

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

received

OCT 13 1983

date entered

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Masonic Temple

and/or common same

**2. Location**

street & number 339-341 State Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Springfield

N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts

code 025

county Hampden

code 013

**3. Classification**

| Category  | Ownership                                   | Status  | Present Use  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input type="checkbox"/> public             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied        | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied                 | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both               | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress           | <input type="checkbox"/> educational                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                   | <b>Accessible</b>                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <input type="checkbox"/> in process         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government                  |
|   | <u>N/A</u> being considered                 | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted          | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial                  |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> no                         | <input type="checkbox"/> military                    |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> museum                      |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> park                        |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence           |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> religious                   |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific                  |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation              |
|   |   |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Fraternal |

**4. Owner of Property**

name Springfield Masonic Temple Association, Inc.

street & number 341 State Street

city, town Springfield

N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hampden County Registry of Deeds

street & number 50 State Street

city, town Springfield

state Massachusetts

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

Inventory of the Historic Assets of  
title the Commonwealth #2502 has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1977  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston

state Massachusetts

## 7. Description

Masonic Temple, 339-341 State St., Springfield, MA

|   |                                       |   |   |                 |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|-----------------|
| <b>Condition</b>                              |                                       | <b>Check one</b>                              | <b>Check one</b>                                  |                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good                 | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input type="checkbox"/> altered              | <input type="checkbox"/> moved                    | date <u>N/A</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair                 | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |   |   |                 |

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Springfield's Masonic Temple is located on State Street which has been a major east-west thoroughfare in the city since its founding in the early 17th century. It stands on a sloping site north-east of and above the Downtown Multiple Resource Area (NR-1983) and faces the Springfield National Armory (NHS-1974).

Easily one of the most impressive public monuments constructed in the city of Springfield during the 1920's, the Masonic Temple is notable for its monumental exterior and impressive interior spaces. It was dedicated on February 15, 1926, after nearly two and a half years of construction. Built at a cost of \$1,000,000 by the A.E. Stephens Co., the Temple was designed by McClintock & Craig.

The Masonic Temple has a frontage of 116 feet on State Street, a depth of 180 feet, and is 102 feet in height at its highest point. It is of steel frame construction with reinforced concrete floors and roof. The facade is composed of Indiana limestone with terra cotta trim; the side walls are faced with gray brick and trimmed with limestone and terra cotta, and the rear wall is composed of red brick. Neo-Classical in tone, the building's facade also features a variety of esoteric symbols and Egyptian detailing favored by masons.

The first story of the Temple, which is treated as a raised basement, is finished off with a cavetto moulding and paneled cornice. The main entrance is centrally located and reached by two short flights of stairs. It is flanked by smooth-faced, tapered piers and capped by a cavetto cornice. A bronze panel with the inscription "Masonic Temple" and a bronze grill decorate the entrance. The original bronze doors have been replaced by shorter glass doors, and a glass transom. Two, one-story pavilions with low-pitched, hipped, metal roofs flank the entrance and extend twenty feet towards State Street. Their rooflines are finished off with antefixae. The western pavilion has an entrance on its western side. Due to the slope of State Street this entrance serves the basement of the Temple. This entrance is similar in design to the main entrance and is flanked by two lanterns.

Above the basement cornice is a two-story colonnade set between two, broad pylons, supporting an entablature. The four columns that make up the colonnade are reputed to be replicas of those from the temple of KomOmbo, "an example of late Egyptian architecture." The central ornament behind the colonnade consists of a large panel with the square and compass, gold triangle, polychrome Maltese Cross, and an "Assyrian" double eagle in gray stone. Narrow fixed windows are set within recessed panels on these two stories.

The entablature is composed of a frieze with inscriptions, and a cavetto cornice decorated with vertical leaves. The frieze has three recessed panels: a central one over the colonnade, and two smaller flanking panels. The flanking panels are inscribed "A.L. 5924" and "A.D. 1924", while the central panel has a Latin inscription: "Aedificatum Ut Lux Splendesceret" (Erected That Light Might Become Brighter). Extending above the main cornice is a parapet with central projecting pediment. The face of the pediment is ornamented with a central altar and Bible, and has stylized rays extending outwards.

The sides of the Temple have the same major divisions as the facade: high basement, first story defined by a cornice and moulding, middle stories ornamented with pilasters, a paneled frieze, cavetto cornice, and parapet. Here, limestone is used for the basement, window sills, and the pilasters' bases and capitals, while the frieze has terra cotta decoration. The rear of the Temple is undecorated and composed entirely of brick with random window openings. A one story brick addition houses the boiler room.

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Continuation sheet Masonic Temple

Item number 7

Page 1

The windows of the Temple vary in size, and those on the facade, pavilion, and limestone portions of the sides (except for the windows behind the colonnade) are covered with bronze grilles.

The interior of the Masonic Temple is made up of four main floors and two mezzanine floors. The lower floor is mostly devoted to an extensive banquet hall which accommodates 1200 persons, and features a terrazo floor. In the rear of this hall is a large kitchen, and the boiler room. Adjacent to the banquet hall on the west side are the recreation rooms, which may be entered from the outside by a separate doorway.

The first floor contains the main entrance from State Street. The foyer is two stories in height, and features a mosaic floor of Tennessee marble, Greek Doric stone columns, a marble stairway to a balcony with marble capped balustrade, and a coffered ceiling with chandelier.

The small and large blue lodge rooms are the major spaces on the first floor. The small blue lodge room can accommodate up to 250 people and has limestone walls with Greek Doric pilasters and an inlaid cork floor. A pipe organ is at the western end of the room, while the furnishings have blue upholstery, and walnut consoles and rails. There are three ancillary rooms here: anteroom, reception room, and library. The large blue lodge room has a capacity of 450 people and features limestone walls with Ionic pilasters, and an inlaid cork floor. There is also a pipe organ in this room, and the furnishings have taupe upholstery, and walnut consoles and rails. There are also three ancillary rooms here: anteroom, reception room, and trustees' room. The first mezzanine floor has a room for the blue lodge secretaries, and is equipped with a fireproof vault for records.

The second floor is devoted to the York Rite bodies, and contains two major spaces. The Commandery room features Italian limestone walls with Roman Doric pilasters and columns, and an inlaid cork floor. There is also a pipe organ here. The west side of the room has an arcade supported by columns, and crowned with a balcony. The room can accommodate upwards of 500 people. The prelates' room has hand cast plaster walls, a decorative, coffered ceiling, and an inlaid cork floor. The overall style is Neo-Gothic, and the furnishings are of oak. There are also storage rooms, smoking rooms, and a main lobby on this floor. The second mezzanine floor contains various ancillary rooms, and an armory for the storage of properties of the York Rite Bodies.

The third floor is primarily occupied by the Auditorium. This is used for general purposes as well as for the working of the Scottish Rite degrees, and has a seating capacity of 1500 including 300 in the balcony. The proscenium is 35 feet wide and the stage is 24 feet deep. A large pipe organ is divided in half by the proscenium. There is elaborate stage equipment including a large switchboard for lighting. A Frink reflector set in the ceiling serves as the principal lighting for the auditorium, while the space is "mushroom heated," the warm air coming up through the floor beneath the seats. An elaborate ventilation system filters dirt and dust from the air. There are also robing, smoking, and storage rooms on this floor.

The upper floors are reached by two electric elevators in the front of the building, which were claimed to be the first of their type in New England. They have a speed of 350 feet per minute, and are the "micro-self-leveling" type. They automatically level themselves with each floor before the doors can be opened. Each of major spaces in the building is soundproof, permitting simultaneous usage, and also has concealed, colored lighting for special effects.

## 8. Significance

Masonic Temple, 339-341 State Street, Springfield

| Period                                    | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below    |   |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric      | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric  | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning     | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499        | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599        | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> economics              | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education              | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799        | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899        | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation    |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)<br>Fraternal |

**Specific dates** 1923-1926

**Builder/Architect** McClintock & Craig (architects)

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Masonic Temple possesses integrity of location, design, setting, and materials, as well as important associations as the center for Masonic organizations in western Massachusetts for over fifty years. It is also a major public monument in Springfield dating from a major period of significance, the 1920's. It is located on one of the city's major thoroughfares, near the brow of the Connecticut River terrace. Opposite the former U.S. Armory, and just up the street from the Quadrangle, the Temple complements its neighbors with its monumental scale while its limestone facade and Neo-Classical tone bespeak its early 20th century date. Thus, the Masonic Temple meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

Masonry was established in Springfield in 1817 with Col. Roswell Lee, Superintendent of the U.S. Armory from 1815 until 1833, as the first "worshipful master" of the Hampden lodge. Ten years later there were four Masonic bodies and they decided to act together to provide themselves with a large hall. They built a third story on the town hall on State Street for these purposes. This served until 1874 when all of the local Masons moved to quarters in the new Mass. Mutual Life Insurance Co. building on Main Street. A disastrous fire in 1891 prompted the seven local Masonic organizations to construct their own building. Three representatives from each body formed a committee, and incorporated under the name "The Springfield Masonic Hall Association". A five-story Masonic Temple, with rental stores on the first floor and rental offices on half of the second floor, was dedicated in 1893 at the corner of State and Main Streets.

By the early 1920's the local Masons were conducting a fund drive for a new Temple, to be erected by Masons, for Masons, and dedicated to the interests and welfare of Masons". (1) The site chosen was opposite the U.S. Armory and "in close proximity to buildings that typify the best of community spirit, the arts, sciences, and educational advantages for which Springfield is justly noted." (2)

The local architectural and engineering firm of McClintock & Craig were chosen to design the new building. A full set of original plans, dated January 4, 1923, is owned by the Springfield Masonic Temple Association, and is stored at the Temple. The designing firm had been founded in 1912 by Edward H. McClintock (architect) and Charles H. Craig (engineer). They were recognized as one of the leading authorities in western New England on heavy mill design. Both of the partners were active in Masonic affairs and E.H. McClintock served a three year term (1928-31) as Grand Master of the Springfield Masons.

The A.E. Stephens Co., local contractors who had built Springfield's Municipal Group, received the contract to build the new Temple. Construction began in October of 1923 and the cornerstone was laid with appropriate ceremony on June 24, 1924. The new Temple was dedicated on February 15, 1926, after being completed at a cost of \$1,000,000.

(1) Our New Masonic Temple, undated pamphlet, Vertical File, Genealogy/Local History Department, Springfield City Library.

(2) Ibid.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

"New Masonic Temple is Completed," The Springfield Union, Jan. 3, 1926, p. 1 (Magazine and Literary Section)

"Masonry in this City," Springfield Sunday Republican, Oct. 22, 1893, p. 9

Vertical Files-Masons, Genealogy/Local History Department, Springfield City Library

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 33,825 sq. feet

Quadrangle name Springfield South

Quadrangle scale 1:25000

### UMT References

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at a point on the southeasterly line of State Street distant northeasterly by said line of said street 152.80 feet from a stone bound at the intersection of said southeasterly line of said State Street and the northeasterly line of Myrtle Street at

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | N/A | code | county | code |
|-------|-----|------|--------|------|
|-------|-----|------|--------|------|

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Candace Jenkins, Preservation Planner Director with Edmond P. Lonergan

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date July 1983

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  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 Peter L. Woodson

9/30/83

title State Historic Preservation Officer  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

date

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date

11/10/83

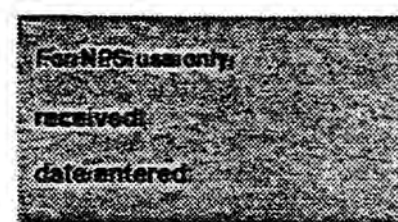
Melrose Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet Masonic Temple

Item number 10

Page 1

land now or formerly of Lillian Levine et als., thence running Northeasterly by said State Street 134 feet to an iron pin at land of the Monarch Life Insurance Company, thence turning at an interior angle of  $96^{\circ}05'$  and running Southeasterly by said last named land 256.80 feet to an iron pin at land now or formerly of Wesson Memorial Hospital; thence turning at an interior angle of  $91^{\circ}17'$  and running Southwesterly by said last named land 122.02 feet to land of said Lillian Levine et als., and thence turning at an interior angle of  $91^{\circ}04'$  and running Northwesterly by last named land 273.80 feet to the point of beginning and making an interior angle of  $81^{\circ}34'$  with the said line of State Street, and being shown on a plan made by Ross and Leander, Surveyors, dated July 1937 and recorded in said Registry of Deeds in Book of Plans 16, Page 109. (Hampden County Registry of Deeds; Book 1659 Page 508).



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**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**

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_



Masonic Temple  
339-41 State Street  
Springfield, MA

Photo and negative: Stan Skarzynski  
Dec. 15, 1982

View of State Street facade and  
Western side.

Photo #1 of 4



Masonic Temple  
339-41 State Street  
Springfield, MA

Photo and negative: Stan Skarzynski,  
Dec. 15, 1982

View of State Street facade and eastern  
side.  
Photo #2 of 4



Masonic Temple  
339-41 State Street  
Springfield, MA

Photo and negative: Stan Skarzynski,  
Dec. 15, 1982

View of Rear Elevation.

Photo #3 of 4



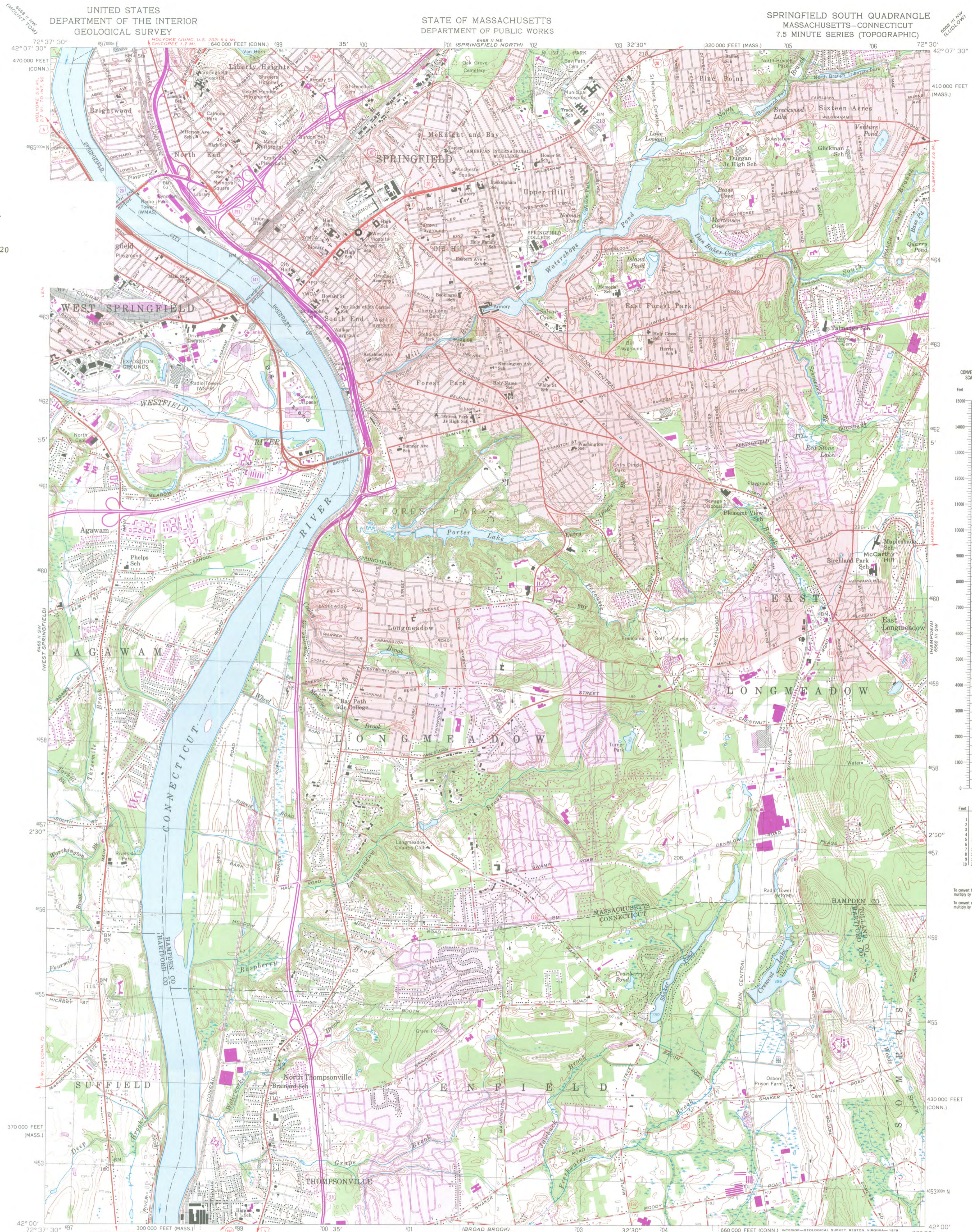
Masonic Temple, 339-41 State Street  
Springfield, MA

Photo by Stan Skarzynski, Dec. 15, 1982  
Negative filed with Stan Skarzynski

Detail of State Street Facade.

Photo #4 of 4

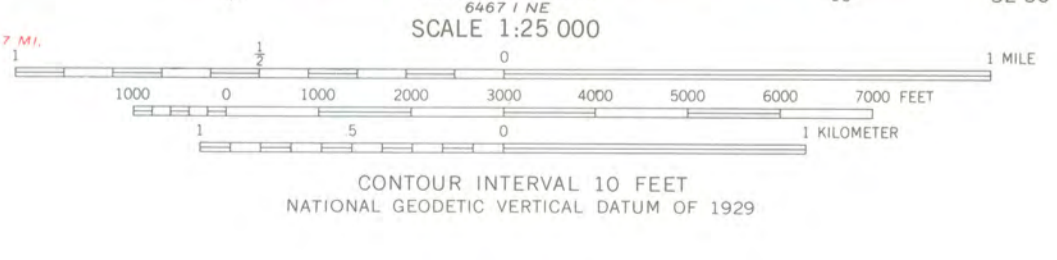
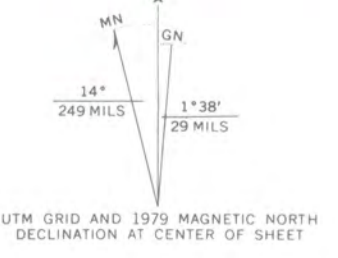
Masonic Temple  
Springfield, MA  
UTM Reference:  
18 700000 4664120



| Feet | Meters |
|------|--------|
| 1    | 3.048  |
| 2    | 6.096  |
| 3    | 9.144  |
| 4    | 12.192 |
| 5    | 15.240 |
| 6    | 18.288 |
| 7    | 21.336 |
| 8    | 24.384 |
| 9    | 27.432 |
| 10   | 30.480 |

To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048  
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

Mapped, 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, zone 18  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with the State of Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1975 and other source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979  
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

|                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Heavy-duty       | Light-duty      |
| Medium-duty      | Unimproved dirt |
| U.S. Route       | State Route     |
| Interstate Route |                 |

SPRINGFIELD SOUTH, MASS.-CONN.  
N4200 - W7230/7.5  
1958  
PHOTOREVISED 1979  
AMS 6468 II SE-SERIES V814

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



SPRINGFIELD MASONIC TEMPLE, INC.

339 STATE STREET  
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01105

CJ/  
GF  
RECEIVED

AUG 12 1983

MASS. HIST. COMM.  
August 11, 1983

Ms Valerie Talmadge  
Executive Director  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
294 Washington St.  
Boston, Mass. 02108

Dear Ms. Talmadge:

In response to your letter of August 1, 1983 you may be assured that the Masonic Temple is very much interested in being listed in the Federal Register of Historical Buildings.

Very Truly Yours,

E. Raymond Turner  
President