

FORM B - BUILDING

Area

Form no.

3000

114

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

PHOTO (3x3" or 3x5", black & white)
Staple to left side of form
Photo number _____

✓ Town Springfield

✓ Address 1600 East Columbus Avenue

✓ Historic Name Springfield District Court

(DSMAA)

Use: Original Police Court

Present Municipal offices

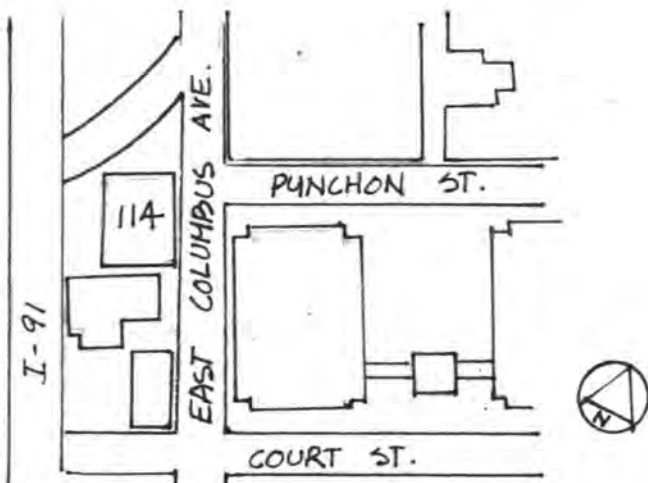
Ownership: ☐ Private individual
Private organization _____

Public City of Springfield

Original owner Hampden County

SKETCH MAP

Draw map showing property's
location in relation to nearest
cross streets and other buildings
or geographical features.
Indicate north.



Recorded by Margo Webber

Organization Anderson Notter Finegold Inc.

Date June, 1981

Assessor's Map #306

UTM Ref: 18/699170/4663580

Springfield South Quadrangle (Staple additional sheets here)

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1930

Source Springfield Union, 12/14/30

Style Neo-Classical Revival

Architect E.C. & G.C. Gardner

Exterior wall fabric Limestone

Outbuildings -- none

Major alterations (with dates) none

Moved no Date _____

Approx. acreage less than 1 acre

Setting Urban context is somewhat lost by
new highway and interchange to west and
north; fronts on E. Columbus, directly
west of Municipal Group and is compatible
in design and materials.

CRITERIA STATEMENT

The Springfield District Court possesses integrity of location, setting, design, materials, and workmanship. Built to house an expanding court, it represents the growth of the city in the early twentieth century as well as its important regional civic role. Additionally, it is a well conceived expression of the austere later phase of the classical revival. It meets criteria A & C of the National Register of Historic Places.

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

The Springfield District Court is a fine example of Neo-Classical Revival architecture and is typical of much public architecture from the 1920-1930 period. The building was designed to be a compatible neighbor to the Municipal Group, and succeeds at this with its bold scale and similar limestone facing. The handsome facade is nine bays wide with a wide decorated frieze. The three center bays are set in antis behind two full-height columns. The doors and windows feature decorative spandrels and brass trim. It is a well designed local example of the late neo-classical style.

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

The first known district court in Springfield was established in 1823 at the corner of Main and Sanford Streets. In 1874, the court relocated to the new County Courthouse on Elm Street, including the police court, which was provided for in the City Charter of 1852. Judge James H. Morton first presided over the court, followed by Judge Gideon Wells. Prisoners were paraded from the old police building (which stood next to the District Court) in front of the First Church of Christ and on into the Courthouse. Public outcry that the prisoners should not be paraded past the church led to relocation of the police court in the police building.

By 1929, the Court had outgrown its quarters again, and plans for the present building were initiated. Caseloads had already grown to 18,120 cases annually, so the new facility was designed to handle up to 100,000 cases per year. It was designed by local architects Gardner & Gardner and constructed for \$400,000. It was built under the direction of County Commission chairman John G. Maxfield, and Commissioners Charles W. Bray and Edward J. Stapleton. Judge Wallace R. Heady served as first judge in the new building. The new courthouse handled all district court business, both civil and criminal, for the City of Springfield and for the surrounding towns of West Springfield, Agawam, Longmeadow, East Longmeadow, Ludlow and Hampden. A basement passageway was built to connect the police building and courthouse for bringing women prisoners to court, and an overhead bridge nicknamed the "Bridge of Sighs" was used to bring male detainees to the court.

(Continued on next page)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

City Atlases

Springfield Union, December 14, 1930

Springfield Union and Springfield Republican, December 21, 1930

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Springfield	Form No: 114
Property Name: Springfield District Court	

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

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

The district court was built of steel and cement with lavish marble interiors, The first floor contained the civil and criminal courtrooms, offices, judges' rooms, a library, probation quarters and medical offices. The building remained in use as district court until the 1970's, when the new County Courthouse at Court Square was completed. It now serves as City Hall Annex.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Substantive Review

Springfield District Court (Downtown Springfield
MRA)
Hampden County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 11/10/82-3025

Fed. Reg. Date: _____

Date Due: 12/9/82 - 12/25/82Action: ☐ ACCEPT
☒ RETURN 12/22/82
☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

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

Substantive Review: ☒ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Eligible under Criteria A + C, property
needs V.B.C.

Recom./Criteria Return
Reviewer L.M. Clelland
Discipline A. Hart
Date 12/22/82
☐ see continuation sheet

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

1. Name2. Location3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property5. Location of Legal Description6. Representation in Existing SurveysHas this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ moved
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	☐ altered

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

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

Acreage 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 _____

Title _____ date _____

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to L McClelland

Signed L McClelland

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 445

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Downtown Springfield Multiple Resource Area
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review		Date/Signature
31. Hibernian Block	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melona Byers</u> 2/24/83 Attest _____
32. McIntosh Building	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melona Byers</u> 2/24/83 Attest _____
33. Willy's Overland Block	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melona Byers</u> 2/24/83 Attest _____
34. Haynes Hotel Waters Building	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melona Byers</u> 2/24/83 Attest _____
35. Springfield District Court	Substantive Review	Keeper <u>Thomas M. Boyd</u> 2/24/83 Attest _____
36. Walker Building	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melona Byers</u> 2/24/83 Attest _____
37. United Electric Company Building	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melona Byers</u> 2/24/83 Attest _____
38. Radding Building	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melona Byers</u> 2/24/83 Attest _____
39. Springfield Fire & Marine Insurance Company	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melona Byers</u> 2/24/83 Attest _____
40. Guenther & Handel's Block	Substantive Review	Keeper <u>Thomas M. Boyd</u> 2/24/83 Attest _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Substantive Review

Springfield District Court (Downtown Springfield MRA)

Hampden County

MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 11/01/82-3025Fed. Reg. Date: 2.7.84Date Due: 4/1/83Action: ☒ ACCEPT 2/24/83☐ RETURN☐ 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 ATC/sec 305Reviewer W. D. RyeDiscipline A.H.Date 2/24/83☐ see continuation sheet

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

1. Name2. Location3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property5. Location of Legal Description6. Representation in Existing SurveysHas this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

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

10. Geographical Data

Address of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

USGS References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

This 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 _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272-3500

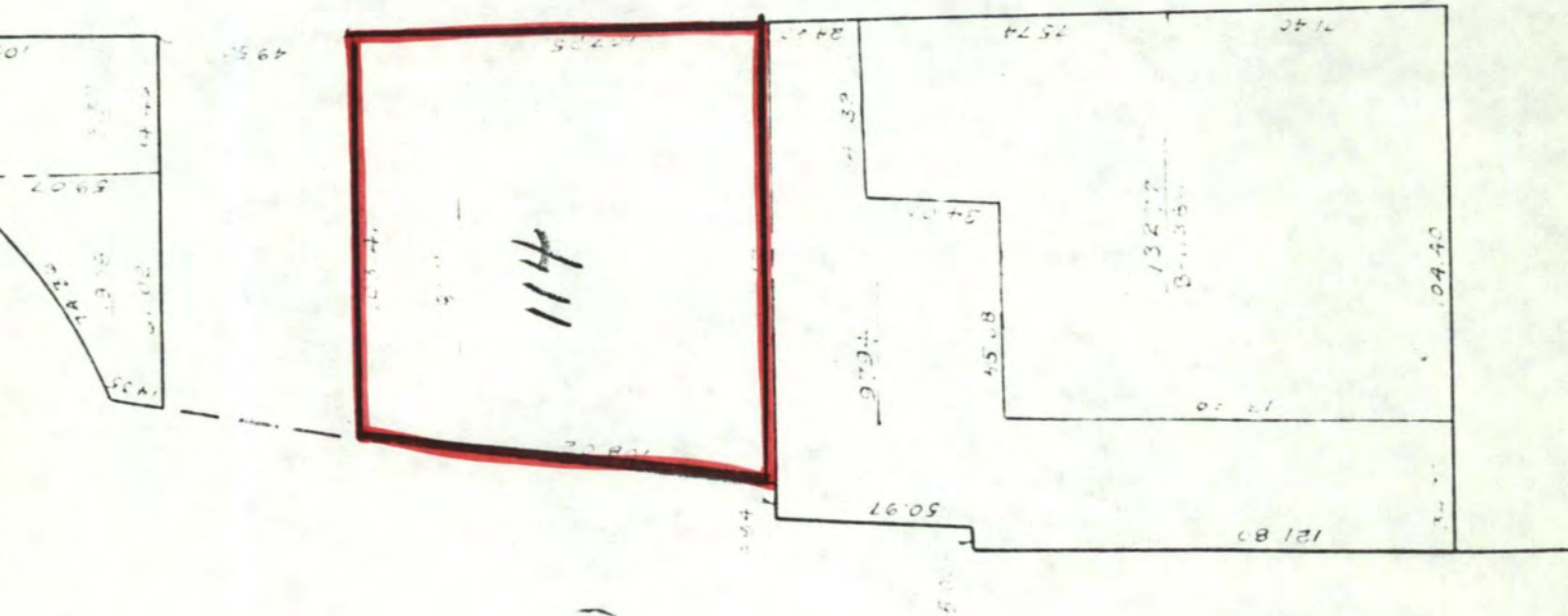


Downtown Springfield MA, Ma.

Spring Field District Court

ROUTE 91 NO

EAST COLUMBUS AVE



Springfield District Court
1600 E. Columbus St. #114
1"=50' Springfield MRA

PYNCHON

COURT

Adjoining
Spauld

164.83