remembering
Richard Card

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South End
House Tour



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Historically
Beautiful Décor
for Stylish Living

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South End Historical Society
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Boston, MA 02118