

of the Morgan Envelope Co., which was located in the extension. In 1879 the Mansard roof was removed from the building and its extension, and both were raised to a full five stories. At the same time the block was extended north on Main St. with a five-story addition. During the 1880's both the *Daily Union* and the *Daily News* were published here. After a disastrous fire in 1888 the entire block was remodeled by local architect F. S. Newman. Then, in 1914 a classically-inspired, stucco facade was added to the block. This was designed by the local firm of E. C. & G. C. Gardner. The structure was renamed "The Worthington Building", with its main entrance located midway along the Main St. facade.

86 Worthington Street. This small, distinctive structure was originally built in 1902-03 as the office of the *Springfield Homestead*, a weekly "family and society" newspaper. This "city edition" had been spun off from the farm-oriented *New England Homestead* in 1885 and proved very popular. The building was designed by local architect F. R. Richmond.

15-19 Hampden Street. This three-story, commercial block was constructed in the early 1870's by William Patton; however, its present appearance dates from a 1909 renovation initiated by his son, and designed by local architect B. H. Seabury. An elaborate, cast-iron canopy shelters the main entrance.

9-13 Hampden Street was constructed in 1874 at a cost of \$16,000 for Cutler, McIntosh & Co., wholesale dealers in boots and shoes.

1628-40 Main Street is a much older building than its facade would indicate. In 1864 this block and the one next south (1620-26 Main) were built as the Patton and Loomis Block. Four stories in height, the structure was built of brick, had brownstone window sills and lintels, and was designed by local architect J. M. Currier. This section formed two-thirds of the block and was owned by William Patton. It was occupied by several stores and offices as well as by a "commercial college" on the third floor, and a public hall and gymnasium on the fourth floor. Frank Dunlap purchased this portion of the Patton and Loomis Block in the early years of the 20th century and in 1909 completely remodeled it. The upper floors became professional offices, and a new "modern" look was given to the Main and Hampden facades. This included a white stucco finish and featured much larger window openings than the old

block. Dunlap, who was one of Springfield's major real estate developers in the early 20th century, renamed his property the Hampden Building. The original brick, brownstone, and windows can be seen on the rear of the building.

1620-26 Main Street. Originally this was part of the Patton and Loomis block which had been built in 1864. This section was owned by C. L. Loomis, a tobacconist. There were two stores on the first floor and four offices on the second floor, while the third floor was used by Mr. Loomis for a cigar manufactory and the fourth floor was used for storage. In 1912 the Loomis Block was remodeled by local architect H. L. Sprague. The major changes included the addition of a fifth floor and larger, more modern windows. Soon thereafter this block was renamed the Bowles Building, in honor of the prominent local family. There was also a Bowles Lunch restaurant on the first floor at this time.

1611-1623 Main Street is a five-story, brick block that dates from 1874. It was originally used for manufacturing and retail purposes and was owned by W. H. Wilkinson and Emerson Wight. Wilkinson was engaged in the manufacturing and wholesaling of harnesses and saddlery, and employed up to 100 men in his shop. In 1879 Wight bought Wilkinson's half of the block, gaining control of the entire block fronting on Main St. between Worthington and Taylor Sts.

1645-49 Main Street is known as the Olmsted Block. It was originally constructed in 1875 for the Bay State Paper Co. and contained their offices and warehouse. In 1895 a new facade was put on the five-story block. Ornate terra cotta was used for window surrounds, between the windows of the upper floors, and as a frieze near the top of the block. The upper frieze has the name of Olmsted engraved within. John Olmsted was the new owner of the block, and a prominent Springfield citizen at the turn of the century. He was the president of the Spfld. Street Railway Co. and president of the Spfld. Board of Trade (predecessor of the Chamber of Commerce). After the building's remodeling the Board moved its offices to the second floor of this block.

1665 Main Street. This small, almost hidden structure was built in 1918 for the Hampden Savings Bank from designs of local architect Max Westhoff. Neo-classical in spirit, the building strives for monumentality with its large scale doorway and two-story colonnade with engaged Ionic columns.

1675 Main Street. There is quite a difference between the Main St. and Lyman St. facades of this building, with the Lyman facade giving the original appearance. The Main St. facade also originally had four tall columns, with the main entrance in the center. The structure was built in 1917 for the Chapin National Bank. This bank had been founded in 1872 by Chester W. Chapin, perhaps the most prominent, local industrialist of his time.

1676-1708 Main Street. The Massasoit Building houses Downtown Springfield's sole surviving theater. This was originally named the Paramount, but was renamed the Julia Sanderson in 1975 in memory of Springfield's best known show business personality. The theater, which had a capacity of 3200, had been built between 1926 and 1929 at a cost in excess of \$1,000,000, making it the largest and most expensive theater in western Massachusetts. The four-story office and commercial block that fronts on Main Street is a 1912 renovation of part of the old Massasoit House, Springfield's most famous hotel of the 19th century.



10 & 11—MASSASOIT BUILDING & RAILROAD ARCH

Railroad Arch. This granite arch was built in 1889 and carries the main east-west railroad tracks over Main Street. When the railroad came to Springfield in 1839 it crossed Main Street at this same point at grade. As the town grew into a city this caused more and more problems. During the late 1870's it was decided to raise the tracks above Main St. and to build a new railroad station. The famous American architect H. H. Richardson received the commission, but due to a backlog of work in his office never worked on the Springfield project. After his death in 1886 his successor firm, Shepley, Rutan, and Coolidge completed the project. The

design and materials of the arch relate very closely to the work of Richardson.

1743-57 Main Street. There has been a hotel on this site since 1849 when Justin Cooley built a four-story brick structure, 45 x 100 feet, at the corner of Main and Liberty Streets. The proximity of the railroad station had determined the original location, and helped ensure the hotel's success. Several additions were made so that by 1882 there were 85 rooms. Then, in 1890, the hotel was tripled in size with the addition of a four-story, brick-and-granite block near the new railroad arch over Main St., and a similar block five stories in height on Liberty St. Between the arch and the new buildings a landscaped walkway that became known as Cooley Place was developed, and the main entrance to the hotel was relocated here in a small structure between the two new blocks. This change was in response to the moving of the railroad station from Main St. to midway between Main and Dwight Sts. The hotel was described in glowing terms shortly after the extensive improvements: "First class accommodations are provided for 300 guests, and all modern conveniences are here, including elevators, electric bells, barber shop, Turkish baths, bar, billiard rooms, sample rooms, news room, long distance telephone and Western Union Telegraph; while the house is lighted by electricity and heated by hot water system throughout. There are large dining rooms, luxuriously furnished parlors, and a restaurant conducted on the European plan". Modernization continued in 1904-05 with the construction of a six-story, yellow-brick block on Main St. on the site of an earlier addition, and the building of a five-story block on the site of the smaller, main-entrance structure on Cooley Place. This five-story block also served as the main entrance to the hotel. In the early 1920's a new railroad station was decided upon. It was to be built on Liberty St. In response to this a new structure for the hotel was planned, it was to be eleven stories high, cost \$1,000,000 and be located at the corner of Main and Liberty Sts., replacing the original 1849 structure. The main entrance of the hotel was relocated to Liberty St. for convenient access to the railroad station. The plans for the new building were drawn up by Albert M. Lavalley, a local architect who had designed the Hotel Kimball. The block was begun in 1926 and completed two years later. It tops out at 125 feet, the limit fixed by state law for buildings in Springfield. Soon after its completion the name of the hotel was changed to Hotel Charles to honor the name of the owner and builder of the new hotel.

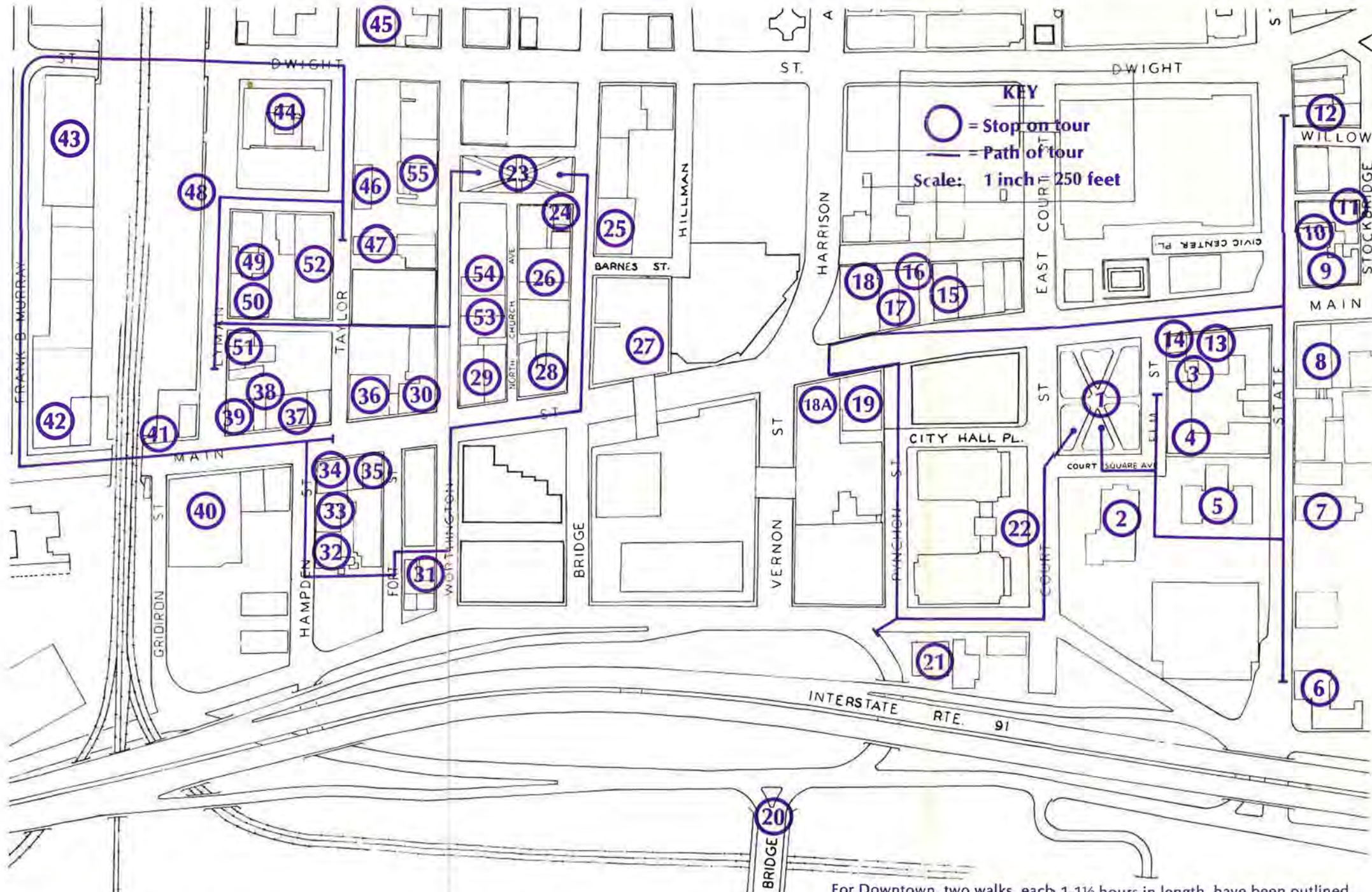
23-55 Frank B. Murray Street. The Union Station was

once Springfield's primary transportation link with the rest of New England. It was completed in 1926 as the final phase of a \$5,000,000 modernization plan undertaken by the Boston & Albany Railroad, and replaced a pair of connected stations (one on Lyman St. and one on Liberty St.) that had only been in use since 1889. These in turn had replaced two earlier stations, both of which had been built astride the tracks on the west side of Main Street. At the beginning of the railroad age in the mid 19th century Springfield found itself in the advantageous position of being the crossroads of New England. The major north-south and east-west routes intersected here. It was this, more than anything else, that assured the growth and prosperity of the city during the later 19th and early 20th centuries.

436 Dwight Street was built in 1932 as the Post Office and Federal Building. This was the second structure specifically built for the Post Office in Springfield. The first had been constructed in 1889 at Main and Worthington Streets. The new building features a restrained, Art Moderne styling that is enlivened by colorful spandrels between upper floor windows. Built during the Depression the Post Office features the major work of the WPA's artist program in Springfield. It is a mural, composed of six large panels, and entitled "Three Centuries of New England History". Completed in 1937, it was executed by Umberto Romano, a Springfield native, in the social realist style. The mural still hangs on the lobby walls, although one of the panels has been moved from its original location.

391-401 Dwight Street and 85-99 Taylor Street is a sprawling, four-story, brick block, most of which was constructed in 1875. It was built for manufacturing purposes and was originally occupied by O. B. Douglas & Co., woodworkers; the Davis Level Co., tool manufacturers; and the U. S. Spring Bed Co. In 1883 the building was bought by P. P. Kellogg for his envelope and paper box manufactory. Kellogg added the four-story block at 95-99 Taylor St. in 1888 to house his expanding business.

51-59 Taylor Street is another of this area's factory blocks. Three stories in height, and built of brick, it dates from 1881, and was constructed for the Springfield Steam Power Co. The company had been formed that year by the owners of Wason Manufacturing Co. to supply power to manufacturers in this area. They owned buildings on the south side of Lyman St. and on both sides of Taylor St., and rented space to small manufacturing and wholesale concerns.



During the fall of 1981, the City Library sponsored a series of walking tours of selected historic neighborhoods in Springfield. These were part of the Springfield Historic Architecture Project, which was funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. As a follow-up, self-guided, walking tour brochures for each of the neighborhoods are being prepared. The objective is to cover prominent architectural and historical structures that are still standing in each area, as well as provide an indication of the overall character of each neighborhood.

41-43 Taylor Street was built in 1893 for Edwin S. Stacy, a local machinist and dealer in mill supplies. The four-story brick block was designed by local architect F. R. Richmond and cost \$15,000. Mr. Stacy's business occupied the lower two floors while the upper floors were rented out. One of the tenants was J. Frank Duryea, a mechanic who was working on what would later be called "America's first automobile". Duryea had built and tested his first engine in an adjoining building on Taylor St., and had installed it in a used carriage. His next step was to build a car with the machinery well-concealed in the body. It was this car that was first tested on the top floor of the Stacy Building in late 1894. On Thanksgiving Day in 1895 this car won the *Times-Herald* race, which was the first automobile race in America. The Stacy Co. still owns and occupies this block.

Northside Lyman Street. A retaining wall, twenty feet in height, faced with granite, and trimmed with brown-stone, extends along Lyman St. from Chestnut St. nearly to Main St., broken only by the Dwight St. underpass. In its present form it dates from 1925, and was constructed to allow for an expansion of trackage at the new Union Station. The stone was taken from the two 1889 railroad stations.

39-43 Lyman Street dates from 1889, and was built for the Clark W. Bryan Co. It is four stories in height, built of brick, and features granite trim. Clark W. Bryan came to Springfield in 1852, and soon became business manager of the *Republican*, the prominent, local newspaper owned by Samuel Bowles. Later, he entered into partnership with Bowles, and when this was dissolved in 1872 he took over the book-manufacturing and printing departments of the business. Between 1872 and 1878 he published the *Springfield Daily Union*, and then began publishing periodicals, including *Paper World*, *Library Bulletin*, *Amateur Gardening* and *Good Housekeeping*.

27-37 Lyman Street. This large brick block originally housed the Powers Paper Co. It was built in two, virtually identical five-story sections. The first was built in 1873 from designs of Perkins & Gardner and was described as "one of the most substantial blocks in the city". In 1875 the other half was added to provide more space for the company, which was called "one of the largest envelope manufactories in the country". Lewis

J. Powers, the founder and proprietor of the business, was elected Mayor of Springfield in 1878 and served two terms. The architectural firm of Perkins & Gardner split-up in the mid 1870's and Eugene C. Gardner became the most prominent architect in Springfield over the next forty years. In the late 1880's his son George joined him in business and they located in this block. In 1911 they designed a sixth floor for the building and relocated their offices there.

15-17 Lyman Street. The central, stained glass transom of the second floor oriel window identifies this building as the Hotel Henking, while an ornate plaque between two fourth floor windows gives the date of the building: 1899. Actually, that is the year of a new facade and addition to an older building, which had been operated as a hotel for travelling men by the Gruendler family. Henry Henking had worked for the Gruendlers, and at the death of Gustave Gruendler took over the hotel in his own name. He hired local architect William Becker to design the new front for his hotel. This is Becker's only known work in Springfield, he only lived here three years, and is a good example of the Georgian Revival style. Henking's son Gus took over the business at the time of his father's death in 1906 and he expanded its scope in 1909 with the addition of a banquet hall and restaurant. These were contained in the two-story block adjacent to the hotel (19-21 Lyman Street). The coming of World War I brought pressures on the local German community and Gus Henking sold his business and moved. The first floor of the hotel was done over in the fashionable Art Moderne style, possibly as late as 1946.



26-52 Taylor Street. This three-story, brick block was constructed in 1875 from designs of local architect Jason Perkins for the Wason Manufacturing Co. The

company had been established in 1845 and soon became world famous for the quality of their railroad cars. In 1860 it was the first American company to export cars. The Wason Co. outgrew its Lyman St. site, and purchased land in what became known as the Brightwood area of Springfield in 1871, and moved their business there. They kept control of their Lyman St. site and built several brick blocks on the property for rental purposes. This block was divided into 50 foot sections, separated by fireproof walls. It originally extended another fifty feet to the east on Taylor St. That section was demolished about 1930 for the laying out of Kaynor St. and the construction of the new Post Office. At that time a new facade was designed for the easternmost fifty feet of the remaining building.

201-07 Worthington Street. This five-story brick block was built in 1897 for McIntosh & Co., "the oldest and largest inland boot and shoe jobbing house in New England". In 1913 the firm moved to a new location and Fred Smith moved his "billiard academy" here. The second floor contained pool and billiard tables, while the upper three floors were set up for bowling. At one time this was the center for candlepin bowling in Western Mass., but the move to the suburbs after World War II led to its decline and all three floors of lanes were carefully removed and reinstalled in a Connecticut bowling alley. Smith's Billiard Academy is still on the second floor, and is acclaimed as the oldest in the state.

211-13 Worthington Street was originally known as the Driscoll Block and was the first structure built after the 1893 fire that destroyed six buildings in this immediate area. The four story block is faced with tan brick and features a cornice of decorative brickwork. In 1903 Fred Smith took over the second floor bowling alley and soon expanded it with the addition of nineteen pool and billiard tables he acquired from the 1905 St. Louis Exposition. Smith moved his business to the block next west in 1914.

266-70 Worthington Street. This block was built in 1891 for the Springfield Bicycle Club. The club had been organized in 1881 and began putting on races in 1882 at Hampden Park. The 1883 tournament lasted four days and attracted 70,000 people. It is said to have been the greatest meet held in America up to that time. A local rider, George Hendee, who later founded the Indian Motorcycle Co., won international fame racing the old high-wheel bicycles, and during the 1880's he held at one time or another all the speed records, from the quarter mile to the fifty mile.

Genealogy/Local History Department

Springfield City Library

DOWNTOWN

Walking Tour

Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities

For Downtown, two walks, each 1-1½ hours in length, have been outlined on the map. Each identified stop is keyed to the text presented here. For further information about material presented in this brochure, or about future guided tours, contact the Genealogy/Local History Department of the City Library.

Concept & Text: Ed Lonergan
Photographs: Genealogy/Local History Dept.

● 1 ●

Court Square has long been the religious and governmental center of Springfield. The land that comprises the park was purchased by a syndicate of local citizens in 1812. The tavern and homestead that occupied the site were moved, Court Street was laid out as a speculative venture, and the majority of the land was set aside as a park and deeded to the County. They also gave a small lot on the south side of Court Street, next to the new First Church, to the County to use for a new courthouse. These efforts were to forestall the building of the courthouse at State and Main Sts. Afterwards, the park was turned over to the care of the city.

● 2 ●

Court Square Avenue. The First Church of Christ Congregational, also known as the Old First Church is downtown's oldest building. It is also the fourth building used by Springfield's Congregationalists, with the earlier ones dated 1645, 1677 and 1752. The First Church had been organized in 1637 and is the oldest continuing body of worship in Western Massachusetts. The present meetinghouse dates from 1819 and was designed and built by Isaac Damon, a Northampton "master builder" who also built the Hampden County Courthouse (1821), a prominent tavern and stage house known as the Hampden House (c. 1820), and the bridge across the Connecticut River (1816; 20), connecting Springfield and West Springfield. The wood-frame meetinghouse is basically a two-story rectangular structure with gable roof, and is fronted by a two-story Doric portico and surmounted by a three-stage tower with a slender turret. At the very top is a gilded rooster, which is over 250 years old. It was made in London and brought to this country about 1750 along with two others. Each was destined for a colonial meetinghouse: Old South Church in Boston, First Church of Newburyport and the First Church here. It topped the spire of the third meetinghouse until the present structure was built. The tower's height of 125 feet was used to set the limit for business structures in Springfield in the early 20th century. In the rear of the meetinghouse can be seen the 1873 chapel, designed by the local firm of Perkins & Gardner. The exuberant Victorian styling of this brick and stone structure fell out of favor by the 1920's and the building was substantially remodeled.

● 3 ●

3-7 Elm Street. This is a remnant of the Byers Block, constructed in 1835 by Springfield's master builder Simon Sanborn for James Byers. The original block was twice as long and was one of three identical commercial blocks built by Sanborn in 1835 in this area. One was at the corner of Main and Elm, and the other

continued the lines of this block the length of Court Square. All were three stories in height, built of brick and had gable roofs. The remnant is the oldest known commercial structure in Springfield, and compared to the buildings on either side of it shows the changes the 19th century brought to downtown.

● 4 ●

9-33 Elm Street and 94-96 State Street. The Court Square Building has long played an important part in Springfield's business life. Its closeness to the County Courthouse and City Hall has made it a favorite for professional offices. The building was constructed in 1892 from designs of local architect F. S. Newman, and originally consisted of a five-story office block facing Elm Street and the Court Square Theater in the rear. In 1900 a sixth floor was added to the office block and a six-story Court Square Hotel was built. This faced State Street, extended to Elm Street, and contained a row of small shops fronting on Court House Place. The additions were also designed by F. S. Newman and complement the original structure. Buff-colored brick, which is used to face the building, adds a different tonality to the Court Square area, while brownstone, terra cotta, and granite are used for trim and detailing. A distinctive tower above the eastern end of the Elm Street portion of the building houses the elevator machinery. Court House Place has been described as the best pedestrian linkage in the city and the undulations of the Court Square Building's oriel windows add to the experience. The hotel proved unprofitable and by 1920 had been converted to offices, while the theater, once the leading "playhouse" of the city, fell victim to changing times and in 1957 was demolished for a parking lot.

● 5 ●

37 Elm Street is one of Springfield's architectural landmarks even though it has been substantially altered. Built between 1871 and 1874 this was the third County Courthouse constructed in Springfield. The first had been built in 1723 on Main Street opposite the present Court Square while the second structure had been built in 1821 north of the present Old First Church. Both of the earlier buildings had been of wood-frame construction, while the 1870's courthouse was constructed of granite quarried in Monson. The new courthouse was designed by H. H. Richardson, who was to become the most famous architect of the second half of the 19th century. He had already received four other commissions in Springfield (two churches and two business blocks), and was to receive three others. Today, however only the courthouse and Grace Baptist Church on Salem Street remain. The alterations mentioned above consisted of the removal of the slate, hipped roof with

its large granite dormers, and the addition of a two-story ell on the east side. These were both done in 1906 by Richardson's successor firm Shepley, Rutan, and Coolidge.



5—HAMPDEN COUNTY COURTHOUSE

● 6 ●

39 State Street. The former Springfield Gas Light Co. headquarters dates from 1910. It was completed at a cost of \$65,000 from plans of Winslow, Bigelow & Wadsworth of Boston, and is of the French Renaissance style. Two stories in height, the building has an abundance of white stone trim, including a balustrade with festooned urns. The Spfld. Gas Light Co. was founded in 1847, and as its name implies used gas for lighting. The first gas lamps appeared on Springfield's streets in 1848. A large complex of buildings for the manufacture and storage of gas grew up in this vicinity during the late 19th century and was in use until the early 1960's. In 1964 the firm moved to the Memorial Industrial Park and its manufacturing plant was demolished to make way for the interstate highway.

● 7 ●

73 State Street is the former headquarters for the United Electric Co. It was constructed in 1911 from designs of Boston architect Thomas M. James and is a fine example of the Beaux-Arts Classic style popular in the early 20th century. The first electric lights used in Springfield were installed in 1881 in a Taylor Street factory. The Spfld. Electric Light Co. was formed the same year but quickly outgrew itself, and in 1887 the United Electric Light Co. was formed. Electric street lights were introduced in 1889 and the street railway system was electrified the following year. In the mid 20th century several area power companies formed Western Mass. Electric Co. and in 1959 this building was vacated for new headquarters in West Springfield.

● 8 ●

1200 Main Street. Originally constructed in 1907-08 at a cost of \$815,000 as the new headquarters for the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Co., this building caused quite a controversy because of its "excessive height". Eight stories tall the building tops off at 125 feet, the same height as Old First Church's spire. It was apparent to local citizens that unless something was done Main Street would soon be lined with towering commercial structures. Therefore they petitioned the State Legislature to establish a local height limit, which was soon established at 125 feet. Not until 1970 was this ceiling breached - with the construction of the 28 story Baystate West office tower. The building has a steel framework, is clad with limestone, and was designed by the prominent New York architectural firm of Trowbridge and Livingston. Mass. Mutual maintained their headquarters here until the late 1920's when they moved to their present site on upper State Street. At that time the building was purchased by The Republican Co., renovated for private offices and renamed the State Building. In 1928-29 The Republican Co. built a four-story, 250 car garage at 16 Bliss St. This was tied into the State Building Annex, an eleven-story structure, also 125 feet in height, built by the same company in 1929-30 at 85-95 State St. The annex was designed by local architect Burton Geckler.

● 9 ●

115 State Street. This five story block was constructed in 1892-93 at a cost of \$90,000. It was known as the Masonic Building and the local Masonic organizations used the upper three floors, renting out the first and second floors. The architect was F. R. Richmond and he established his office here upon the building's completion. The structure was originally faced with brownstone and was in the Richardsonian Romanesque style. During the late 1920's the building was modernized and re-clad with brick. The original tower with clock and four dials six feet in diameter remain, while the only remnant of the original brownstone is a first floor pier on the State St. facade.

● 10 ●

119 State Street. This structure was originally four stories in height and was known as the Brewer Building. It was constructed in 1893 at a cost of \$35,000 from designs of local architect F. R. Richmond, and contained retail stores on the first floor and offices above. The upper two stories were removed in the mid 1940's. Note the decoratively carved brownstone in the base of the second floor oriel window at the eastern corner of the facade.

● 11 ●

127 State Street is an excellent, local example of the early 20th century architectural style known as Style Moderne or Art Deco. The building was described at the time of its completion as being "designed along restrained, modern lines rather than in any of the historical types of architecture. Simplicity in architectural forms, carefully proportioned shapes of mass and openings and the restrained use of properly-designed ornament instead of historical cornices and columns make the new structure interesting to the trained eye and a thing of beauty to those uninitiated in the details of architectural forms and style". It was constructed in 1932-33 from designs of the Boston architectural firm of Thomas M. James Co. for the Springfield Safe Deposit and Trust Co. The facade is of buff and gray Indiana limestone while the interior is ornamented with yellow Numidian marble. The most striking aspect of the building is the large mural on the interior rear wall. Entitled "The Modern Impulse Made Possible By Modern Banking", it is a fanciful mix of local landmarks and what appears to be the New York skyline. It was executed by Carroll Bill, a Boston artist.

● 12 ●

143-147 State Street. This eight story business block was completed in 1917 from plans of Boston architect Charles Greco. The facade is decorated with two-story Corinthian pilasters at the base, and elaborate reliefs between the windows on the third floor.

● 13 ●

1242 Main Street. The Walker Building was built in 1890-91 from the designs of Worcester architects Fuller and Delano. Originally five stories in height, the fifth floor suffered fire damage and was removed in the late 1930's. The facade features elaborately carved brownstone panels and broad plate-glass windows. The interior stairway is of marble, while the wood finish is of "antique ash".

● 14 ●

1250 Main Street. The Chicopee Natonal Bank Building was constructed in 1889 at a cost of \$35,000 from plans of local architect F. S. Newman. This new block replaced the 1835 Chicopee Bank block, which was similar in appearance to the adjacent Byers Block. Finely detailed brownstone panels are used between the first and second floors of both facades of the block, while a three-story oriel window capped by a turret and final add visual interest to the Main and Elm Sts. corner.

● 15 ●

1351 Main Street. This is one of Main Street's archi-

tectural gems. Built in 1907-08 for the Union Trust Co. the building was designed by the nationally-prominent Boston architectural firm of Peabody and Stearns. Faced with limestone, the facade is dominated by a three-story arch, and enriched by ornate decorations above the main entrance, in the spandrels of the arch, and at the top of the block. The Union Trust Co. was the result of a 1906 merger of five local banks, including the Second National Bank which had begun business in 1814 as the Springfield Bank, the first bank in the area. In 1958 Union Trust merged with the Springfield National Bank to form Valley Bank. This building continued to serve as corporate headquarters until the completion of Baystate West in 1970.



15—UNION TRUST COMPANY

● 16 ●

1365 Main Street is one of the few commercial buildings in Springfield that pre-dates the Civil War. It was constructed in 1858 and was the first commercial structure erected north of Court Square on Main Street. In 1861 the building was extended northward to Harrison Avenue, tripling its size; it was renamed the Union Block and was acclaimed as the "finest block in the city". Today, only the 1858 portion remains in its 19th century form. This original building served as the home of the *Springfield Republican*, the local newspaper run by Samuel Bowles. A nationally known figure, Bowles

was instrumental in the founding of the Republican Party during the mid 1850's, and it was during this period that Horace Greeley referred to the *Republican* as "the best and ablest country journal ever published on this continent". A new block was constructed for the newspaper in 1867 and this building was taken over by D. H. Brigham to house his greatly expanded "gentlemen's furnishings" store. In 1868 the store was doubled in size by a rear addition that extended to Market Street. Soon thereafter the *Boston Globe* termed this store "one of the most magnificent clothing houses in New England and one of the largest in the country". Brigham's remained in business until 1969.

● 17 ●

1373-83 Main Street is known as the Bookstore Building, in recognition of Johnson's Bookstore, a Springfield institution since 1893. The building was originally constructed in 1861 as part of the Republican Block expansion, and featured round-headed windows and a bracketed cornice. In 1908 Henry R. Johnson had this part of the block remodelled by the local architectural firm of Kirkham and Parlett. The character of the facade was entirely changed by larger, rectangular windows on the second, third and fourth floors; large, plate glass shop windows on the ground floor; and a frieze of small, square windows at the top, replacing the bracketed cornice.

● 18 ●

1387 Main Street is the Third National Bank Block, which was completed in 1915 at a cost of \$500,000. This was Main Street's first ten-story building, and at 125 feet in height was at the limit allowed in Springfield. The block was designed by the New York architectural firm of Starrett & Van Vleck, with local architect B. H. Seabury as an associate. It is of steel skeleton construction and is covered with polished granite at the base, Indiana limestone for the first three stories and a light brick with intervening courses of limestone and terra cotta for the upper seven stories. A terra cotta cornice caps off the block. Originally the bank occupied almost the entire first floor and part of the second floor and basement. There were three stores fronting on Harrison Avenue also on the first floor, while the eight floors above the main two-story banking room contained 215 offices.

● 18A ●

1414 Main Street. Until very recently this was the site of the Forbes and Wallace department store, a complex of six buildings that made up Springfield's best known retail establishment. Alexander Forbes and Andrew Wallace began their store at this corner of Main and Vernon Streets in 1874. Over the years the business

expanded, so that by the mid 20th century the entire block between Pyncheon and Vernon, running from Main to Columbus (except for the Haynes Hotel) comprised the Forbes and Wallace complex. The major components of the complex were three, eight-story, brick blocks that had been constructed in the early 20th century from designs of local architects Kirkham and Parlett. Classically inspired and detailed, the buildings fronted on Pyncheon, Vernon and Main Streets. In 1976 Forbes and Wallace closed its doors, and the buildings remained vacant until demolition began in late 1982. Today, all that remains is the parking garage on Columbus Ave.

● 19 ●

1386-1402 Main Street and 6-12 Pyncheon Street is the old Haynes Hotel which was built in 1864-65 by Tilly Haynes. At the time this was the largest commercial building ever constructed in Springfield. Five stories in height, the block had retail concerns on the first floor, with the hotel located above. A large rotunda occupied the center of the block. The Post Office was located in this building and was reached by the arched doorway on Pyncheon St. The exterior features the bracketed cornice and arched window caps typical of this period's commercial architecture; an interesting detail is the use of sculpted heads to decorate the keystones of the arched caps. There has been a great deal of speculation over the years as to whom these heads represent, but no satisfactory answer has ever been put forth.

● 20 ●

Hampden County Memorial Bridge serves as the connection between Downtown Springfield and the center of West Springfield. Dedicated on August 3, 1922 the bridge cost \$6,000,000 to build - half of this being for the approaches to the bridge on either side. Vernon Street was widened to provide the main access for Springfield and Memorial Avenue was laid out for access in West Springfield. In both localities the old Bridge Streets no longer served their original functions of providing access to the wooden, covered bridge that had spanned the Connecticut River since 1816. The new bridge consists of seven reinforced concrete, arch-ribbed spans over the river and nine reinforced concrete girder spans over the railroad yards. The center of the bridge is defined by four concrete columns with ornamental light globes. At the base of each column is a bronze, memorial tablet with an inscription dedicated to local patriots.

● 21 ●

1600 East Columbus Avenue is the old District Court of Springfield, constructed of brick and concrete in 1930 at a cost of \$240,000. The local firm of E. C. and

G. C. Gardner served as architect; however, both of the Gardners had already died and Frank W. King, who had worked with the Gardners since 1889 and maintained the firm's name, was the actual designer.

● 22 ●

36-54 Court Street. The Municipal Complex is the most imposing monument of the early 20th century in Springfield. It is composed of the Administration Building (City Hall) on the east, Campanile in the middle, and Auditorium Building (Symphony Hall) on the west. All three are set back from the street and rest on a raised esplanade. Springfield's first City Hall burned on January 6, 1905. Three years later a competition was announced to choose an architect for a new municipal building. Pell & Corbett of New York took first prize for their design of a tripart composition with two classically-inspired buildings flanking an Italian Renaissance tower. Work began on the complex in 1909 and continued for four years. The dedication of the Municipal Group was celebrated on the 8th and 9th of December in 1913, with ex-President William H. Taft as the main speaker. The buildings are of steel and reinforced concrete and are faced with Indiana limestone. The interiors have plaster ceilings, decorative woods, and are ornamented with 27 varieties of marble. The Mahogany Room, at Symphony Hall, is of particular interest with its solid mahogany paneling, gold leaf ceiling and huge Belgian crystal chandelier. The doors to City Hall, Symphony Hall and the Campanile all feature bronze-cast, bas-reliefs of Springfield history.



22—MUNICIPAL COMPLEX

● 23 ●

Stearns Square was deeded to the city in 1845 by

Charles Stearns, a master mason and real estate developer. This land had been part of the Worthington homestead, which had originally extended from the Connecticut River easterly to the hill, between the present Bridge and Worthington Streets. In 1887 the park was selected as the site for a memorial to Deacon Samuel Chapin, one of the early settlers and prominent citizens of Springfield. The statue was commissioned by Chester W. Chapin, a descendant of the Deacon and the president of the Boston & Albany Railroad. The famous sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens was chosen for the commission, and he, together with the nationally prominent architect Stanford White, re-designed the park around the statue. The statue, which became known as "The Puritan", is regarded as one of Saint-Gaudens' finest works. It was placed at the northern end of the square, with an ornamental stone bench in the center and a large, ornate fountain at the southern end. Unfortunately, this arrangement was short-lived. In 1899 the statue and its pedestal were moved to Merrick park, and in 1920 the fountain and bench were removed to Gordon Bill Park (from which they have been subsequently removed). During 1982 the bench was reinstalled in the park.

● 24 ●

300-308 Bridge Street was built in 1871 at a cost of \$30,000 from designs of Perkins & Gardner. It is three stories in height, built of brick, and features decorative brickwork at the top of the block as well as above the second and third floor windows. Originally the building housed offices and residential rooms on the upper floors, along with three stores on the first floor.

● 25 ●

289-309 Bridge St. is a six-story office building with retail stores on the first floor. It was completed in 1913 from designs of the Samuel M. Green Co. at a cost of \$225,000 and was named the Stearns Building. Of interest is the "Gothic" styling of the base of this structure as well as the cornice line, which is very distinctive. The S. M. Green Co. was formed in 1911 by Samuel M. Green, the former chief engineer of the Merrick Thread Co. in Holyoke. It specialized in industrial architecture, and in 1913 was reputed to be the largest firm in its line of business in New England, outside of Boston. The sixth floor of the Stearns building served as general offices for the company.

● 26 ●

266-86 Bridge Street was built in 1922-23 on the site of the Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church. The brick church had been built in 1868-69, had a seating capacity of over 900 and featured a central spire 185 feet in height. At that time downtown was very much a residential neighborhood and the site was very centrally

located. By the early twentieth century things had changed dramatically and a new site was chosen on Sumner Avenue next to Forest Park. The 53-year old church was demolished and this three-story commercial block, with five stores on the first floor and offices above, was built on its site. The building was designed by the Samuel M. Green Co., and is a very colorful structure with its red, white and blue enamel tiles on the facade.

● 27 ●

1477-1513 Main Street. The entire Main Street block between Hillman and Bridge St., except for the first-floor drug store at the corner of Bridge, comprises Steiger's department store. Several different buildings make up this block, with the oldest located south of the drug store. It is defined by a three-story, projecting bay and dates from 1883. It was originally known as Orr's Block and was named for Louis H. Orr & Co., "printing, engraving, and manufacturing stationers". The other buildings were all built for Steiger's. Albert Steiger began his business in a small store at the corner of Main and Hillman Sts. in 1906. This quickly expanded so that by 1920 almost the entire block from Main to Barnes and Hillman to Bridge was under his control. The four-story block along Bridge St. dates from this period. Later, he replaced older buildings with Springfield's finest Art Deco building, the main block of Steigers that comprises half of the Main Street frontage and extends along Hillman St. This was built in two sections between 1930 and 1945. It features warm, earth colors, strong verticals and zig-zag ornamentation. In the last decade much of this facade has been covered, first by the connector to Baystate West and then by the connection to Center Square.

● 28 ●

1531-45 Main Street. This five-story block was built between 1887 and 1889 at a cost of \$100,000. At the time of its completion it was the most modern business block in the city, and was the first to have marble wainscoting, a marble staircase, and a central letter chute. Originally it was known as the Fuller Building and it was designed by local architect F. S. Newman. The fourth and fifth floors had several residential suites including one occupied by Mr. Newman. The block was originally capped with two large, bulbous domes, which gave it a unique skyline. These had a functional purpose, containing the outlets for the building's air shafts, as well as an aesthetic purpose of calling attention to the building. Both were removed during the 1920's when a reaction set in against the extravagances of Victorian architecture.

● 29 ●

1567-73 Main Street is the Hotel Worthy, one of

Springfield's finest turn-of-the century landmarks. The hotel was originally built as a six-story structure in 1894, replacing the Glendower Hotel, which had been destroyed by fire the previous year. The Worthy was the first building in Springfield constructed with a steel skeleton, and the steel frame was covered with tile to insure fireproofing. The hotel was designed by the prominent, local firm of Gardner, Pyne & Gardner in the Renaissance Revival style. It was built to the highest standards, contained eighty rooms, and catered to business travellers. The great success of the hotel led to two expansions. In 1905 two stories were added and the main entrance was moved to the present Worthington St. location. Four years later in 1909 the six-story Mayo building (which had been built in 1896 from designs of Gardner Pyne & Gardner, and illustrated in the *American Architect and Building News*) was incorporated into the hotel, raising the capacity to two hundred rooms. To accomplish this addition an alley between the Mayo building and the Worthy on Worthington St. was filled in, and the Mayo building was raised to eight stories. Both enlargements were designed by the local architectural firm of Kirkham and Parlett and complement the styling of the original hotel. The Worthy's street elevations are rich with terra cotta ornamentation, and the recent cleaning of the structure has brought out their brilliant original coloring.



29—THE HOTEL WORTHY

● 30 ●

1585-1605 Main Street and 174-192 Worthington Street. This large, five-story brick block has had many alterations since its original construction in 1873 as a four-story block with Mansard roof. An extension along Worthington St. was three stories in height with a Mansard roof. The building was owned by Emerson Wight, a four-term Mayor of Springfield, and president