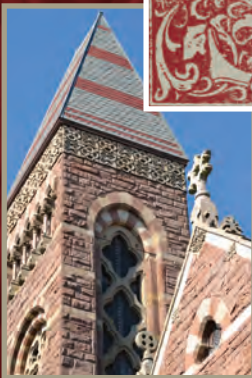


# Armory & Quadrangle

## *Heritage* TOUR



SPRINGFIELD, MA

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Springfield was founded in 1636 by English Puritans from eastern Massachusetts. It remained a small community until the establishment of the Springfield Armory in 1794. Significant growth occurred between the Civil War and World War I. This walking tour brochure will give you a sense of our history and heritage.







# Armory & Quadrangle *Heritage* TOUR

## 1 **Apremont Triangle Area**

Pearl Street & Chestnut Street

This park is dedicated to the 104th Regiment that distinguished itself at the World War I Battle of Apremont in France. It is the center of a grouping of early 20th century buildings. 140 Chestnut Street (1911) was the lavish Kimball Hotel, now condominiums. Shattuck & Hussey of Chicago designed 122 Chestnut Street (1916) for the YMCA, now apartments. 144 Chestnut Street (1923) was built to house an auto parts store. The two-story buildings on two sides of the Triangle were built in the 1920s to house automobile dealerships, including Rolls Royce, which manufactured cars in Springfield.

## 2 **Willys-Overland Block** (1916)

151 Chestnut Street

This four-story building was constructed as salesroom, service facility, and garage for Willys-Overland, an Ohio-based automobile company.

## 3 **McIntosh Building** (1913)

158-164 Chestnut Street

This six-story brick block is probably the best and earliest example of the Chicago School style in Springfield. The style is known for its lack of traditional ornamentation and large windows featuring a middle fix window flanked by sash windows. The McIntosh Shoe Company was once among the largest of boot and shoe jobbing houses in New England.

## 4 **Historic Mattoon Area**

Mattoon Street & Elliot Street

Developed between 1870 and 1890, this area is one of the few remaining examples of high style Victorian row houses. The bow front houses #27-#35 were designed by the local firm of Perkins & Gardner. Lieutenant Governor William Haile lived at #41 in the 1890s. Postmaster General Lawrence O'Brien grew up at #42. Rev. William Faunce lived at #17 before becoming president of Brown University.

## 5 **North Congregational Church** (1872)

18 Salem Street

This building was designed by Henry Hobson Richardson and is one of the most important landmarks in Springfield. The brownstone edifice features a 150-foot stone tower and Tiffany windows.

## 6 **Technical High School** (1905)

53 Elliot Street

Eugene & George Gardner designed this school as the Springfield Industrial Institute. The school closed in 1986. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts completed construction of a backup data facility at the site in 2010 and only its façade was saved.

## 7 **Alexander House** (1811)

35 Elliot Street

One of Springfield's oldest buildings, it is in a transitional Federal/Greek Revival style and was built by Simon Sanborn, using what is believed to be a design by Asher Benjamin. It has had numerous important owners: James Byers, first postmaster of Springfield; Israel Trask, who helped negotiate the Louisiana Purchase; Chester Harding, prominent portrait artist; and Henry Alexander, mayor of Springfield. The house has been moved twice, once in 1874 and again in 2003 to accommodate a new federal courthouse.

## 8 **St. Michael's Roman Catholic Cathedral** (1860)

240 State Street

St. Michael's was the first Roman Catholic parish in Springfield. The church was designed by New York architect Patrick C. Keeley, a prominent architect of Catholic buildings in the 19th century. Note the statue of the conquering St. Michael in the tower niche. The brick Second Empire style house, at the corner of Elliot Street, was built in 1871 for the Bishop's residence.

## 9 **Central Library** (1912)

220 State Street

This Italian Renaissance style building was designed by Edward Tilton. Featuring a marble exterior with a hip roof of green tile, the library was built with financial support from Andrew Carnegie on the site of the old library. Visit its ornate rotunda.

## 10 **Merrick Park Et Puritan Statue** (1899)

State Street & Chestnut Street

This piece of land was bought by the City in 1887 with proceeds provided through the will of William Merrick. In 1899, the statue of Deacon Samuel Chapin, a founder of Springfield, was moved here from Stearns Square. Augustus Saint-Gaudens, one of America's greatest sculptors, designed the statue, while noted architect Stanford White designed the granite pedestal.

## 11 **George Walter Vincent Smith Art Museum** (1896)

The New York firm of Renwick, Aspinwall & Renwick designed this Renaissance Revival building of Pompeian brick and terra cotta ornamentation after Mr. Smith offered to donate his collection of Middle Eastern and Asian art.

## 12 **Springfield Science Museum** (1899 & 1934)

The local firm of Gardner, Pyne & Gardner designed the original Museum of Natural History to match the Smith Art Museum. Later, the large Art Deco addition was designed by Tilton & Githens to harmonize with the Museum of Fine Arts.

## 13 **Museum of Fine Arts** (1933)

In 1904, James Philip Gray left a sizeable estate to fund an art collection. In 1930, his wife's estate funded a building to house the collection. Tilton & Githens of New York designed this Art Deco building.

## 14 **The Amazing World of Dr. Seuss Museum** (1927)

Local architect Max Westhoff designed this granite Colonial Revival style building for a history museum. It now honors children's book author Theodor Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss, who was born in Springfield.

## 15 **Blake House** (1839)

Edwards Street

This Gothic Revival style house was built on State Street and moved three (!) times. The 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. For its first 40 years, it was home to Elijah Blake, chief engineer of the Springfield Fire department. In 1890 the City Library Association bought it and moved it to the back of the lot. It was moved again in 1898 to make way for the Natural History Museum and then moved to its current location in 1997 to make room for the Museums' Welcome Center.

## 16 **Christ Church Episcopal Cathedral** (1874)

35 Chestnut Street

Architects Lord & Fuller and H.G. Wadlin of Boston designed this church of Longmeadow brownstone. Its original 146-foot tower was removed because of foundation problems. The present 75-foot tower was constructed in 1927 from designs by the local firm of Kirkham & Parlett.

## 17 **Springfield Fire Et Marine Insurance Co.** (1904)

195 State Street

This Peabody & Stearns-designed building is composed of cut granite and features twelve two-story engaged Corinthian columns and bronze lanterns mounted on granite buttresses.

## 18 **Van Allen Building** (1902)

19-25 Maple Street

This apartment building is one of the most fanciful in Springfield. Its stepped gables, multi-paned windows, and elaborate accent details give it a Dutch flavor.



## 19 **South Congregational Church** (1873)

45 Maple Street

This church was called "one of the finest examples of High Victorian Gothic in America" by architectural historian Henry-Russell Hitchcock. It was designed by New York architect William Potter, who also designed many buildings at Princeton University, and features a distinctive brownstone tower, facade apse, and two large stained glass rose windows.

## 20 **Female Seminary** (1832)

77 Maple Street

Springfield's master builder Simon Sanborn designed this simple structure as a private school for girls. It was remodeled in 1843 and became a private residence. It became offices in the 20th century.

## 21 **Merrick-Phelps House** (1841)

83 Maple Street

This house was first owned by Solymen Merrick, inventor of the monkey wrench, and then by Ansel Phelps, a local attorney who became the fourth mayor of Springfield. It is one of the city's finest houses from the early 19th century.

## 22 **Springfield Cemetery**

171 Maple Street (off map)

The purchase of 20 acres of the area known as "Martha's Dingle" marked the beginning of this Romantic Movement cemetery. Besides fanciful Victorian monuments, there are gravestones from the 1600s and 1700s relocated from the original burying ground in 1848 to make way for the railroad. The 1885 brownstone chapel contains Tiffany windows.

## 23 **Classical Condominiums** (1897)

235 State Street

This large Renaissance Revival building was designed by the Boston firm of Hartwell, Richardson & Driver. Originally called "Central" High School, a large western addition was designed by H.L. Sprague in the 1920s. Renamed "Classical" in 1934, the school closed in 1986 and was converted into condominiums.

## 24 **Hale House** (1852)

281 State Street

This house, with its heavy brackets under the eaves and ornamental door hood, is an excellent example of the Italianate style.

## 25 **Federal Land Bank** (1924)

310 State Street

Local architect Wallace Dibble designed this Colonial Revival style building to house the eastern division of the bank, which had been chartered in 1916 to serve agricultural needs in New England.

## 26 **Elks Lodge** (1915)

311 State Street

The local branch of the fraternal order was formed in 1887. Local architect John Donohue designed this building, which served the Elks until 1966.

## 27 **Masonic Temple** (1923)

339 State Street

This Classical Revival style building, with Egyptian details such as the columns, was designed by the local firm of McClintock & Craig. The first masonic lodge was formed in Springfield in 1817 at the Armory. The structure is now a performing arts high school.

## 28 **Springfield Armory National Historical Site**

In 1794, President George Washington established the first American armory in Springfield. Growth of the armory spurred the growth of the town. The many nineteenth century buildings now house Springfield Technical Community College and the Springfield Armory Museum, which is a National Historic Site and home to the world's largest collection of American military firearms.



Founded in 1972, the Springfield Preservation Trust is a volunteer, private nonprofit organization working to preserve Springfield's built environment. Its mission is to preserve and protect properties which have architectural, historic, educational, or cultural significance.

SPT believes historic preservation is an important part of making Springfield a great place to live, work, and visit. Historic Preservation is crucial to tourism and economic development and creating a unique sense of place. It's a means of creating jobs, attracting investment, generating tax revenue, and supporting small business.

For more than 45 years, SPT has been an independent voice supporting historic preservation. We have held countless events to showcase how our old buildings can be part of our modern lives and show off the historic places that make Springfield unique. We've helped pass legislation on the state and local levels that averts the needless loss of historic places. Our online resources help homeowners with restoration and educate the public on the beauty, quality and value of older homes. These activities have helped save and restore Springfield's threatened historic treasures so that they are here for future generations to enjoy.

For information on events and membership, call **747-0656** or go to **[springfieldpreservation.org](http://springfieldpreservation.org)**.



**SPRINGFIELD  
PRESERVATION  
TRUST**  
incorporated 1972

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