

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA	FORM NO.
3000	34

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

Photo number _____

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.



Recorded by Fred Clarke, Ed Lonergan,
Candace Jenkins
Organization Springfield Historical Commission on Stearns Square

Date 1979

Assessor's Map #309
UTM Reference-18/699010/4664040
Springfield South Quad (Staple additional sheets here)

✓ Town Springfield
✓ Address 250-264 Worthington Street
✓ Historic Name Wells Block (DSMRA)

Use: Present Commercial

Original commercial/residential

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1876

Source city

Style Italianate

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric brick

Outbuildings none

Major alterations (with dates) _____

masonry addition-rear-1890's

restoration-1981

Moved no Date _____

Approx. acreage less than one

Setting urban context; faces directly

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

The Wells Block (250-264 Worthington) built for Abner B. Abbey in 1876 as a mixed use commercial/residential building is a four story Italianate building. The upper three floors were originally designed for tenement housing and continued in that use until a fire in 1946. The first floor contained two commercial storefronts. The south facade (most ornate) is capped with a decorative metal cornice and metal eyebrow window heads on the second to fourth floor. The windows are wood double hung two over two lights with brownstone sills which punctuate fired red brick facade with thin mortar joint. The ground floor store front and entry includes cast iron moldings, pressed metal composite capital pilaster, decorative plaster, and miscellaneous metal moldings which have been partially

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

The Wells Block possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials and workmanship. Its combination commercial/residential use at the time of its construction in 1876, represents the transition the downtown as a whole was experiencing. Additionally, it is a well preserved example of the local commercial/Italianate style. It meets criteria A & C of the National Register of Historic Places.

The Wells Block was built in 1876 for Abner B. Abbey on the site of his former lumber yard but due to financial problems the building was sold at public auction to Jerome Wells in 1877. The four story Italianate structure contained two stores on the first floor and tenements on the upper three floors. The upper floors have been predominately housing use. They were converted to a boarding houses around the turn of the century and operated by a Bridgett Kennedy. In 1916 the boarding house rooms became the Avon Hotel and remained so until 1946 when a fire on the second floor (right bay) destroyed most of the interior. Since that time the upper floors have been essentially unoccupied.

The storefronts on the first floor have been the location of several trade/service oriented businesses which supported the North Blocks development east of Main Street. The variety of uses have included frame makers, specialty tea company, furniture dealer paint and wallpaper store, trucking service and a restaurant. The most significant uses include a variety of frame makers and specialty tea company. From 1899 to 1926 James Guthrie, framemaker, occupied 254 Worthington and subsequently W.H. Moreton and Wells & Wells Picture Frames occupied the space into the 1930's. Worthington Street east of th
BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher) (cont.)

King's Handbook of Springfield, Ed. Moses King, 1884, p.271

Springfield, Scrapbook, Volume 38, p.179

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:	Form No:
3000	34
Property Name: 250-264 Worthington Street	

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

Architectural Significance

concealed or altered. Original wrought iron balconies and subsequent fire escape additions have been removed but otherwise above the first floor the building retains its original appearance.

The west and north (rear) elevations are common brick with double hung (two over two) windows. Window openings contain masonry relieving arch and sills and west elevation has a stepped masonry parapet consistent with the sloped wood roof.

The building is approximately 48' wide and 70' deep and separated into bays by a masonry party wall. The interior detail was limited to panel doors and simple wood window trim. A two story masonry addition was connected to the rear (north) facade in the mid 1890's for office and garage use.

Historical Significance:

site still retains a number of galleries and frame makers. The Grand Union Tea Company a store of considerable notoriety to Springfield, provided choice teas, coffee, spices and other specialty items from the storefronts at 264 Worthington from 1907 through 1924.

The Wells Block is an architecturally significant building which represents quality design and workmanship which is consistent with the North Blocks development as commercial/manufacturing moved east of Main Street and north toward the railroad. The building is a typical response to housing and retail needs generated by industrial development but the building is unique in terms of scale and architectural detail represents the remaining example of this building type.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Wells Block (Downtown Springfield MRA)
Hampden County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 11/10/82-3025

Fed. Reg. Date:

Date Due: 12/9/84 - 12/25/82

Action: ☐ ACCEPT
☒ RETURN 12/27/82
☐ 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
☐ 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
☐ 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
- _____ justification of exception
- _____ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Address of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

USGS References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

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 _____

Signed *A. 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 1 of 5

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Downtown Springfield Multiple Resource Area
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Whitcomb Warehouse

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Melvin Byers 2/24/83

Attest

2. Patton Building

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Melvin Byers 2/24/83

Attest

3. Patton and Loomis Block

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Melvin Byers 2/24/83

Attest

4. Carlton House Block

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Melvin Byers 2/24/83

Attest

5. Stacy Building

Substantive Review

Keeper

Ann M. Day 5/27/83

Attest

6. Springfield Steam Power
Company Block

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Melvin Byers 2/24/83

Attest

7. Bicycle Club Building

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Melvin Byers 2/24/83

Attest

8. Wells Block

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Melvin Byers 2/24/83

Attest

9. Worthy Hotel

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Melvin Byers 2/24/83

Attest

10. Smith Carriage Company
District

Substantive Review

Keeper

Ann M. Day 5/27/83

Attest

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

WELLS BLOCK
(DOWNTOWN SPRINGFIELD MRA)

HAMPDEN CO
MA

Working No. 1110-82-3025

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
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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

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USIT References

Verbal boundary description and justification

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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



FELICE FRANKEL
PHOTOGRAPHER
202 Ellington Rd. Longmeadow
Ma. 01106 (413) 567-0222
Downtown Springfield MA
Wells Block
254-260 Worthington St.

Wells Block #34
250-264 Worthington St.
1"=50' Springfield MEA

AYLOR

POWER

WORTHINGTON

39 40

126.50

24536

SEE DETAIL
"B"

101.59

2536

101.47

34 = 33

97.98
98" (DRED)

4191

42.93

29

4820

30

demolished
10036

98.80

5238

5195

STREE

ST

315

KAYNOR ST.

240

1654

426.71

12.58

272.2

274

276

278

280

182

26.02

4.1

23.5

23.5

21.9

21.6

20.1

20.3

18.7