

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA	FORM NO.
3000	42

PHOTO: (3x3" or 3x5", black & white)  
 staple to left side of form

Photo number \_\_\_\_\_

Town Springfield  
 Address 300-308 Bridge Street  
 Historic Name Fitzgerald's Stearns Sq<sup>10</sup> B1C1  
 (OSMRT)  
 Ownership: Stearns Sq. Realty Corp.  
 Original Owner: Patrick Fitzgerald  
 Use: Present Commercial  
 Original Commercial/Residential

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1871  
 Source Springfield Directory, 1871-72

Style Italianate/Panel Brick  
 Architect Perkins and Gardner  
 Exterior wall fabric brick  
 Outbuildings --- none

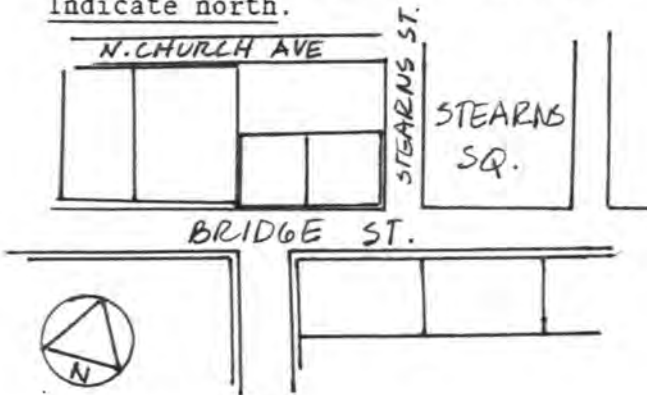
Major alterations (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_  
storefronts mid 20th century

Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approx. acreage less than one acre

Setting Corner block within a continuous  
row of historic structures of similar size  
lining the north side of Bridge Street.

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.



Recorded by Ed Lonergan ; ed. Margo Webber  
 Organization Spfld. Historical Commission  
 Date Jan, 1980; Aug, 1982

UTM Ref: 18/699140/4663930  
 Springfield South Quadrangle  
 Assessor's Map #309

(Staple additional sheets here)

**ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE** (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community.)

The Stearns Square Block meets Criteria B and C. It is associated with local developer Patrick Fitzgerald and is an important example of the early work of noted local architect E.C. Gardner.

This is the earliest known commercial design by the firm of Perkins and Gardner who worked in Springfield in the 1860's and '70's'. Other works of theirs still standing  
(Continuation Page)

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE** (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

Patrick Fitzgerald was a prominent real estate developer in downtown Springfield in the early 1870's. He is known to have built five three-story brick blocks in the downtown including this one and others on Worthington at Stearns Square, Harrison Avenue, Worthington and Fairbanks Avenue and are at Bridge and Water Streets. This is the only one which remains extant and retains its full integrity. Little is known of Fitzgerald other than that he was a man of means active in the 1870's. Hard times must have hit for several of his mortgages were foreclosed in 1878.

The building relates to the first phase of commercial development in the post-Civil War years and illustrates the transition of downtown streets from residential to commercial use. The upper floors originally housed ten tenements. The architectural style is a good example of early Panel Brick commercial design in the downtown and is the only remaining example of its type. Other examples of the Panel Brick style such as the W.F. Young Co. and Clark Block (N.R.), both on Lyman Street are both later in date and more elaborate in design.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES** (name of publication, author, date, and publisher)

- Springfield Directory; 1869 - 1875, p. 26.
- Centennial Map of Springfield, 1875
- Picturesque Hampden; 1891, p. 32
- Springfield Daily Republican, December 13, 1906, p. 5.
- ibid, December 16, 1929
- The Shingle Style and the Stick Style, Vincent Scully
- Vertical File: Springfield Library; E.C. Gardner.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Springfield	Form No: 42
Property Name: Fitzgerald's Stearns Square Block	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd)

include the 27-35 Mattoon Street rowhouses (N.R.), the Rufus Chase House, W.M. Allis Mansion and First Congregational Church Chapel at Court Square (N.R.) and Powers Paper Block (N.R.). E.C. Gardner also gained fame as a publisher of pattern books. He then proceeded to become the city's most prominent and most prolific 19th century architect.

This building is one of the few remaining early Panel Brick commercial blocks in the downtown. The decorative brick treatments create window hoods and cornice decoration is an interesting application of Panel Brick motifs during the style's early years.

New signage is inappropriate but has been tacked on above the earlier masonry piers and lintels without damage to historic fabric beneath it. The block retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, feeling and association.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom



## 8. Significance

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

## X 10. Geographical Data

Average of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

USGS References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification

X Please provide

## 11. Form Prepared By

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_\_ national \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

Site \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

## 13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed *D. Byers* Date 12/22/82 Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet Item number Page 3 of 5

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Downtown Springfield Multiple Resource Area  
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- ✓ 21. Cutler and Porter Block Entered in the National Register *for* Keeper *Melvyn Byers 2/24/83*  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ 22. Produce Exchange Building Entered in the National Register *for* Keeper *Melvyn Byers 2/24/83*  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 23. Edisonia Theater Block Substantive Review Determined Eligible Keeper *Ronan Han Dwyer 5/27/83*  
**DOE/OWNER OBJECTION**  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ 24. Baystate Corset Block Entered in the National Register *for* Keeper *Melvyn Byers 2/24/83*  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ 25. Smith's Building Substantive Review Keeper *Ronan Han Dwyer 2/29/83*  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ 26. Y.W.C.A. Building Substantive Review Determined Eligible Keeper *Ronan Han Dwyer 2/29/83*  
**DOE/OWNER OBJECTION**  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ 27. Driscoll's Block Entered in the National Register *for* Keeper *Melvyn Byers 2/24/83*  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ 28. Fitzgerald's Stearns Square Block Entered in the National Register *for* Keeper *Melvyn Byers 2/24/83*  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ 29. Trinity Block Entered in the National Register *for* Keeper *Melvyn Byers 2/24/83*  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ 30. Kellogg's Envelope Block Substantive Review Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ S + T  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

R

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Fitzgerald's Stearns Square Block (Downtown  
Springfield MRA)

Hampden County

MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 11/10/82 - 3025

Fed. Reg. Date: 2/7/84

Date Due: 4/1/83

Action:  ACCEPT 2/24/83

Entered in the RETURN

National Register REJECT

Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_

Discipline \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for:  technical corrections cited below  
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates

## 8. Significance

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Area of Significance—Check and justify below \_\_\_\_\_

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- \_\_\_\_\_ summary paragraph
- \_\_\_\_\_ completeness
- \_\_\_\_\_ clarity
- \_\_\_\_\_ applicable criteria
- \_\_\_\_\_ justification of areas checked
- \_\_\_\_\_ relating significance to the resource
- \_\_\_\_\_ context
- \_\_\_\_\_ relationship of integrity to significance
- \_\_\_\_\_ justification of exception
- \_\_\_\_\_ other

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

## 10. Geographical Data

Address of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Geographic name \_\_\_\_\_

USIT Reference \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

## 11. Form Prepared By

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is

\_\_\_\_\_ national \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

## 13. Other

- \_\_\_\_\_ Maps
- \_\_\_\_\_ Photographs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_


Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: 202 272-3500


Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



  
alony  
opticians

ZENITH  
SHOE REPAIR

 alony  
opticians

alony opticians  P.E. MURPHY  
OPTICIANS

E 5th  
STANLACE

42

Downtown Springfield MRA, Ma

Fitzgerald's Stearns Square Block

Fitzgerald's Steam Square  
Block #42  
300-308 Bridge St.  
1"=50' Springfield MRA

126.50

WORTHINGTON

38

39

40

21,280

*divided*

6023

3548

2106

107.60

2046

2151

2365

2106

107.60

2046

2151

2365

2106

PASSAGE WAY

45

44

42

1545  
1543  
1539  
1537  
1531

BRIDGE

ST.

3597

13353

S

