

QUADRANGLE / MATTOON



1. Springfield City Library—Central Library

1 The Quadrangle, 220 State St.

The first record of a library in Springfield was in 1796 when the Springfield Library Company published a catalog listing 320 books. This was a private, subscription library and was followed by a number of others in the first half of the 19th century. In 1857 the proprietors of two of the private libraries, the Springfield Institute and the Young Men's Literary Association, founded the City Library Association in order "to establish and maintain a Public Library in the City of Springfield accessible to all persons." The collection was located in the City Hall until 1871 when the first library was built on State Street on land donated by George Bliss. This building was Victorian Gothic in style and designed by New York architect George Hawthorne. In 1905 Andrew Carnegie pledged \$150,000 for a new library, and increased that to \$200,000 the following year. A design competition was held in 1907 and New York architect Edward L. Tilton was chosen. The design was based on the Italian Renaissance and the library was to be constructed of white, Vermont marble at a total cost of \$290,000. Construction began in 1909 and the new library was completed in late 1911. The old building was demolished when it was emptied.

2 The Quadrangle, 222 State St.

The George Walter Vincent Smith Art Museum is one of Springfield's 19th century architectural masterpieces. It was built as the Springfield Art Museum, and completed in 1895 from plans of Renwick, Aspinwall & Renwick of New York. Walter T. Owen, a member of the firm, was the designer. He was a native of Springfield and worked as a draftsman with the local architect E.C. Gardner before venturing to New York. The building is of the Italian Renaissance style and is constructed of buff colored Pompeian brick with elaborate terra cotta ornamentation. The frieze that caps the main block is five feet deep and is modelled after the library of the Ducal Palace in Venice. An addition, which was anticipated in the original design, was built in 1923. The movement for this museum began in 1889 when G.W.V. Smith offered to bequeath his collection and to endow it on the condition that money be raised to properly house his gift. It is now owned by the Springfield Library & Museums Association. Smith was very successful in the importing business in New York and "retired" at the age of 35. He married Belle Townsley, a Springfield native, in 1869 and the couple moved to this city. They did a considerable amount of travelling in Europe, but surprisingly, they never visited the Orient. All of their acquisitions were made through a New York dealer. After the death of G.W.V. Smith and his wife in the 1920s the name of the museum was changed to honor Springfield's benefactor.

3 The Quadrangle, 236 State St.

The Museum of Natural History was organized in 1859 as a branch of the City Library Association, now the Springfield Library & Museums Association. Until 1871 both the museum and the library occupied rooms in City Hall. In that year the new City Library opened and the museum had a 30' by 50' room for its natural history specimens, Indian relics and curiosities from distant countries. In 1895 the museum acquired a 50' by 70' room in the Art Museum. A subscription drive was held to raise money for the construction of a separate building for the science collection. In 1898 ground was broken north of the Art Museum and the new building was completed the next year from plans of Gardner, Pyne & Gardner. It was constructed of "Pompeian brick, Indiana limestone and terra cotta" and featured a "portico at the south end, with a massive foundation and pediment supported by four columns of polished granite". A large "addition" to the museum was opened in 1934. This was designed by the firm of Tilton & Githens and was sited to harmonize with the new Art Museum, designed by the same firm. Interestingly enough E.L. Tilton designed the City Library over twenty years earlier. The old building was faced with limestone to appear more modern. The museum featured ten new galleries and was made possible by a bequest from the estate of Stephen E. Seymour. His name is memorialized in the Seymour Planetarium, the first American-built planetarium, which was completed in 1937. Frank Korkosz, a technician at the museum who studied astronomy and mathematics at Amherst College and Harvard University, designed and built the projector. Dr. Korkosz served as director of the museum from 1958 to 1974. In 1969 the Tolman Memorial Wing, a two-story addition at the north end of the museum was opened.

4 The Quadrangle, 224 State St.

This residence originally stood directly on State Street. It was built in 1839 by Elijah Blake, chief engineer of the Springfield Fire Department. He was also very active in town and city government as well as serving in the State Legislature in 1838. He died at home in 1880 at the age of 96. In 1890, the City Library Association purchased the house and two years later moved it to the rear of the original lot. Rooms were leased to the Springfield Women's Club in 1894. It became necessary to move the house once again for the construction of the Museum of Natural History in 1898. At that time it was sited at its present location. In 1988, it was restored as the Connecticut Valley Historical Museum Education Center, housing offices and education classrooms. The two-story, clapboard-faced house features a hipped roof with widely projecting eaves, wide corner boards, and a one-story front porch with a tin "tent" roof.

5 The Quadrangle, 194 State St.

The Connecticut Valley Historical Museum, also known as the William Pynchon Memorial Building, was completed in 1927 from plans of local architect Max Westhoff. It was designed to typify the best period of Colonial architecture. The main entrance was copied from the Samuel Porter House in Hadley and is a tribute to the masterful skill of the Colonial craftsmen. At either end of the facade are two-story porches with Doric columns. These were copied from an old house near Farmington, Conn. The building is finished off with a slate roof and tall chimneys constructed of second-hand brick for effect. Formerly the Connecticut Valley Historical Society, the museum and its collections are now owned by the Springfield Library & Museums Association. The genealogy and local history library and archives of the Springfield City Library were transferred to the museum in 1988.

6 The Quadrangle, 49 Chestnut St.

The Museum of Fine Arts, originally known as the Gray Art Museum, was dedicated in October of 1933. It was named in honor of Mr. & Mrs. James P. Gray. Mr. Gray came to Springfield in 1888 and lived here in retirement. He died in 1904 and left more than \$750,000 to fund an art collection. Mrs. Gray died in 1930 and left the bulk of her estate to the City Library Association, now the Springfield Library & Museums Association, for the construction of a building to house the collection. An architectural competition was held for the new building and the New York firm of Tilton & Githens was chosen. The museum was built on the site of G.W.V. Smith's house. The building is constructed of limestone and features decorative medallions and an over-sized entrance with decorative surround on the quadrangle facade, and large carved panels on the Chestnut Street facade.



7. Merrick Park

7 Merrick Park

This small city park was once part of the George Bliss estate. Bliss was one of the most prominent local citizens in the mid-19th century. He was trained as a lawyer and was active in public affairs, serving several terms in the State House of Representatives and Senate. He was one of the original backers of the Western Railroad of which he served as President from 1836 to 1842. He was also the first President of the Chicopee Bank. He gave the land for the original City Library on State Street as well as donating \$10,000 toward its construction. His house and part of his estate were bought by the "Wardens and Vestry" of Christ Church for the purpose of erecting a new church. This piece of land at the corner of State and Chestnut Streets was bought by the City in 1887, so that no undesirable construction would occur. The purchase was done primarily through the will of William Merrick, a local industrialist and philanthropist, hence the subsequent name of the park. In 1899 the statue of Deacon Samuel Chapin was moved from its original location in Stearns Square to this site. This is Springfield's most noted piece of sculpture and was designed by Augustus Saint-Gaudens, in collaboration with the architect Stanford White. The statue commemorates one of the founders of Springfield.

8 195 State St.

195 State Street was built for the Springfield Fire and Marine Insurance Company. This firm was incorporated in 1849 and by 1904, when this structure was begun, it was 19th in size of assets of all U.S. insurance companies. The new headquarters was designed by the prominent, Boston architectural firm of Peabody & Stearns. It is composed of cut granite, features



8. 195 State Street

twelve, two-story Corinthian engaged columns, an elaborate entrance with doors of mahogany and plate glass, a vestibule composed of imported marble, and flanking, bronze lanterns mounted on granite buttresses. In 1953 the firm moved to a new location and this building was occupied by the local division of the Insurance Company of North America. INA moved in 1965, and soon thereafter this building became the headquarters for the Springfield School Department.

9 235 State St.

The first high school in Springfield was built in 1828 at the corner of Union and School Streets. Classes were held here for twelve years before being moved to the schoolhouse on State Street, west of Main, in 1841. In 1848, a new high school was built on the site of the present City Hall. This served until 1874 when a large, ornate school was completed on State Street. The present building originally served as Central High School, built in 1897-98 to the east of the 1874 school. This new school cost \$400,000 to build, and was designed by the Boston architectural firm of Hartwell, Richardson & Driver. In 1920, the older school was demolished to make way for a large, junior high school addition. This was similar in overall design and materials to Central High and was completed in 1922 from plans of local architect H.L. Sprague. In 1934, the name of the complex was changed to Classical Senior and Junior High Schools. In 1986, the new Springfield Central High School replaced this building. Soon after it was converted to residential condominiums.

10 240 State St.

St. Michael's Cathedral is the seat of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield. The church was built in 1861 from designs of Patrick C. Keely, the most prominent mid-19th century architect for Catholic churches in America. This is the first church built specifically for the Roman Catholics in Springfield. Previously they had worshipped in a small wood-frame church located at the corner of Union and Willow Streets. This had originally been built as a Baptist church at the corner of Maple and Mulberry Streets, and was moved by the Catholics in 1847 to its new location, where it was known as St. Benedict's. As the mostly Irish-Catholic population grew, plans were made for a new church. However, great difficulties arose in buying land because of local prejudices. Eventually the present site was obtained.

11 260 State St.

The rectory for St. Michael's Cathedral was built in 1871, the year the Diocese of Springfield was established, to house the bishop and clergy of the cathedral. Michael Curtis of Springfield was contractor for the mason work, and James Carroll of Worcester for the carpentry. The two-story, brick house was trimmed with brownstone, capped by a slate Mansard roof, and contained 27 rooms. It cost \$35,000 to build.

12 265 State St.

This large brick house was built in 1883 for James W. Kirkham, a prominent local manufacturer, at a cost of \$13,000. The house features a Classically-inspired portico on the facade with fluted Ionic columns and a decorated tympanum.

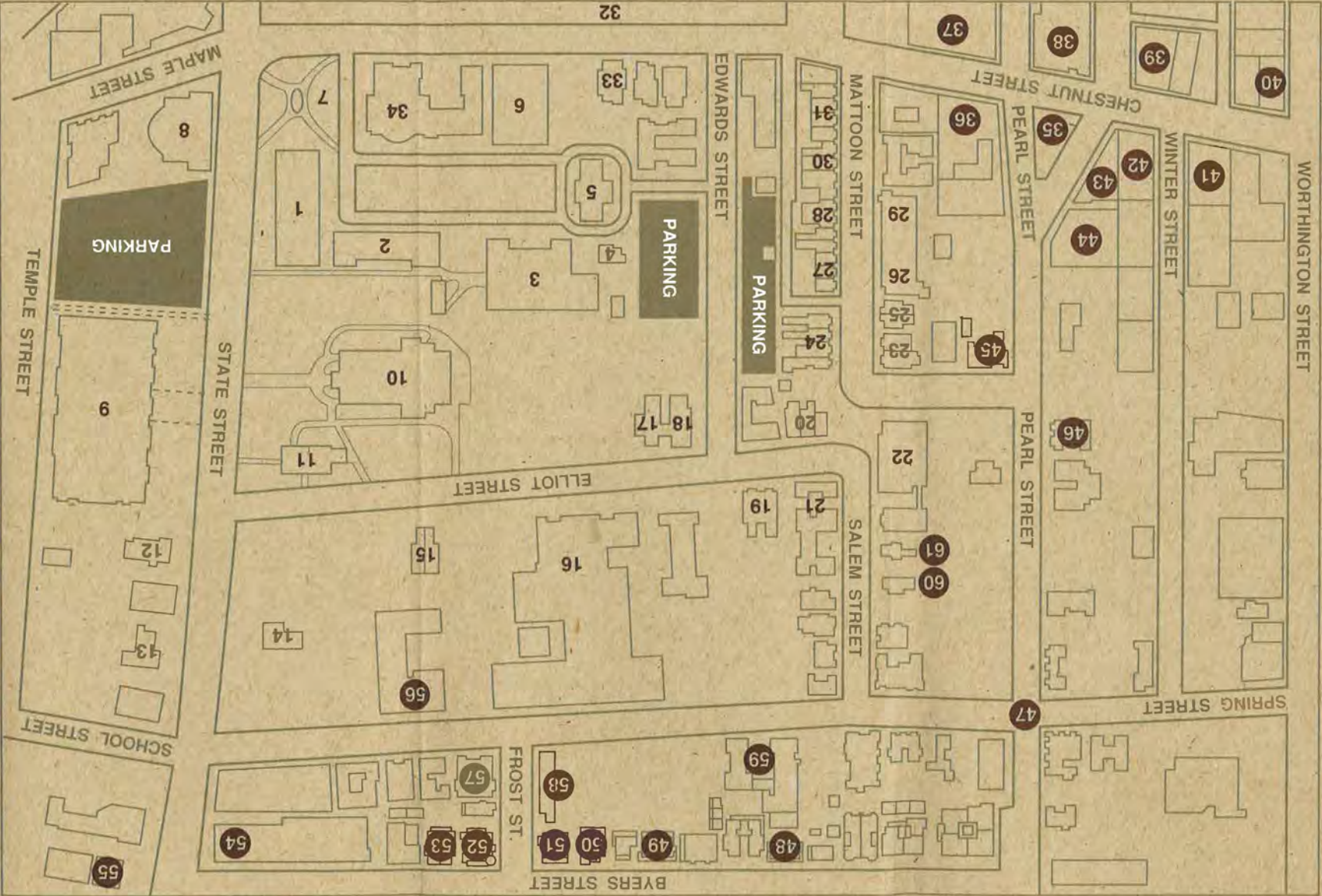
13 281 State St.

A particularly fine example of a mid-Victorian residence this home was built in 1852 for J.W. Hale, a local grocer. Distinctive features of this house include ornately-carved, paired brackets, a main entrance with stained glass transom and side lights, and a pedimented hood supported by decorative brackets. The house is L-shaped and has a one-story porch that extends from the crook of the "L" across the facade and along the western side.

14 284 State St.

"Linden Hall" is Springfield's most historic residential structure and is the oldest building standing in the city's center. The house was built in 1811 for James Byers, a local merchant and the first postmaster of Springfield. The architect is thought to have been Asher Benjamin, author of the first original American architectural work. It is known that Simon Sanborn, a young carpenter who worked with Benjamin in Boston, came to Springfield in 1811 "for the sole purpose of building a house for James Byer, Jr. Finding Springfield a pleasant place for a residence and promising for business he remained here." Sanborn became the town's master builder

Continued



field, and features decorative brickwork at the top of the block and around the main entrance.

58 6 Frost St.

Built in 1906 as headquarters for the Springfield Women's Club, this two-story building was planned and designed by the Hoggson Brothers, two New York designers who maintained a Springfield office during the early 20th century. It is covered with stucco, above a brick base that varies in height because of the hill slope. A distinctive feature is the variety of window shapes and their asymmetric placement. The Women's Club was formed in 1884 "to create relations of esteem and friendship among its members by giving them facilities for becoming better known to each other; and its general aim—to promote moral, intellectual and social improvement."

59 79 & 85 Spring St.

These two brick buildings comprise St. Luke's Home. The three-story block at 85 Spring Street was constructed first, in 1915. It was designed by John William Donohue and was featured in the *American Architect* the same year. St. Luke's Home was a residence for working women who could not live at home, and was staffed by the Sisters of Providence. In 1926 the four-story block at 79 Spring was constructed. Apparently this was originally a regular rooming house, but within a few years it became an annex to St. Luke's Home.

60 30 Salem St.

This building was originally located at 138 Spring Street, and was moved to its current site in 1978. It was built in 1871 by L.C. Sheldon at a cost of \$7,000 for Paschal P. Emory, a coppersmith and a principal in the firm of P.P. Emory & Co., one of the largest local manufacturers.

61 22 Salem St.

This residence was built in 1852 by Emerson Crozier, a mason, who sold the property in 1854 to John N. Howard for \$1,900. Howard, a fugitive slave, came north on the Underground Railroad. He joined John Brown's Springfield Gileadites, a branch of a national organization established to resist the capture of fugitive slaves, when the group formed in 1851. During the late 1850s Howard was forced to flee to Canada. He returned to Springfield at the beginning of the Civil War and remained until 1887 when he returned to his native Virginia. While in Springfield he earned his living as a teamster and from 1875 until his departure he served as sexton for South Congregational Church.



DIRECTIONS/PARKING

Interstate 91 South to Exit 7 or Interstate 91 North to Exit 4, Columbus Avenue to State Street. Park in the Library & Museums' lot on State Street across from the Springfield City Library or turn left on Elliot Street (past the Library) then left on Edwards Street to our other parking lots.

- Municipal & private parking lots & garages
- Springfield Library & Museums
- Free Parking

This walking tour includes two walks, 1 hour each in length.

For more information contact the Connecticut Valley Historical Museum Genealogy and Local History Library and Archives at (413) 732-3080 ext. 230.

Researched and written by Ed Loneragan, the first edition of this walking tour was published as part of the Springfield Historic Architecture Project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Revised and edited in 1991 by the Connecticut Valley Historical Museum and the Education Committee of the Springfield Preservation Trust, this version largely reproduces Loneragan's text with amendments reflecting changes in the neighborhoods since 1981.

Connecticut Valley Historical Museum  
a unit of the Springfield Library & Museums  
Springfield, Massachusetts



Walking Tour

Funded in part by the Mattoon Street Historic Preservation Association





14. Linden Hall, 284 State Street

and over the next thirty years designed most of Springfield's major buildings. In 1820 the house was purchased by Col. Israel Trask, the first American lawyer in New Orleans and negotiator for the Louisiana Purchase. Chester Harding, prominent portrait painter, also lived here. In 1858 Henry Alexander, Jr. purchased the house, which remained in his family's possession until 1939 when it was given to the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities. Alexander served two terms as Springfield's eighth mayor. In 1874 he moved the house from the corner of State and Elliot Streets to its present site. The two wings which were part of the original house were removed and a large ell was constructed in the rear of the house.

**15 25-27 Elliot St.**

This double, brick townhouse was constructed by local mason and builder Benjamin F. Farrar in 1872 at a cost of \$22,000. Elliot Street was opened off of State Street in the late 1850s, but most of the construction took place after the Civil War. This was a high-quality residential neighborhood and between 1865 and 1875, the street was quickly built up with brick and wood-frame houses in the latest architectural styles. This house features a slate Mansard roof, yellow sandstone trimmings, two bay windows in front, a piazza on each side, and plate glass windows. The original owner of No. 25 was Charles J. Blackstone, a Main Street hardware merchant, while No. 27 was occupied for most of the late 19th century by Peter S. Bailey, a treasurer of the Hampden Savings Bank.

**16 53 Elliot St.**

Technical High School which closed in 1986 was one of four public high schools in the city of Springfield. The school actually began in the mid-1890s as a private educational institution, called the Springfield Industrial Institute. This was located at Winchester Square (now Mason Square) to take advantage of adjacent industries. The curriculum combined various levels of technical training with scholastic education and the students produced marketable goods as part of their apprenticeships. In 1898 the program was taken over by the city and organized as the Mechanic Arts High School. The school continued at its Winchester Square location until the early 20th century. In 1904 land was purchased on Elliot Street and the firm of E.C. & G.C. Gardner was chosen to make plans for a new school. The complex was completed at a cost of nearly \$300,000 and occupied in September 1906. It consisted of a three-story academic building in the front, a three-story mechanical building in the rear and a two-story gymnasium and assembly hall in between. In 1924 a large addition on Spring Street was completed. This contained 72 rooms and included classrooms, machine shops, woodworking rooms, textile labs, sewing rooms, kitchens, art and mechanical drawing rooms, and a pottery studio. As the enrollment continued to grow another addition soon proved necessary. This was built in 1935 on the site of the 1906 mechanical building. It contained an assembly hall with seats for 1,260, two large gyms, classrooms, a shop and a basement cafeteria that could accommodate 1,000. This was replaced by the new Springfield Central High School.

**17 68 Elliot St.**

68 Elliot Street was built in 1871 for Warner Sturtevant, a banker and highly successful realtor, who also served as a State Representative. The house was designed by the local firm of Currier & Richards and constructed at a cost of \$20,000. It was described as a "pretty cottage villa... (with) many projections, is finely ornamented, and at once attracts the admiration of tasteful observers. No other house in the city resembles it, and no two sides of this one are alike." During the first decade of the 20th century the property was acquired by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield and the house has served as the bishop's residence ever since. In 1915 a walkway connecting this house to 76 Elliot was constructed.

**18 76 Elliot St.**

The Chancellery for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield was constructed in 1871 as a residence for William L. Wilcox, owner of W.L. Wilcox & Co.: "Manufacturers and Dealers in Stoves, Ranges... and Housekeeping Goods generally." The house cost \$15,000 and was designed by the local firm of Perkins & Gardner. It was contemporaneously described as "of a modified Gothic style... Besides a bay window, there is an octagonal tower four feet above the roof, while the porch in front is surmounted by a square tower; and the roofs and tops of the towers are ornamented with iron cresting."

**19 85-87 Elliot St.**

Known as "The Elliot", this four-story building was constructed as a thirteen-apartment block in 1907 by local contractors Gagnier & Angers at a cost of \$35,000. It is clad with yellow brick and features polished granite columns on either side of each entrance.

**20 94-98 Elliot St.**

This triple townhouse was constructed in 1869-70 by the prolific local builder B.F. Farrar. It was the first of the brick townhouses that were soon to transform the immediate area. William Mattoon, a wholesale grain dealer, originally owned one of the Chestnut Street mansions that lined the east side of the street from State to the present Apremont Triangle. About 1870 he removed the house and opened a new street through the property. This became Mattoon Street. Mattoon then moved to 94 Elliot Street.

**21 95-99 Elliot St.**

Built by Lebbeus C. Smith in 1887, this double house cost \$13,000 to build. Each half was sold individually with No. 99 bought by William H. Wright, who had lived across the street at 98 Elliot. The house is covered with clapboards, with decoratively-cut shingles providing variety. The use of wide boards on the surface helps outline distinctive features and breaks up the strong horizontal lines of the house.



22. 18 Salem Street

**22 18 Salem St.**

One of the most famous landmarks in Springfield was built as the North Congregational Church and served as such until 1935. The following year it became Grace Baptist Church. H.H. Richardson received a commission for the church in 1869, but construction was not begun until four years later. By this time he had already designed four buildings in Springfield, with the Hampden County Courthouse still under construction. The church was described in the 1873 directory as being built "of brownstone... of the Norman style of architecture. The building takes the form of a cross, having the tower and spire on the side toward Elliot Street, and a chancel, pastor's study and classroom in the rear. The height from floor to ridge-pole is about 50 feet. The tower is 22 feet square, and the spire above it, which is stone throughout, rises to a height of nearly 150 feet. The entire cost of land, church and furnishings will be nearly \$90,000."

**23 50-52 Mattoon St.**

This double townhouse was built by B.F. Farrar in 1873 at a cost of \$18,000. It was described in the 1873 local directory as "a two-story brick block, faced with pressed brick and Berea stone, with two-story bay windows on both streets, piazzas and Mansard roof." Both of the townhouses feature very elaborate entrance hoods. No. 52 was purchased by Julius A. Eldredge, a furniture dealer, who bought 43 Mattoon Street the previous year for his own residence.

**24 41-47 Mattoon St.**

Built in 1871 by B.F. Farrar, the four-unit townhouse cost \$40,000 to build. It features two-story bay windows, double entrance porches with heavy, chamfered posts and a slate Mansard roof with pedimented dormer windows. Brownstone is used for the arched lintels over the windows and for the decorative quoins at the corners of the block. No. 41 was bought by William H. Haile, who later purchased additional land to the west for a side yard. He also had the large porch built on this side. Haile moved to this city from Hinsdale, New Hampshire where he served three terms as a State Representative. In Springfield he was elected mayor in 1881 and served one term before becoming State Senator in 1882-83 and Lieutenant Governor from 1890-92. He was defeated in the 1893 gubernatorial race in a very close contest.

**25 36 & 42-44 Mattoon St.**

Built in 1887-88 by L.C. Smith as rental properties, these residences remained in his possession until his death in 1904. All three show the changes townhouse architecture underwent since the early 1870s. No. 36 features a round arched

entry with recessed doorway, above which is a circular balcony that is recessed into the block. Lawrence F. "Larry" O'Brien, former Commissioner of the National Basketball Association and former Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, grew up at 42 Mattoon Street.

**26 34 Mattoon St.**

This remnant of a block of four townhouses was built in 1872-73 by local builders C.C. Moulton and A.B. Howe. Each townhouse was built of brick, three-stories in height, and was capped by a slate Mansard roof. Three-story bay windows added variety to the facade.

**27 27-35 Mattoon St.**

This five-townhouse block was designed by the local architectural firm of Perkins & Gardner and built in 1871. It was patterned after the early 19th century "swelled front" townhouses on Beacon Hill in Boston. The 2 1/2 story bow windows establish an undulating rhythm across the facade that is punctuated by the elaborate, stone stairways and decorative hoods over each entrance. A bracketed, wooden cornice caps off the brick walls, with a slate Mansard roof above. The roofline is broken by alternating three-sided and hipped, single dormers.

**28 25 Mattoon St.**

This three-story, brick apartment building with brownstone trim was built in 1891 at a cost of \$20,000. Bay windows flank the central entrance above which is a brownstone panel with the enigmatic word "Yadow" carved on it. This turns out to be the builder's name, W.O. Day, backwards.

**29 24 Mattoon St.**

This free-standing townhouse was built in 1881 at a cost of \$6,000 for Frank C. Rice, a wholesale lumber dealer. The house is two stories in height, with a slate Mansard roof. It is built of brick and features a two-story bay window topped by a balcony and front entrance with a wooden porch.

**30 11 1/2-15 & 17-19 Mattoon St.**

These two, double townhouses were constructed in 1884 by L.C. Smith. They are two stories in height, built of brick and capped with slate Mansard roofs. Pedimented dormers break the roof lines and there are two, double entrance porches. Each porch has heavy, turned posts and a two-level, spindle frieze. An interesting detail is the use of blackened brick for decorative purposes as horizontal bands across the facades. The Reverend William H.P. Faunce, pastor of the State Street Baptist Church, lived at No. 17 from 1885 until 1890, after which he moved to New York City to head the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church. In 1899 he was appointed president of Brown University, a post he held until 1929.

**31 5-11 Mattoon St.**

This row of townhouses was built in 1874 by B.F. Farrar at a cost of \$35,000. The block is very similar in appearance to the block at 11-21 Central Street, built the previous year by Farrar. Each townhouse has a three-story bay window, brownstone steps and a bracketed hood over the entrance.

**32 70 Chestnut St.**

The Stonehaven Hotel was constructed in 1929-1930 and was billed as Springfield's first "Apartment hotel." The well proportioned building was designed by R.M. Mowry. It exhibits Renaissance Revival details in its rusticated stone first floor, round headed windows and brick corbeled cornice of arches. In 1940, the hotel was purchased by the Henderson Brothers of Boston and became the second hotel in the newly-formed Sheraton chain. It is now residential condominiums.

**33 63 Chestnut St.**

This large, stucco building was built in 1905 as a home and office for Dr. Philip Kilroy. Constructed at a cost of \$11,000, the house was described as "a model of elegance", and is one of the few stucco-and-tile houses in the city. Dr. Kilroy was born in Ireland and came to the U.S. in 1880. Shortly after his death the house was purchased for use as a radio station. On June 3, 1936 WSPR went on the air as the third radio station in Springfield. WSPR remained in this location until 1981 at which time the building was purchased by the Springfield Library & Museums Association.

**34 35 Chestnut St.**

Christ Church Cathedral is the seat of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts. It was dedicated in 1876 and replaced a wood-frame, church on State Street. The architects were Lord & Fuller and H.G. Wadlin of Boston. The building was constructed of Longmeadow brownstone with a turreted tower, 146 feet in height. There were problems with the foundation and most of the tower was taken down. It was replaced with the current tower which is 75 feet in height and was designed by the local firm of Kirkham & Parlett. The church features a clerestory, 12 feet high, supported by trusses of Southern pine, and three large rose windows, one in the nave facing Chestnut Street and one each in the north and south transepts. The rectory, which is situated north of the church on Chestnut Street, was built in 1908 from designs by Kirkham & Parlett. A brick parish house, built in 1960-61,

serves as a connector between the rectory and the church.

**35 Apremont Triangle**

This small city park was established in 1924 after the realignment of Pearl Street with the recently constructed section of Hillman Street between Dwight and Chestnut Streets, and the extension of Bridge Street easterly of Chestnut to Pearl. The resultant triangular space was dedicated to the memory of the local 104th Regiment, which distinguished itself at the Battle of Apremont during World War I.

**36 109-21 Chestnut & 9-17 Pearl St.**

This two-story commercial structure, built on the site of the William Birnie house, was constructed in 1923 from the designs of the Samuel M. Green Co. The first floor housed several stores, including a Waldorf Lunch at the corner site, and two showrooms for local automobile dealers on Pearl Street, while the second floor contained office space.

**37 114-122 Chestnut St.**

The Springfield Young Men's Christian Association was the third organization of its kind in the United States when founded in April 1852. However, the organization had difficulty settling here, and it was only on its third attempt, in 1881, that it was successful. During the early 1880s three separate branches were established in Springfield. The first was near the railroad station and served the railroad workers. The second was on Armory hill; and the third, in downtown. In 1891 the branches were consolidated under the name of the Springfield YMCA, and a five-story building was erected at the corner of State and Dwight Streets. This was dedicated in 1895. By the early 20th century the block was outgrown, and in 1915 a new building was designed for the YMCA. This was built at the corner of Hillman and Chestnut Street and completed in 1916. It was seven stories in height, with a steel frame, and clad with red brick. The architects were Shattuck & Hussey of Chicago. In 1929 a seven-story addition was made to the southern end of the block. This was designed by the local architectural firm of Kirkham & Parlett, and was very similar to the original structure in materials, design and detailing. It is now an apartment complex and health club.

**38 134-140 Chestnut St.**

In the early years of the 20th century, the need for a new first-class hotel in Springfield became evident. Also, the congested condition of Main Street made it clear that a different location must be sought for this enterprise. A company was formed of fifty of the leading businessmen and the present site was chosen for the new hotel. This location is situated on the brow of one of the Connecticut River terraces, well above Main Street. This made for a decided improvement in the air quality as well as a commanding view of the river valley and the hills to the west. The hotel was designed and engineered by a local firm, the Samuel M. Green Co., which at the time was the largest such firm in New England outside of Boston. A Boston architect, Albert W. Cobb, came to Springfield to design the facade of the hotel. He subsequently established an office here and remained for the rest of his life. On March 17, 1911 the new Hotel Kimball opened its doors to the public for the first time. Completed at the cost in excess of \$1,000,000 it featured the largest ballroom of any hotel in the area, and at a height if 124 feet and eight inches, was within four inches of the limit set by state law for buildings in Springfield. In 1924 a ten-story, \$125,000 addition on Hillman Street gave the hotel a total of 350 rooms. Three years later the three-story addition at the corner of Chestnut and Hillman was completed. This was built to house the Chamber of Commerce. In recent years the hotel was changed to a condominium.

**39 144-145 Chestnut St.**

The Tarbell-Watters Building is named for the firm established in 1915 by Edward Tarbell and Franklin Watters to distribute auto parts. Their business expanded rapidly, along with the growing automobile trade. By 1923 they were able to hire H.L. Sprague, a prominent local architect, to design a five-story building for this site. The block was completed in 1924. In 1926 a two-story addition, fronting on Chestnut Street, was built. This was used by J.S. Harrington, Inc. as a showroom for Hudson automobiles.



40. 158-164 Chestnut Street

**40 158-164 Chestnut St.**

This six-story commercial block with a prominent corner location was built in 1913 for the McIntosh Shoe Co., which was contemporaneously described as "not only the oldest but the largest inland boot and shoe jobbing house in New England." The company was previously located on Lyman Street. The block is perhaps the best example of a "Chicago School" design in Springfield. There is very little historical ornamentation on the building, the architectural character of the facades deriving from the fenestration. The glass area between the vertical piers is set with "Chicago" widows. This location was redeveloped as residential and commercial condominiums.

**41 151-157 Chestnut St.**

This is yet another structure in the Apremont Triangle area built for the burgeoning automobile business in the early 20th century. Winter Street was opened in 1913 through the Chester W. Chapin estate, and the south side of the street was developed with one-story service structures, almost all of which were connected with the automobile—as garages, repair shops, or specialty manufacturers. In 1916 this four-story brick block was built as a salesroom, service station and garage for Willys-Overland, Inc., distributors of the Willys-Knight and Overland "motor cars." The "garage" portion could accommodate 1,000 cars. The company was based in Toledo, Ohio and in 1918 was the second largest auto company in the world. The post-World War I recession slowed production and the firm vacated their facility in 1922. Since that time this block has served a variety of commercial and manufacturing interests.

**42 141-147 Chestnut St.**

Built at a cost of \$35,000 in 1913 by F.T. Ley & Co., the two-story block had offices on the upper floor and three retail spaces on the first floor. The store at the corner of Chestnut and Winter Streets was originally used as a showroom for the Stevens-Duryea Co., one of the Springfield area's major automobile manufacturers in the early 20th century.

**43 454-72 Bridge St.**

Built in 1925 on the site of the homestead of Daniel L. Harris, Springfield's sixth mayor and prominent industrialist, the large brick mansion was carefully dismantled under the supervision of local architect Max Westhoff and moved to Watch Hill, Rhode Island, where it served for a number of years as the summer home of the Lewis Powers family of Springfield. Afterwards, it was converted to an inn. The two-story building was named the Harris block and had retail stores on the first floor and office space above. It was designed by Samuel M. Green Co. The corner store was occupied by Rolls Royce of America as its branch office and showroom. In 1920 Springfield was selected as the site for the American works of Rolls Royce. Prior to this showroom all sales were handled directly through the company's only American factory, located in East Springfield.

**44 486-96 Bridge St.**

The Green Block is a two-story office-and-retail structure, built in 1925 from plans of the Samuel M. Green Co. The first floor was occupied as a showroom for Arthur E. Center, Inc. distributor of Jordan Motor Cars. In 1926, it began selling Pontiac cars. They are the oldest automobile dealership currently operating in Springfield and are now located on Main Street in the South End. The Samuel M. Green Co., formed in 1908, used most of the upper floor for its architectural and engineering business, which specialized in mill architecture.

**45 45 Pearl St.**

This was the first house built on Pearl Street, and it dates from 1847. Abel Howe, a local mason, built it for his own residence. In 1948 the structure was modified to accommodate two stores on the first floor. The building is two stories in height, constructed of brick and is capped by a hipped roof.

**46 52 Pearl St.**

Known as "The Imperial," this structure was built in 1899 by local contractors Gagnier and Angers at a cost of \$26,000. It was one of the earliest apartment houses built in Springfield, as well as one of the few Victorian-styled blocks. It is four stories in height, built of brick, with rusticated brownstone towers flanking the central, recessed entrance. The towers are ornamented with wrought iron balconies while the entrance is outlined with yellow brick, and flanked by small, oval, stained-glass windows.

**47 Armoury Commons**

Armoury Commons is the name given to a grouping of 20th century apartment buildings near the intersection of Spring and Pearl Streets. Almost all of the blocks were constructed between 1908 and 1912 by Gagnier & Angers, local contractors who specialized in apartment house construction. Most of the blocks are faced with red, glazed brick and feature bow windows, decorative cornices and elaborate entrances. In 1977 Scape Unlimited, local landscape architects, designed the park that serves as the focus for this area.

**48 94-96 Byers St.**

This location is a fine example of the free adaptation of Colonial design that was popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It was originally constructed in 1897 at a cost of \$6500, from designs of local architect Guy Kirkham. The double house was owned by Mrs. C.D. Hosley and used as rental property.

**49 68-70 Byers St.**

This brick double house, built in 1871-72 from designs of local architects Perkins & Gardner, is two stories in height with a slate Mansard roof and features decorative brickwork, bay windows and porches.

**50 60 Byers St.**

A very distinctive house, this is one of the few of "modern" styling in Springfield. It dates from the mid-19th century, but was totally transformed by local architect Thurston Munson in the early 1950s for his own residence. The house appears to step down the hillside in a series of levels and features concrete panels, decorative brickwork, curved surfaces with band windows, and corner windows.



51. 54 Byers Street

**51 54 Byers St.**

This grand Victorian home is thought to have been built in 1864 for Homer Merriam, a younger brother of George and Charles Merriam, the founders of Springfield's world-famous publishing company, G. & C. Merriam. Homer also worked for the company and eventually became president, after his brothers' deaths.

**52 44-46 Byers St.**

Dating from 1890, this double residence was built for Marcus Robinson at a cost of \$16,000. It is a particularly fine example of the Queen Anne style and features a three-story corner tower with octagonal roof and finial. Also of note is the terra cotta panel on the chimney on the Frost Street side of the house. Only a few of these are known to exist in the city.

**53 38-40 Byers St.**

This double house is built of brick. The flat roof is surmounted by a wooden cupola. On the facade a double, central porch is flanked by two-story bay windows. The house was built and owned by Frederick W. Clark, a carpenter and builder who also lived in half of the house.

**54 310 State St.**

A fine example of Georgian Revival architecture, this structure was completed in 1924 from plans of local architect Wallace E. Dibble. It was built to house the Federal Land Bank's eastern district offices. The bank was chartered in 1917 and served the New England states, New York and New Jersey. It moved to Agawam in 1975.

**55 311 State St.**

This structure was built as the Home for Springfield Lodge No. 61 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks. It was the first to be built specifically for the Elks and was completed in 1915 from plans of local architect John W. Donohue. The Home received national attention with the publication of four pages of plans and photographs in *The American Architect* in 1916. Fifty years later, in 1966, a new Elks Home was constructed in suburban Springfield.

**56 32 Spring St.**

In 1909 Dr. Wilbur Gordy, the superintendent of schools, organized a woodworking and machine shop for fifty boys. This proved very successful, and in 1920-21 the present building was constructed to house the Vocational School. Two years later, in 1923, the school's name was changed to Trade School. It continued to offer courses only for boys until 1934 when girls were first admitted. By the late 1930s it was apparent that a much larger school was needed and a new Trade School (Roger Putnam Vocational High School) was built in 1940 on upper State Street.

**57 41 Spring St.**

Known as "The Majestic", this apartment block was built in 1897 by local contractors Gagnier & Angers at a cost of \$21,000. It is one of the earliest apartment blocks in Spring-

Continued