

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 6 1977

DATE ENTERED JAN 26 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC ☒ Republican Block

AND/OR COMMON

Brigham's Block

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 1365 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st Massachusetts

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY

Hampden

CODE

013

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☒ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Shawmut First Bank and Trust Company

STREET & NUMBER
1365 Main StreetCITY, TOWN
Springfield

VICINITY OF

STATE
Massachusetts 01105

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Hampden County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER
50 Elm StreetCITY, TOWN
SpringfieldSTATE
Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Inventory of Historic Assets of the CommonwealthDATE
1977☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
Massachusetts Historical CommissionCITY, TOWN
BostonSTATE
Massachusetts

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Republican Block is located on Main Street in the commercial and civic center of Springfield. It is surrounded by commercial structures from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Immediately south, across East Court Street, is the Union Trust Company (NR nomination). To the southwest across Main Street is the Court Square Historic District (NR). Two blocks east is the Mattoon-Quadrangle Historic District (NR).

The Republican Block was built in 1858 in the Italianate style. It is four stories high and built of red brick. The facade is four bays wide, and the structure is one short city block deep. The Townsley Avenue corner is ornamented by wooden quoins, and the roofline is distinguished by a large paneled entablature and single, molded "s" curve brackets that support the deep eaves.

The facade retains its original features on the third and fourth floors. Fenestration here is underscored by the painted stone sills on block consoles. The rectangular windows of the third floor are capped by a segmental arched projecting, wooden molded archivolt on consoles. Windows of the fourth floor are full round arched with a similar full round arched archivolts. From north to south, the third bay is on line with the ground floor entrance. Windows in the third and fourth floors in this bay are segmental arched pairs with a carved wooden spandrel and segmental archivoltes.

The second floor of the facade was identical to the third floor, but was replaced in the late 1880's by a projecting arcade of seven segmental arched multi-light sash supported by narrow colonettes. Above this arcade is a projecting dentilated cornice.

The first floor facade was remodelled recently in the 1950's. It now consists of three irregularly sized bays defined by brick posts and a high brick sign panel with a projecting brick course table. The central bay shelters four recessed aluminum doors. Above the two center doors is a stylized wooden colonial pediment. The other two bays have simple aluminum sash display windows.

The original block was added to in 1861, and its size was more than tripled. The enlarged block was renamed the Union Block. The northernmost section of this addition was demolished and replaced in 1915. The central portion, immediately abutting the Republican Block, was completely remodeled in 1924 and retains none of its original features. In 1867 the Republican Block was extended eastward to the full depth of the block.

The Townsley Avenue elevation is painted brick with simple jack arch fenestration and intermittently spaced projecting brick course tables at the roof line. The rear elevation is also painted brick and five bays wide with jack arched lintel fenestration. There is a projecting stone stringcourse between the first and second floors.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☒ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☒ 1800-1899	☒ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ 1900-	☒ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☒ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1858

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

A.L. CHAPIN (?)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Republican Block is significant as the home of the Springfield Republican during the editorship of Samuel Bowles II. It is additionally significant for its commercial history and as the last remaining mid-19th century commercial building in the business district of Springfield. The Republican Block is believed to have been built by A.L. Chapin, a local architect-builder. It was the first commercial building erected north of Court Square on Main Street. In 1861 the block was extended northward and was tripled in size. The enlarged block was acclaimed as the "finest block in the city."¹ During the 1870's Chapin designed and built commercial structures which lined both sides of Main Street, creating an incredible architectural continuity because of their uniform height, similar fenestration and decorative features. The Republican Block is the last remaining example of this period.

The Republican, a weekly anti-Federalist, was founded by a Hartford printer, Samuel Bowles, in 1826. His 18 year-old son founded the Daily Republican in 1844. This was one of the earliest daily newspapers in the state. One innovation was coverage of local news. Originally the Republican supported the Whig Party. When the party began to collapse in the 1850's, the Republican declared itself an independent paper. Bowles, acting as a correspondent for the New York Tribune, Springfield Republican, and Boston Atlas helped to break the closed Know-Nothing Party convention of 1855. Later that same year, he chaired the conference that consolidated the new Republican Party. During this period, Horace Greeley referred to the Republican as "the best and ablest country journal ever published on this continent."² J.G. Holland joined the staff of the Republican in 1849. He later cofounded and edited Scribner's Monthly and was author of several novels and volumes of poetry. Clark W. Bryan, who joined the Republican in 1854, was later known as the publisher of Good Housekeeping and the Library Bulletin. In 1855 Bowles, Bryan and Holland started a job printing establishment and at one time were the largest manufacturers of photograph albums in the world.

Bowles and the Republican occupied this structure from 1858 through 1867 when he built a new block. The Republican Block is the last remaining structure associated with Bowles and his editorship of the Republican.

D.H. Brigham bought the Republican Block in 1867 to house his greatly expanded "gentlemen's furnishings" store. In 1868 when he built the rear addition, doubling his space, the Boston Globe termed this store "one of the most magnificent clothing houses in New England and one of the largest in the country." The basement was used for wholesale trade, the first floor for retail, and the upper floors were used for manufacturing all the clothing sold in the store. D.H. Brigham died in 1898, but the business was carried on in this location until 1969.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hooker; Richard, The Story of an Independant Newspaper, 1924
Springfield Republican 8/24/1867, 10/29/1861,
Springfield Directory 1858-59, 1867-68.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 7500 sq. ft.

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 699260 4663720
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Joseph R. Orfant, National Register Editor and Edmond Lonergan, Researcher
Springfield Historical Commission

ORGANIZATION

Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

June 6, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

294 Washington Street

TELEPHONE

617-727-8470

CITY OR TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Elizabeth Reed Amazon

TITLE

Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

6/22/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

1/26/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Chuck R. ...

DATE

1-24-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Property Republican BlockState Mass.Working Number 7.6.77.1087Hampden

TECHNICAL

Photos 2Maps 2acsege

CONTROL

OK pl
7.7.77

The political/newspaper associations are important. But
given the loss of integrity - I wonder if there might
be another kind of commercial district in which this could be
~~included~~ included - rather than listing it on its own merits.

HISTORIAN

Shapiro 12-1-77accept

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ACCEPTBritt 11/21/77

Finally decided it ~~was~~ was acceptable - since
one of the more dramatic changes occurred
in 1880's.

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

Despite first floor alterations, I believe this property
retains enough integrity to have architectural significance
and to convey historical association (of clothing store, maybe publisher)
2nd floor altered after publisher vacated.
1st floor should be removed.

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

AcceptLebowitz12/28/77

BRANCH CHIEF

Hunt1.24.78

KEEPER

WJ
1/24/78

National Register Write-up

Federal Register Entry

3.7.78

Send-back _____

Re-submit _____

Entered JAN 26 1978

INT:2106-74



Republican Block
Springfield, MA.

Robert Jackson, 1977

Springfield Historical Commission

City Hall, Springfield, MA.

Photo #1 *32*

Looking east towards the facade

JUL 6 1977

HAMPDEN CO.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

JAN 26 1978



Republican Block
Springfield, MA.

HAMPDEN CO.

Robert Jackson, 1977

Springfield Historical Commission

City Hall, Springfield, MA.

JAN 26 1978

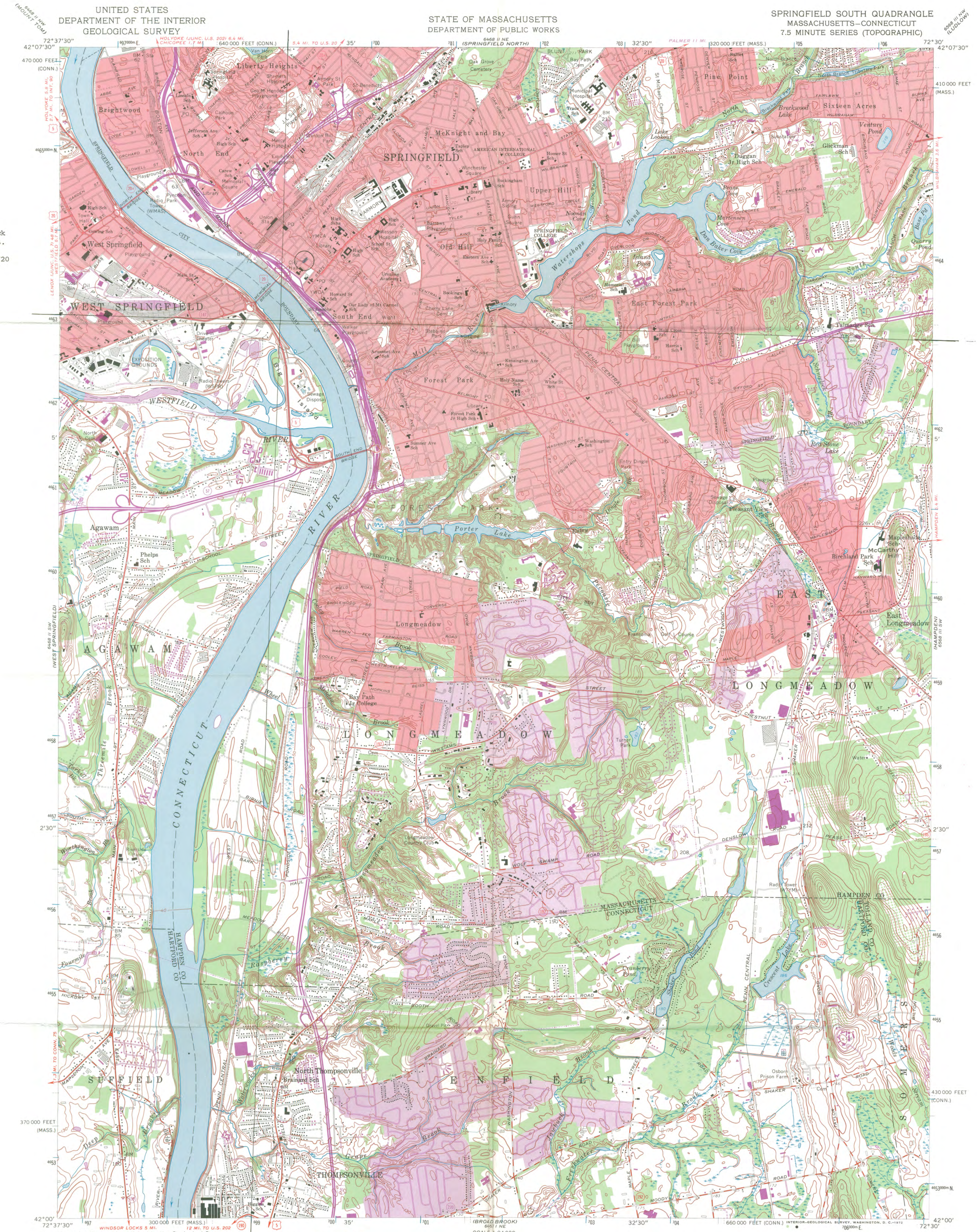
Photo #2 *72*

Looking west towards the rear (east)
elevation

JUL 6 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Republican Block
Springfield, MA.
UTM Reference:
18/699260/4663720



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

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

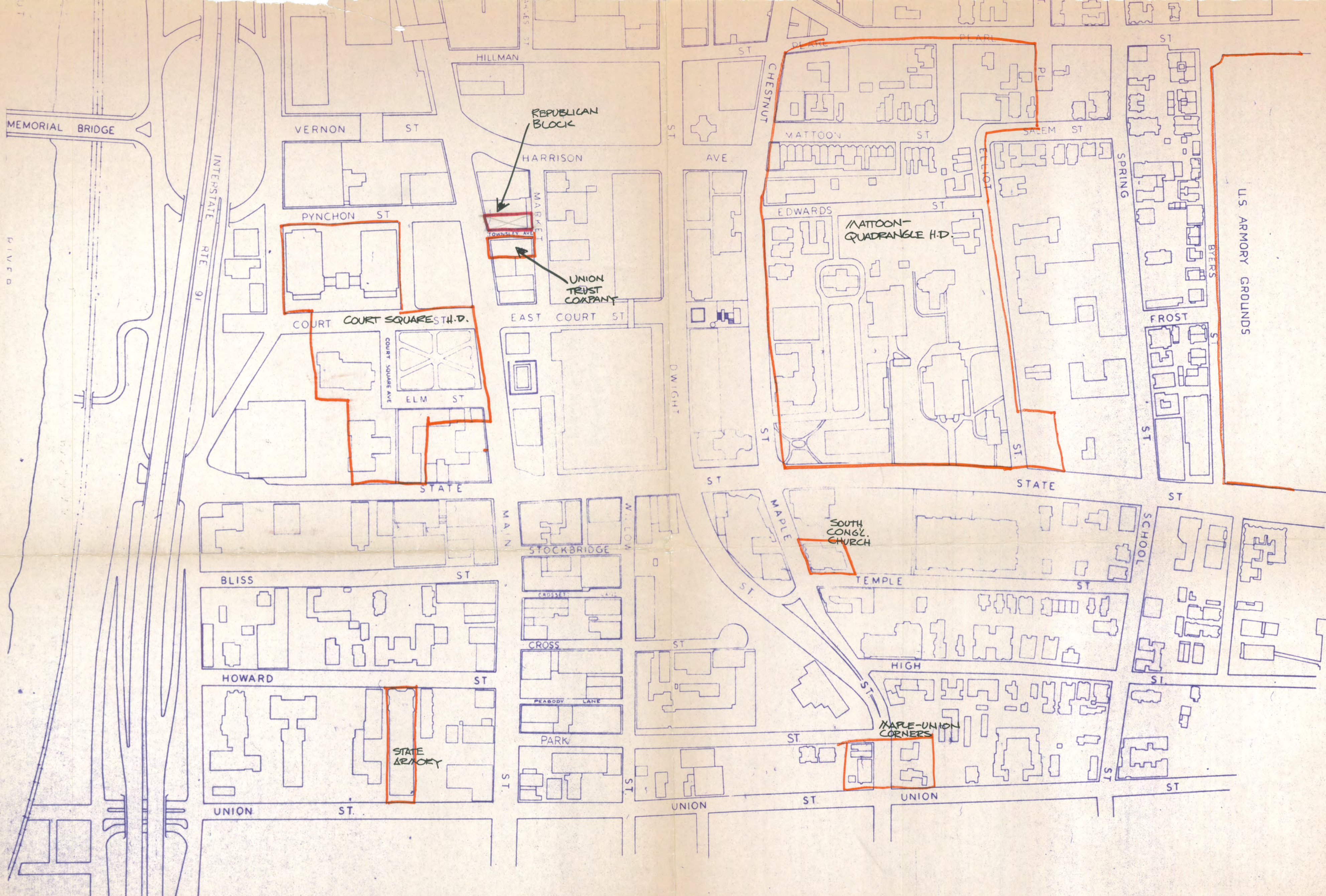
ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
U.S. Route ——— State Route ———

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

1958
PHOTOREVISED 1970
AMS 6468 II SE-SERIES V814



JAN 26 1978



Republican Block
Springfield, MA.
Property Sketch Map
see legend

Hampden Co.

orange indicates current NR listing or
nomination

JAN 26 1978 - DOE JUL 6 1977

DOWNTOWN

PREPARED BY CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS



SCALE
IN FEET

0 100 200 300

NOVEMBER, 1975



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission

*Secretary of the
Commonwealth*

*294 Washington Street Boston, Massachusetts 02108
(617) 727-8470*

June 28, 1977

Mr. Charles Herrington, Chief
Registration Branch
National Register of Historic Places
OAHP
National Park Service
Washington, D.C. 20240



Dear Charles:

Enclosed please find nomination forms for the following properties:

1. Cambridge, Harvard Square Subway Kiosk
2. East Longmeadow, First Congregational Church
3. Cambridge, Hasty Pudding Club
4. Springfield, Brigham Block

These properties have been reviewed and voted by the State Review Board and signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer, Elizabeth Amadon.

Sincerely,

Patricia L. Weslowski
Survey Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

PLW/ed
enc

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **MASSACHUSETTS**

Date Entered **JAN 26 1978**

Name

Location

Republican Block

**Springfield
Hampden County**

Also Notified

**Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Silvio O. Conte**

**Regional Director, North Atlantic
Region**

**State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon
Executive Director, Massachusetts
Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108**

880

Mott/js

1/30/78

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

1 NAME as it appears on federal register: Republican Block		2 OTHER NAMES: Brigham's Block		3 date of entry: JAN 26 1978		4 county code: 13																																					
5 LOCATION street & number 1365 Main St.		city / town Springfield		vicinity of MA		county Hampden																																					
6 NPS REGION: NA																																											
7 OWNER ☒ PRIVATE ☐ STATE ☐ MUNICIPAL ☐ COUNTY ☐ MULTIPLE ☐ FEDERAL (agency name)						8 ADMINISTRATOR:																																					
9 EXISTING SURVEYS ☐ HABS ☐ HAER ☐ NHL		10 FUNDED? ☐ YES ☐ NO		11 CONGRESS. DISTRICT 1st		12 SOURCE of NOMINATION ☒ STATE ☐ FEDERAL if state who prepared form?																																					
13 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ YES, NAME ☐ NO		14 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? ☐ YES, NAME ☐ NO		15 ACREAGE		☐ LOCAL ☐ PRIVATE ORGANIZATION																																					
16 CONDITION ☐ excellent ☐ deteriorated ☐ good ☐ ruins ☐ fair ☐ unexposed ☐ unexcavated ☐ excavated		☐ altered ☐ original site ☐ unaltered ☐ moved ☐ reconstructed ☐ unknown		17 features: <table style="width:100%; font-size: small;"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> INTERIOR ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-4 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-7 </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> EXTERIOR ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-5 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-8 </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> ENVIRONS ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-6 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-9 </td> </tr> </table>				INTERIOR ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-4 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-7	EXTERIOR ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-5 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-8	ENVIRONS ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-6 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-9																																	
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18 ACCESS ☐ YES-Restricted ☐ YES-Unrestricted ☐ No Access ☐ Unknown		19 ADAPTIVE USE ☐ YES ☐ NO		20 SAVED? ☐ YES		IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ yes ☐ no																																					
21 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: <table style="width:100%; font-size: x-small;"> <tr> <td>☐ ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2</td> <td>☐ COMMERCE-6</td> <td>☐ ENGINEERING-11</td> <td>☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15</td> <td>☐ POLITICS/GOVT.-21</td> <td>☐ RECREATION-28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐ ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1</td> <td>☐ COMMUNICATIONS-7</td> <td>☐ ENTERTAINMENT-26</td> <td>☐ LAW-16</td> <td>☐ RELIGION-22</td> <td>☐ SETTLEMENT-29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐ AGRICULTURE-3</td> <td>☐ CONSERVATION-8</td> <td>☐ EXPLORATION-12</td> <td>☐ LITERATURE-17</td> <td>☐ SCIENCE-23</td> <td>☐ URBAN PLANNING-31</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐ ARCHITECTURE-4</td> <td>☐ ECONOMICS-9</td> <td>☐ HEALTH-27</td> <td>☐ MILITARY-18</td> <td>☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24</td> <td>☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐ ART-5</td> <td>☐ EDUCATION-10</td> <td>☐ INDUSTRY-13</td> <td>☐ MUSIC-19</td> <td>☐ SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>☐ INVENTION-14</td> <td>☐ PHILOSOPHY-20</td> <td>☐ TRANSPORTATION-25</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		☐ ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2	☐ COMMERCE-6	☐ ENGINEERING-11	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15	☐ POLITICS/GOVT.-21	☐ RECREATION-28	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1	☐ COMMUNICATIONS-7	☐ ENTERTAINMENT-26	☐ LAW-16	☐ RELIGION-22	☐ SETTLEMENT-29	☐ AGRICULTURE-3	☐ CONSERVATION-8	☐ EXPLORATION-12	☐ LITERATURE-17	☐ SCIENCE-23	☐ URBAN PLANNING-31	☐ ARCHITECTURE-4	☐ ECONOMICS-9	☐ HEALTH-27	☐ MILITARY-18	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)	☐ ART-5	☐ EDUCATION-10	☐ INDUSTRY-13	☐ MUSIC-19	☐ SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30				☐ INVENTION-14	☐ PHILOSOPHY-20	☐ TRANSPORTATION-25		22 CLAIMS: explain 'first' ☐ 'oldest' ☐ 'only' ☐					
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23 functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: CURRENTLY:		24 dates of initial construction: major alterations: historic events:				25 ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION																																					
26 architectural style(s):		27 architect:		28 master builder:		29 engineer:																																					
30 landscape architect / garden designer:		31 interior decorator:		32 artist:		33 artisan:																																					
34 builder/contractor:																																											
35 NAMES give role & date PERSONAL: EVENTS: INSTITUTIONAL:																																											
36 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP																																											