

FORM A - AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 294 Washington Street, Boston, MA. 02108

Form numbers in this area	Area letter
64, 66, 104, 105, 106, 69 A-park	B

Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
 Staple to left side of form

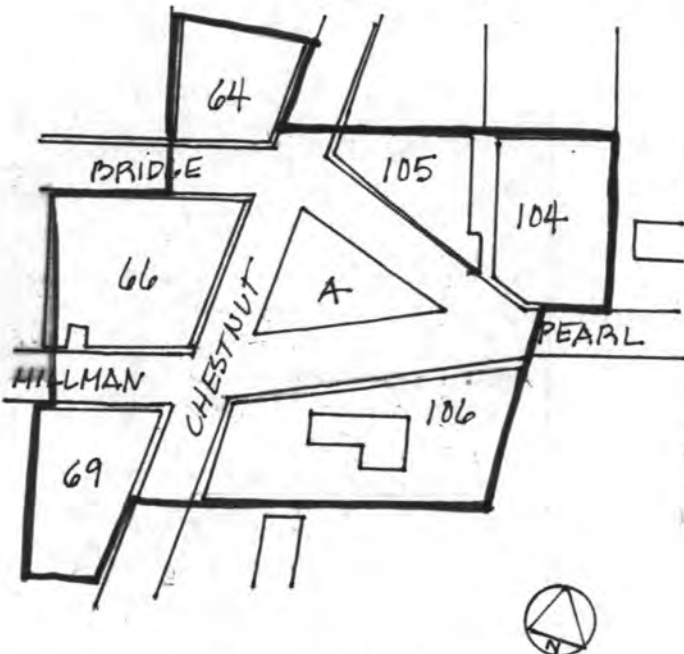
Photo number _____

Town Springfield

Name of area (if any) Apremont Triangle
Historic District (Downtown
Springfield MRA), bet. Pearl,
Hillman, Bridge, and Chestnut.

General date or period 1910-1926

Sketch map. Draw a general map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets (including route numbers, if any) and indicate north. (Attach a separate sheet if space here is not sufficient)



- 69. YMCA Building
- 64. Tarbell-Waters Building
- 66. Hotel Kimball
- 104. Green Block
- 105. Harris Block
- 106. Birnie Block
- A. Apremont Triangle Park

Assessor's Map # #313, 402, 403
 UTM Reference-18/699340/4664080
 Springfield South Quadrangle

Recorded by Fred Clark; Margo Webber

Organization Springfield Historical
Commission; ANF Inc.

Date March 1979; June 1981

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Describe physical setting, general character, and architecturally significant structures).

The Apremont Triangle is a triangular green space/park which is well-contained on all sides by a grouping of buildings designed expressly to harmonize with one another and to complement, in scale and massing, the design and scale of the park. The park is bounded by sidewalks on all three of its outside edges. A paved path runs from the center of the western edge to a flagpole near the center of the park. Landscaping consists of several large trees near the outside edges of the park and a low, u-shaped hedge of shrubs at the flagpole. A bronze plaque, commemorating the Battle of Apremont, France, is affixed to a rough-hewn slab of granite near the park's western edge.

The Hotel Kimball is the highlight of the district and forms the western edge of the grouping. Its rich detail and bold massing work together to draw attention to this end of the park. The Birnie, Harris and Green Blocks were all designed by the Samuel M. Green Company as compatible neighbors for one another and to form a clear edge to the ability to design using a variety of stylistic vocabularies. These buildings were designed to house both storefronts/showrooms and upper story offices, and they (con'd)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Explain development of area, what caused it, and how it affected community; be specific).

The Apremont Triangle is one of the few public open spaces provided in downtown Springfield for public use. It was developed in a formerly residential area, but not until 1924. Although the Hotel Kimball was completed in 1910, the rest of the area did not become commercial until 1924. In that year, Pearl Street was realigned to join Hillman, and Bridge Street was extended east to form the triangle. The park was dedicated as a World War I memorial and is named after the famous World War battle at Apremont, France.

Commercial development of the area was a logical outgrowth of expansion in the downtown. Located on a rise above the downtown, this area boasted cleaner air than in the now congested downtown, and it also could command a fine panoramic view of the Connecticut River to the west. For auto showrooms, larger spaces were needed that the old Main Street blocks could afford. It was logical to locate these showrooms as close to downtown as possible, but also within range of the auto manufacturers, which were mainly in East Springfield and Brightwood. The area has remained commercial in its orientation, but retains a quieter pace than the rest of downtown. This is in part due to the conscious effort made to create a park-like setting for the building. The district meets criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Building Permits
Springfield Street Directories
Western New England, April 1911, P. 34, February, 1912, pp. 59-60
Albert Winston Cobb, National Encyclopedia of Biography, 1925.
Springfield Scrapbook, Volume 20, p.70
Springfield Union, April 18, 1926
Industries of Western Massachusetts, 1928, Volume 1, pp.77-78

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Page 3

Community: Springfield	Form No: Area B
Property Name: Apremont Triangle	

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

The first floor was originally occupied by Arthur E. Center Inc., which was the local agency for Pontiac Automobiles. In 1933, A.E. Center moved across the Triangle to the Birnie Building but retained this store for used car sales.

Samuel M. Green Co. occupied most of the second floor until Mr. Green's death in 1934. Mr. Green had formed his company of architects and engineers in 1908. The company was particularly well suited for large technical projects and earned an international reputation.

105. Harris Block; 454-472 Bridge Street; 1925. Architect-Samuel M. Green Co., Style-Commercial (classical).

This building is one of three similar structures designed by the Samuel M. Green Company at Apremont Triangle. Its two-story height, limestone facing and rhythmically spaced openings are harmonious with the other buildings facing the Triangle and help to define the strong context of the park. The entrances and cornice decoration are characteristic Classical motifs which add visual interest to the design. These buildings replaced the former large house lots of what had previously been a residential neighborhood. The building is named after Daniel L. Harris, whose home formerly stood on the site.

The building was designed to house five stores, with entrances on Bridge Street. Upstairs were professional offices. The corner store was first occupied by Rolls Royce of America as their branch office and showroom. In 1920, Springfield had been selected as site for the American headquarters and plant for the company. Until this building was complete, all sales were handled at the East Springfield factory. For several years, Rolls-Royce played a major role in the industrial development and auto industry boom which Springfield experienced in the 1920's.

The showroom houses three custom-built auto bodies manufactured locally. It played an important role in the Apremont Triangle image as an auto-related commercial area. Several auto repair shops located nearby on Winter Street; and in the 1920's, several other auto showrooms also were located at the Triangle. The area's proximity to the central downtown made it a convenient and accessible locale for auto sales.

106. Birnie Block; 109-121 Chestnut Street, 1923. Architect-Samuel M. Green Co; Style-Commercial(Moderne).

This is a two story building which is faced with limestone. Its 1920's commercial design is enlived by Moderne details.

This is one of three commercial buildings designed by the Samuel M. Green Company at Apremont Triangle. It is named after William Birnie whose houses formerly occupied the site. Six stores occupied the Chestnut Street frontage, while two larger stores were on Pearl Street. These latter stores served as showrooms for several automobile dealers.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Springfield	Form No: 64, 66, 104 105, 106, 69,
Property Name: Apremont Triangle	

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

represent a conscious effort to create a visually cohesive area, which was typical of city planning attitudes during the first quarter of the century.

64. Tarbel-Waters Building; 144-154 Chestnut Street; 1924-1926
Architect-H.L. Sprague; Style-Commercial with Gothic Revival Details

The building serves as an edge to the northwest corner of the Apremont Triangle district. Its five-story height creates a transition between the taller Hotel Kimball and the two-story Birnie Building. Architecturally, the building is an interesting example of 1920's design. It combines Gothic Revival details at the cornice and upper stories with large windows achieved through modern steel construction techniques. The storefronts remain largely intact.

Edward Tarbell and Franklin Watters formed a company in 1915 to distribute auto parts. Their business grew rapidly with the growing automobile trade. By 1923 they were able to hire H.L. Sprague, Springfield's prominent architectural firm, to design a five-story building. Two years later, another building permit was filed to build an adjoining large two-story building. This is the present structure. The auto supply business occupied the first floors and the remaining portion was rented. In the mid-thirties most of the tenants were doctors.

66. Hotel Kimball; 134-140 Chestnut Street; 1910 Architect-Albert W. Cobb; Style-Renaissance Revival.

This is an important local example of Renaissance Revival design elements adapted to a contemporary hotel structure. Its setting, adjacent to the open space of Apremont Triangle, highlights the large scale and bold massing of the facade. Careful attention to detail creates a very grand appearance for the hotel. Stylistic details include the rusticated stone base, arched window openings with stone voussoirs, vertical stone banding, which creates a "quoined" effect, and a richly articulated cornice profile of Classical derivations.

The Hotel Kimball was the first commercial structure in the Apremont Triangle area and marked the transition of the area from residential to commercial use. It was built in 1910 by a partnership of 50 leading businessmen who formed the Hampden Hotel Company in response to a recognized need for new hotel rooms to meet the city's growing role as a regional trade center. Col. Charles H. Tenney, George W. Sweeney and Charles W. Shean headed this group and were largely responsible for the hotel's early success. William M. Kimball, whose name the hotel has retained, served as its first manager. Reflecting the prosperity and confidence of the times, the hotel was built at a cost of \$1,000,000 and was considered the largest and finest hotel in the city. It has the largest ballroom of any area hotel. In 1923, an addition was built, bringing the total rooms to 309. It could accommodate 500 guests and boasted every modern convenience in hotel accommodations.

The building was designed by Albert Winslow Cobb, who was better known for his revival style residences than for his commercial projects. He also designed the Steiger's store in Hartford and the Poland Springs Hotel in Maine. He is also remembered for spearheading the drive to save the Bulfinch Statehouse.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Springfield	Form No: Area B
Property Name: Apremont Triangle	

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

69. YMCA Building; 114-122 Chestnut Street; 1916,1929 Architect - Shattuck & Hussey; Style-Classical Revival

The YMCA Building relates well to adjacent buildings in terms of scale and massing, and with them defines an edge of the Apremont Triangle district by enclosing its southwest corner. The scale maintains the strong western edge begun by the Hotel Kimball, while the building's northeast corner wraps around the corner of Hillman Street to effectively orient its corner bay to the Triangle. Architecturally, the YMCA features Classical Revival detailing of white stone to accentuate the east and north facades. This includes stone coursing at the ground and second floor levels and two projecting three-bay balconies at the second story of the east facade. The balcony bays are further articulated by five story brick piers which extend upward to frame round-arched window openings at the sixth story. The first floor windows have arched heads, keystones, and are trimmed in stone. The top story repeats and elaborates upon the Classical theme in its even bolder use of stone coursing, window trim and richly modelled frieze beneath a projecting stone cornice. The YMCA building is significant to Springfield's growth as a commercial and business center well into the first third of the 20th century. The Springfield YMCA was founded in 1857 to provide decent housing and services to the growing influx of travelling businessmen who visited the city during its early years as a rail-roading and commercial crossroads. First located close to the railroad station for proximity to its clientele, the YMCA later moved to its own building at the corner of State and Dwight Streets. These quarters, a prominent Romanesque Revival structure, were again outgrown, prompting the 1915 construction of the Chestnut Street facility adjacent to the Hotel Kimball, recently opened and very prestigious among local hotels.

The YMCA provided a relatively inexpensive hotel facility for travellers to the city and was very popular. This led to the 1929 construction of a seven story addition at the southern side of the original building, enabling the YMCA to offer 130 hotel rooms. The lower floors of the building contained recreation facilities for use by guests, as well as by local residents.

The decline of Springfield's commercial economy from the 1930's onward included a lessened demand for hotel facilities. The YMCA's emphasis shifted to recreational programs for community residents and youth groups, and the hotel rooms were adapted to long-term boarders. The YMCA moved to a new facility in 1968.

104. Green Block; 486-496 Bridge Street; 1925. Architect-Samuel M. Green Co., Style-Commercial (Classical).

This is a two story building which is faced with limestone. Its 1920's commercial design is enlived by a richly detailed classical cornice.

This is one of three commercial buildings designed by the Samuel M. Green Co. at Apremont Triangle in the mid 1920's. One large store occupied the first floor while offices were on the second floor.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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Community: Springfield	Form No: Area B.
Property Name: Apremont Triangle	

Page 4

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

The auto showrooms occupying the major ground floor spaces of the block contributed to the Triangle's image as an automobile-related commercial area in the 1920's. Proximity to downtown commerce and Winter Street auto repair shops made this an ideal location for the growing auto-related sales industry, which was supported by the many local companies, which as Durea, Smith Carriage and Rolls Royce, who were manufacturing autos and auto parts.

Acreage: 3.8 acres

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

The district includes the Apremont Triangle, a small early twentieth century park, and the six period buildings which enframe it. Boundaries were selected to highlight this relationship. Please refer to assessor's maps #313, 402, 403.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Substantive Review

Apremont Triangle Historic District (Downtown
Springfield MRA)
Hampden County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 11/10/82-3625
Fed. Reg. Date: _____
Date Due: 12/9/82 - 12/25/82
Action: 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:

District is eligible under criteria ^{A and} C and includes a number of fine architectural examples of early 20th century commercial architecture. Property is being returned.

Recom./Criteria Return
Reviewer A. McChesland
Discipline A. Hist
Date 12/22/82
 see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below *for technical corrections (# 10)*
 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 excellent deteriorated good fair
 ruins unexposed
Check one unaltered altered
Check one original site moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

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
- NA* justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Please provide acreage

Acreage of nominated property _____
Quadrangle name _____
USGS Reference _____

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

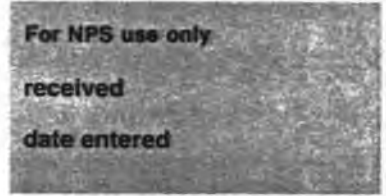
Please indicate district boundaries on sketchmap.

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to *Lord McClellan*

Signed *McClellan* Date *12/22/82* Phone: 202 272-3504

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 5245

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Downtown Springfield Multiple Resource Area
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

41. Colonial Block

Entered in the
National Register *for* Keeper

Melona Byers 2/24/83

Attest

42. McKinney Building

Entered in the
National Register *for* Keeper

Melona Byers 2/24/83

Attest

43. Bangs Block

Entered in the
National Register *for* Keeper

Melona Byers 2/24/83

Attest

44. Burbach Block

Entered in the
National Register *for* Keeper

Melona Byers 2/24/83

Attest

45. Apremont Triangle Historic
District

Substantive Review

Keeper

Kevin Lee Dwyer 5/27/83

Attest

46. WCA Boarding House

Entered in the
National Register *for* Keeper

Melona Byers 2/24/83

Attest

47. French Congregational
Church

Entered in the
National Register *for* Keeper

Melona Byers 2/24/83

Attest

48. St. Joseph's Church

Entered in the
National Register *for* Keeper

Melona Byers 2/24/83

Attest

49. Milton-Bradley Company

Entered in the
National Register *for* Keeper

Melona Byers 2/24/83

Attest

50.

Keeper

Attest

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Substantive Review

Apremont Triangle Historic District (Downtown
Springfield MRA)
MA, Hampden County

Working No. 10-11-82-3025
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/7/84
Date Due: 5/28/83
Action: ACCEPT 5/27/83
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

resubmission
 nomination by person or local government
 owner objection
 appeal
Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND
JUSTIFICATION PROVIDED*

Recom./Criteria ACCEPT - AHC
Reviewer Ms. BOUHAN
Discipline A.H.
Date 5-27-83
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 excellent deteriorated good fair
Check one unaltered altered
Check one original site moved date _____
 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

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

USPT 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: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



ONE WAY

THE BINDERS

Antonio's
BINDERS

MURPHY
& No. 11

106 Downtown Springfield MRA, MA
Aprenent Triangle H.O.



RESTAURANT BAR & GRILL

MARKARIAN & MARKARIAN INC.
SINCE 1888
ORIENTAL RUGS BROADLOOM CARPETS

WENT LEAST IN 1980

105 Newtown Springfield MRA, Ma
Apartment Triangle H.D.



CANNON 137

CANNON 138

RESTAURANT

105 Downtown Spring Field MIRA, Ma
Apprentice Triangle H.O.



64 Downtown Springfield MRA, MA
Apartment Triangle H.D.



PEARL ST
CHESTNUT ST

ONE WAY

69

Downtown Springfield, MA, Ma
Apartment Triangle H.D.



NO
PARKING
ANY
TIME

Address 100

ONE WAY

100

134-140 Chestnut St.

66

Downtown Springfield MRA, Ma
Apicmont Triangle H.D.



GRAPHIC ARTS INC.

104 Deantons Spring Field MRA, MA
Aproment Triangle H.D.



Downtown Springfield MA, Ma
Apartment Triangle H.D. ?

I think

