

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:

Massachusetts

COUNTY:

Hampden

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE

MAY 2 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:

Court Square Historic District (use for publication)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Court Square

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Bounded by Main, State, Broadway, Pyncheon Streets and City Hall Place

CITY OR TOWN:

Springfield

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

Second

STATE

CODE

COUNTY:

CODE

Massachusetts

025

Hampden

013

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY
(Check One)

- ☒ District ☐ Building
☐ Site ☐ Structure
☐ Object

OWNERSHIP

- ☐ Public
☐ Private
☒ Both

Public Acquisition:

- ☐ In Process
☐ Being Considered

STATUS

- ☒ Occupied
☐ Unoccupied
☐ Preservation work
in progress

ACCESSIBLE
TO THE PUBLIC

Yes:

- ☒ Restricted
☐ Unrestricted
☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Agricultural ☒ Government ☒ Park
☒ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Private Residence
☐ Educational ☐ Military ☒ Religious
☐ Entertainment ☐ Museum ☐ Scientific

- ☐ Transportation
☐ Other (Specify)

Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Multiple

STREET AND NUMBER:

Multiple

CITY OR TOWN:

Springfield

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

025

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Hampden County Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:

55 Elm Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Springfield

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE OF SURVEY: 1972 and 1973

☐ Federal☒ State☐ County☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Massachusetts Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:

40 Beacon Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Boston

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

025

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Massachusetts

COUNTY: Hampden

ENTRY NUMBER: MAY 2 1974

DATE: MAY 2 1974

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☒ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Court Square Historic District is at the southern end of Springfield's central business district and is the focus of the city's government center. The central design element in the district is Court Square Park itself. It is rectangular with sidewalks running along its edges, crossing it diagonally and north-south through the center. It is planted with symmetrically spaced mature elms; young maple trees and shrubs define the intersection of walks. Four monuments adorn the park: a statue of pioneer Miles Morgan at the northwest corner, a monument honoring Civil War heroes at the Main Street edge, a monument honoring U.S. Marines at the Court Square Avenue edge and a marker noting the site of Parson's Tavern at the southeast corner. A nineteenth century drinking fountain in the shape of a lion's head is placed at the northeast Main Street corner. In the nineteenth century, the park was surrounded by a low wrought iron fence.

Four buildings enclose the Square on the south side, with the Chicopee Bank Building defining the southeast corner. The bank, c. 1888, is four floors high and has four recessed bays on Elm Street, five on Main Street, and a pavillion at the corner, topped by a weathered copper turret. Construction is of red brick with finely detailed brownstone trim between floors and at the cornice level. The ground floor frontage has been covered with a glossy ceramic material that is not compatible with the rest of the building. The architect is believed to have been Frederick S. Newman, who also designed the Court Square Building.

Just west of the bank is the Byer's Block, an 1835 three-floor, six-bay Federal commercial building. It is of red brick with granite lintels. The gable roof is now black asphalt shingle and has two chimneys, one on the east side and the other just right of center on the facade. The ground floor frontage has two shop fronts and a door to the upper floors, none of which is original. A new owner is planning to restore the ground floor to its original appearance.

Next door to the Byer's Block is the Court Square Building, a six floor buff brick office and commercial building. The original structure of 1892 was a five-story, six-bay block fronting on Elm Street. The entrance to the Court Square Theater was located to the rear but is now demolished. Granite posts and lintels support the building at the ground level; the window trim and detailing above are all of brownstone. The plate glass windows at the ground level are unaltered. In 1900 a large addition was added to include a Court Square Hotel, raising the height of the building to six floors, increasing the Elm Street facade to eight bays, and creating a Court House Place facade of sixteen bays and a State Street elevation of three bays. Court House Place became a pedestrian-only passage with shops at the ground level. The surface treatment is similar to that of the Elm Street facade. The exterior is Romanesque with round headed windows. Large ariel windows are located at the end bays on the fifth and sixth floors. A tower is placed at the east end of the building to house the elevator machinery.

(cont'd)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Hampden	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 2 1974

(Number all entries)

COURT SQUARE HISTORIC DISTRICT, SPRINGFIELD

7. Description (cont'd)

Next to the Court Square Building is the Hampden County Courthouse, an H.H. Richardsonian Romanesque building of rough hewn granite, already listed on the National Register. North of the Courthouse, framing the west side of the park, is another previously listed building, Isaac Damon's Old First Church. It has a Greek Revival portico with an English Baroque bell tower protruding into the porch.

The northernmost element of this Court Square area is the Municipal Group. A fine example of Classical Revival composition, it was designed in 1920 by the firm of F. Livingston Pell and Harvey Corbett. Due to its set-back siting, an observer standing in Court Square is afforded an impressive vista of the Group. Three buildings make up the Municipal Group: the Administration Building to the east, the identically-facaded Auditorium Building to the west, and a 300' high Florentine style campanile at the center. All three are set back a good distance from Court Street and face a raised esplanade. A large flight of stairs fronts each building. The three structures are composed of limestone, and the two flanking structures have entrance porticoes of ten Corinthian columns topped by an ornate pediment. The Administration Building contains a beautiful and elegant interior with a semi-circular grand staircase of marble with cast bronze and mahogany railings, marble wainscotting throughout the corridors, and mahogany panelling and frescoed ceilings in the formal chambers. A 300' bell tower contains an unusual hydraulic elevator which extends 2/3 of its full height. Most important of the three structures is the acoustically perfect Auditorium Building. Presenting a facade identical to the Administration Building, the Auditorium contains a two-balcony concert hall which seats 4,000 people. A large formal "Mahogany Room" is located above the first floor lobby. The bronze formal entrance doors of all three structures carry reliefs illustrating the "History of Springfield", and were the work of Gail Sherman Corbett, the architect's wife.



6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☒ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Education☒ Political☒ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☒ Religion/Philosophy☐ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry☐ Science☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Sculpture☒ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Social/Humanitarian☐ Art☐ Architecture☐ Theater☒ Commerce☐ Literature☐ Transportation☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Conservation☐ Music

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Court Square Historic District of downtown Springfield is significant because of its exceptional architecture and its pedestrian areas, and because of its historic role as the center of Springfield's government, commerce, justice, and religion. Two buildings at Court Square are already listed on the National Register- the Old First Church, 1819 (Isaac Damon, architect) and the Hampden County Courthouse, 1871 (H.H. Richardson, architect). Four churches, three courthouses, and three city halls have been constructed in the long history of Court Square. Court Square Park itself was acquired in 1812, when a syndicate of citizens purchased Parson's Tavern (then sited on Court Square) and adjacent land, and proceeded to move the tavern, give the park to the county, and sell lots on County Street. The group also provided a site for a courthouse across Main Street, thwarting a rival proposal to locate the court further north on Main Street.

The oldest and perhaps most historic building in this district is the 1835 Byer's Block. It has had a history of famed personages in its offices, including Congressmen, Supreme Court justices, and seven mayors.

Dwight Gilmore's Court Square Building, to the west of the Byer's Block, once housed the famous Court Square Theater and Court Square Hotel. While the former has been demolished, the latter is extant and is now used for offices. The office portion of the Court Square Building has fared well over the years. Traditionally, Springfield attorneys have chosen the building for their offices because of its proximity to the District and Superior Courts. Perhaps the most important feature of the Court Square Building is the Court House Place pedestrian mall, which has been sited by Springfield urban planners as "the best pedestrian linkage in the city". It provides, on a very human scale, an open mall flanked by stores for the leisure and commerce of the community. Unfortunately, the building is being threatened with demolition by both the city and the state.

The Chicopee National Bank Building, like the Court Square Building, presents an attractive Romanesque facade to the street. Inside, total climate control was provided in the original design, a rare amenity for its time. The exterior bronzework is said to have been done by Tiffany Studios.

(cont'd)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Green, Mason, Springfield Memories, Springfield, 1876.
2. Springfield Daily Republican, 1871 to 1913.
3. Dedication of Municipal Buildings, December 8, 1913.
4. Springfield Union, 1900 to 1914.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	42 ° 06 ' 2 1/2 "	72 ° 35 ' 22 1/2 "				
NE						
SE						
SW						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 6.3 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mindy Arbo, for Elizabeth Amadon, State Survey Director

ORGANIZATION: Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE: 2/11/73

STREET AND NUMBER:
40 Beacon Street

CITY OR TOWN: Boston (617) 727-8470

STATE: Massachusetts 02108

CODE: 025

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name: John F. X. Davoren
Honorable John F. X. Davoren
Secretary of the Commonwealth

Title: Chairman, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Date: 3/25/74

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

AR Montross
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/2/74

ATTEST: Wm. H. H. H. H.
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 5.1.74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Massachusetts	
COUNTY	
Hampden	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAY 2	1974

(Number all entries)

COURT SQUARE HISTORIC DISTRICT, SPRINGFIELD

8. Significance (cont'd)

In the Municipal Group, each of the three structures is individually notable. The Administration Building contains fine interior marble, woodwork and frescoes. The bell tower is notable for its height, its Renaissance heritage, and its unusual hydraulic elevator. The Auditorium has hosted such artists as Enrico Caruso, Leonard Bernstein, and Pablo Casals, and all have praised its remarkably excellent acoustics. Also of interest in the Auditorium Building are the bronze formal entrance doors. All three structures front upon an elevated esplanade which allows an uninterrupted view of the Group. The influence of the City Beautiful Movement is evident both in the Neo-Classical structures and in their arrangement on the site.



PROPERTY <u>Court Square Historic Dist.</u> STATE <u>Mass.</u>		Hampden
WORKING NUMBER <u>4. 2. 74. 514</u>		
TECH REVIEW	PHOTOS <u>2</u> MAPS <u>2</u>	
CONTROL REVIEW		OK cm 4. 4. 74
HISTORIAN		Accept. W. R. Currier 4/5/74
ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN <i>Another few photographs might be helpful ... (called Mindy Azbo & they will provide a view of Court Square)</i>		Accept. H. H. H. 4/8/74
ARCHEOLOGIST		
REVIEW UNIT CHIEF		Accept Cole 4-28-74
BRANCH CHIEF		Accept 4-30-74
KEEPER		Wm 5/1/74

National Register Write-up June 10, 1974
Federal Register entry June 4, 1974

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____
Entered MAY 2

WRITE-UP COMMENT
SHEET
(leave attached to nomination)

PROPERTY: Court Square Historic District --- Mass.

If there are comments (negative or positive) which will affect
the write up, please indicate them below.

NAME:

LOCATION:

DESCRIPTION:

STYLE OR CULTURE:

DATE AND INSTIGATOR (builder, architect, group, engineer, etc.):

PRESENT CONDITION (altered, covered, ruins, deteriorated--archeological):

SIGNIFICANCE (specify paragraph or line):

SURVEY RECORDS (is form correct?):

COMMENTS:



1. view south across Ct. Sq. from Court St.

FORM 10-301 A
(6/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Court Square Historic District	Court Square	MAY 2 1974
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Massachusetts	Hampden	Springfield
STREET AND NUMBER		
Bounded by Main, State, Broadway, Pyncheon Streets and City Hall Place		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Kathleen Morehead	November 1973	Room 226, City Hall Springfield, Mass.
4. IDENTIFICATION		

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

1. View south across Court Square from Court Street
2. View north toward the Municipal Group.

1 of 2



GPO 932-009

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



2. view north toward Municipal Group

FORM 10-301 A
(6/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Court Square Historic District	Court Square	MAY 2 1974
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Massachusetts	Hampden	Springfield
STREET AND NUMBER		
Bounded by Main, State, Pynchon, and Broadway Streets, and City Hall Place		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Kathleen Morehead	November 1973	Room 226, City Hall, Springfield, Mass.
4. IDENTIFICATION		

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

2. View north toward the Municipal Group

2 of 2



GPO 932-009

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



View: Southwest across Court Square

FORM 10-301 A
(6/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Court Square Historic District	same	
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Massachusetts	Hampden	Springfield
STREET AND NUMBER		
Bounded by Main, State, Broadway, Pyncheon Streets and City Hall Place		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
John Wilson	4/74	photographer
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

Southwest across Court Square

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Court Square Historic District	Court Square	MAY 2 1974
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Massachusetts 025	Hampden 013	Springfield
STREET AND NUMBER		
Bounded by Main, State, Broadway, Pynchon Streets, and City Hall Place.		
3. MAP REFERENCE		
SOURCE	DATE	SCALE
U.S.G.S. Springfield South	1970	1:24,000

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW.

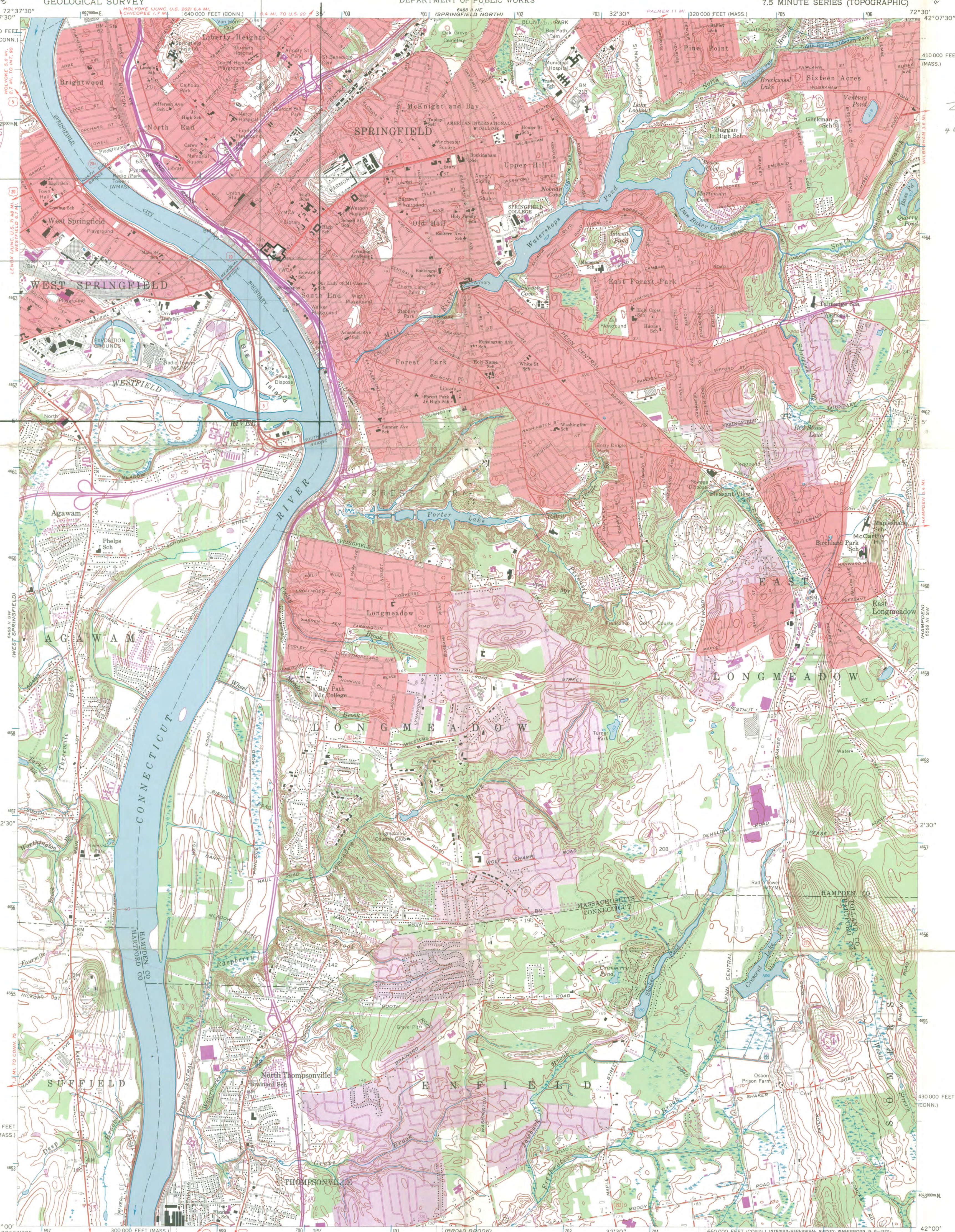




4B
Zn18
699 160
4663550

COURT SQUARE HISTORIC
DISTRICT, SPRINGFIELD

Latitude 42° 06' 2 1/2"
Longitude 72° 35' 22 1/2"



Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, Massachusetts Geodetic Survey,
and Connecticut Geodetic Survey

Topography by planetable surveys 1933 and 1942

Culture revised from aerial photographs by photogrammetric
methods. Aerial photographs taken 1957. Field check 1958

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum

10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone, and Connecticut coordinate system

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only
landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with
Connecticut Highway Department from aerial photographs
taken 1970. This information not field checked

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

SCALE 1:24,000

1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET

1 5 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 METERS

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

UTM GRID AND 1970 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242

A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
U.S. Route ——— State Route ———

SPRINGFIELD SOUTH, MASS.-CONN.
N4200-W7230/7.5

1958
PHOTOREVISED 1970
AMS 6468 II SE-SERIES V814

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

1. NAME

COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE <i>(Assigned by NPS)</i>
Court Square Historic District	Court Square	MAY 2 1974

2. LOCATION

STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Massachusetts	Hampden	Springfield
STREET AND NUMBER		

Bounded by Main, State, Broadway and Pynchon Streets, and City Hall Place

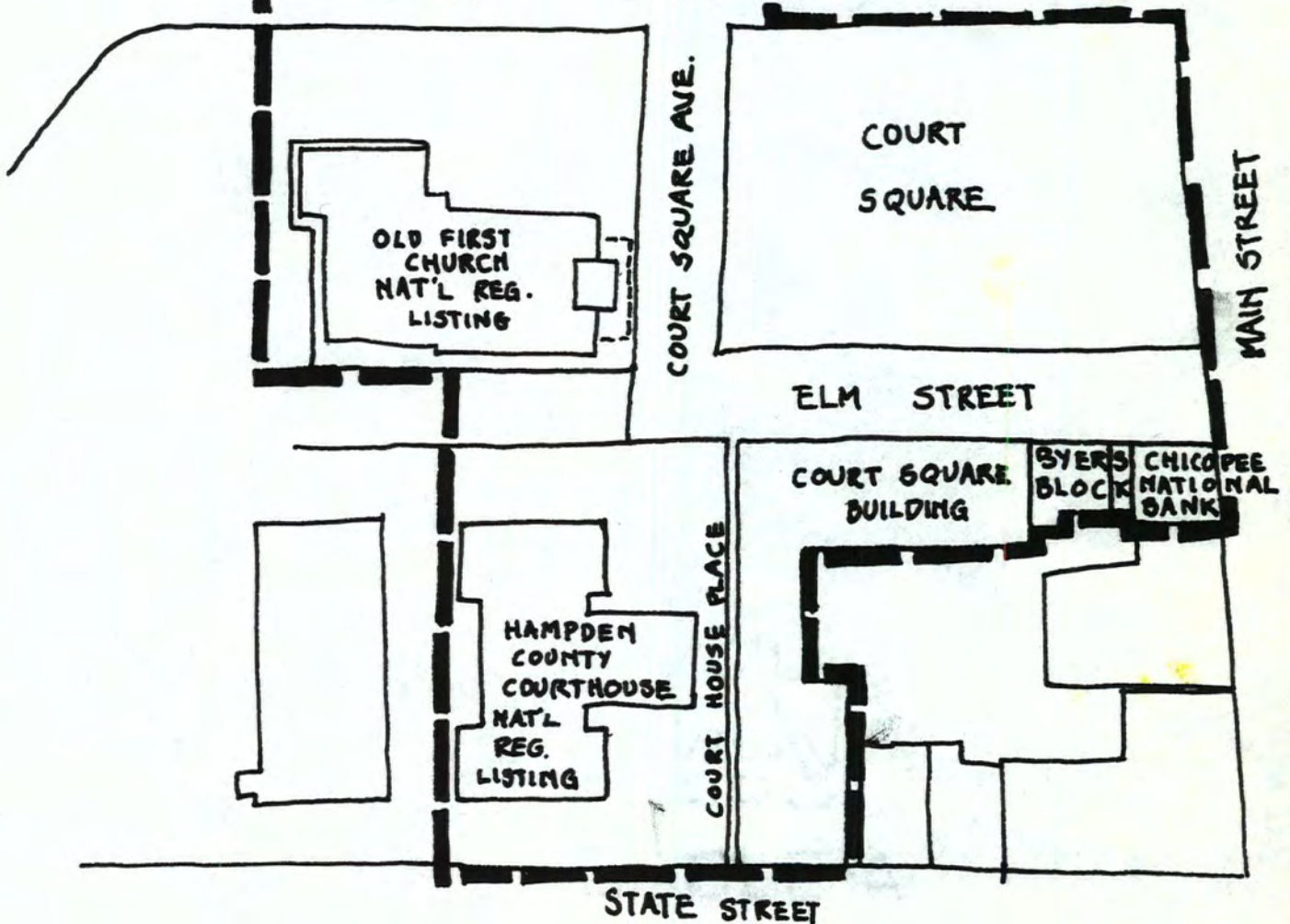
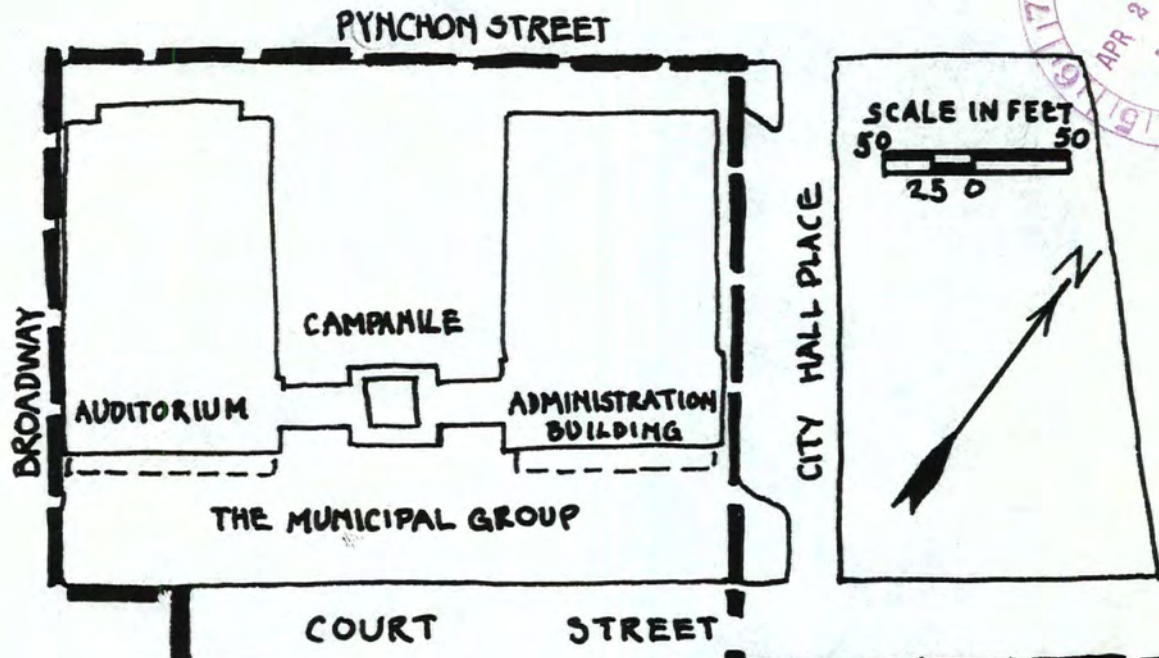
3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE	DATE	SCALE
Sketch map	1974	

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW



COURT SQUARE HISTORIC DISTRICT





The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission

John F. X. Davoren
Secretary of the Commonwealth

40 Beacon Street Boston, Massachusetts 02108
727-8470



March 25, 1974

National Register
National Park Service
18th and C Streets
Washington D.C. 20240

Attention: Charles Herrington, Chief of Register

CERTIFIED MAIL

Dear Charles:

Enclosed are four National Register submissions for the following properties:

1. Springfield, Hampden County, Court Square Historic District
2. " " , Quadrangle-Mattoon Street Historic District
3. " " , Ames Hill/Crescent Hill District
4. Lincoln, Middlesex County, The Grange

These have been declared eligible for submission by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the State Review Board, and have been signed by the Secretary of the Commonwealth John F.X. Davoren, Chairman of the Massachusetts Historical Commission and designated the State Liason Officer.

Please note that the properties covered by these submissions are to be included in our 1975 apportionment warrant. Therefore, we would appreciate your processing these forms promptly. Please let us know if any other information is needed.

Sincerely,

Betty

Elizabeth Amadon
State Survey Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

ERA/ma

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER
MASSACHUSETTS
STATE

Date Entered MAY 2 1974

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
The Steamship NOBSKA	Nantucket Nantucket County
Clapp Houses	Boston (Dorchester) Suffolk County
Sawyer Building	Boston Suffolk County
Martin House	Seekonk Bristol County
King's Chapel Burying Ground	Boston Suffolk County
Court Square Historic District	Springfield Hampden County

<u>Also Notified</u>	<u>State Historic Preservation Officer</u>
Hon. Edward W. Brooke	Hon. John F.X. Davoren
Hon. Edward M. Kennedy	Secretary of the Commonwealth
Hon. Gerry E. Studds	Chairman, Massachusetts Historical
Hon. John J. Moakley	Commission
Hon. Margaret M. Heckler	40 Beacon St.
Hon. Edward P. Boland	Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Regional Director, North
Atlantic Region

PR MMott/row 5/3/74

Control Sheet Missing
Federal Register entry - Aug. 6, 1974