

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

| AREA | FORM NO. |
|------|----------|
| 3000 | 33       |

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. Indicate north.



Recorded by Fred Clark, Ed Lonergan, ed  
by Candace Jenkins  
Organization Springfield Historical  
Commission

Date 1979

UTM Reference: 18/699100/4664040  
Springfield South Quadrangle

Assessors' Map #309

(Staple additional sheets here)

Town Springfield

Address 264-270 Worthington Street

Historic Name Bicycle Club Building (BSMA)

original owner: Springfield Bicycle Club

Use: Present Commercial

Original club headquarters

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1891

Source City Directories

Style Romanesque Revival

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric brick

Outbuildings None

Major alterations (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_

removal of sash and interior trim: c.1950

restoration - 1981

Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approx. acreage less than one

Setting urban context: faces directly on

Stearns Square

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

The Bicycle Club Building (264-270 Worthington) is a four story masonry structure built in 1891 for the Springfield Bicycle Club. The twenty four foot wide structure is attached to the Wells Block through common use of Wells Block exterior wall. The highly decorated facade is capped by a deep projected pressed metal cornice. The original first floor store front has been significantly modified through the years while the upper floors have retained most of their original appearance except for the removal of the arched metal parapet which sat on the metal cornice. (cont.)

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

The Springfield Bicycle Club Building possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials and workmanship. It is significant for its well preserved late 19th century design, and especially as the home of the Springfield Bicycle Club. It meets criteria A & C of the National Register of Historic Places.

The Bicycle Club Building was built in 1891 as the first permanent home of the internationally known Springfield Bicycle Club. Organized in 1881, the Springfield Bicycle Club was a pioneer in the racing field and successfully established the popularity and reputation of the bicycle meet. Under the leadership of president Henry E. Drucker, the Club constructed a "special bicycle track inside the Hampden Park Trotting Track... with the help of the best civil engineers in America and Europe... during a three day meet at Springfield, all American and European records were wiped out."1 The Club top rider was George M. Hendee, who in 1884, at the age of eighteen, was "champion amateur rider of the United States for all distances up to and including twenty miles."2

He had previously established these records at the 1883 meeting which attracted 70,000 people over its four day extent at a time when the City's population was 36,000. Mr. Hendee later became a bicycle manufacturer, and then founded the Hendee Motorcycle Company which manufactured the famous Indian Motorcycle. In addition to its athletic events, the organization functioned in a broader social and community base. The membership of the club embraced many of the City's leading professional, commercial, and business men as well as many younger business and professional men. The Club provided relief (cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

1. American Bicycle Racing, James C. McCollagh, 1976, p.4
2. King's Handbook of Springfield, Ed. Moses King, 1884, p.271
3. Springfield Scrapbook, Volume 38, p.179.

# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

|                                              |          |
|----------------------------------------------|----------|
| Community:                                   | Form No: |
| Springfield                                  | 33       |
| Property Name: 264-270 Worthington<br>Street |          |

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

The fourth floor contains a Romanesque arch which spans most of the facade and protects a porch and decorative wood window wall. The red brick arch and face includes basket-weave brick and projected brick moldings. The masonry and mortar are monochromatic. The porch area is formed by the projecting wood bay (oriel) and surrounded by cast railings. The wood facade at the fourth floor consists of wood panelled double hung sash (four) in which is centered a glazed wood door. Wood windows and door glazing are detailed with perimeter window pane. The second and third floor contain a wood projected bay (approximately 30') which included decorative transom glazing, perimeter pane wood pivot sash, and decorative pressed tin pyramidal molding.

## Historical Significance.:

from the wear of daily work, responsibility and effort.

The Building was constructed for the single purpose of housing the Springfield Bicycle Club and related commercial space. The style, detail and workmanship of the building was a direct extension of the functions housed in the Building and the proud symbol of a most energetic organization. Although the decorative half round metal parapet and gold wings, symbols of the Club, have been removed and the first floor commercial significantly altered, other significant details have remained unaltered. The structure originally houses a bowling alley in the basement; a bicycle dealer, Frank M. Coe, Columbia Bicycles on the first floor; club library, parlor, and offices on the second floor: billiards, pool and card rooms on the third floor; and a fully equipped gymnasium on the fourth floor.

During the early 20th century as the automobile took over the American consciousness and bicycling diminished the building was subsequently utilized for several fraternal organizations, dance and ballet schools, and real estate office.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

# EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Bicycle Club Building (Downtown Springfield MRA)  
Hampden County  
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 11/10/82-3825

Fed. Reg. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Due: 12/9/82 - 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                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> original site    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good      | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input type="checkbox"/> altered   | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair      | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |                                    |                                           |

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

## 10. Geographical Data

Address of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

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

USIT References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification

*X Klean Province*

## 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 *D. 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. Dwyer 5/27/87

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. Dwyer 5/27/87

Attest

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceBICYCLE CLUB BUILDING  
(DOWNTOWN SPRINGFIELD MRA)

HAMPDEN CO

MA

Working No. 11/10/82-3025

Fed. Reg. Date: 2.7.84

Date Due: 4/1/83

Action: ☒ ACCEPT 2/24/83Entered in the ☐ RETURNNational 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  
☐ 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                                 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> original site    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good      | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair      | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Geographic name \_\_\_\_\_

USRT 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 \_\_\_\_\_

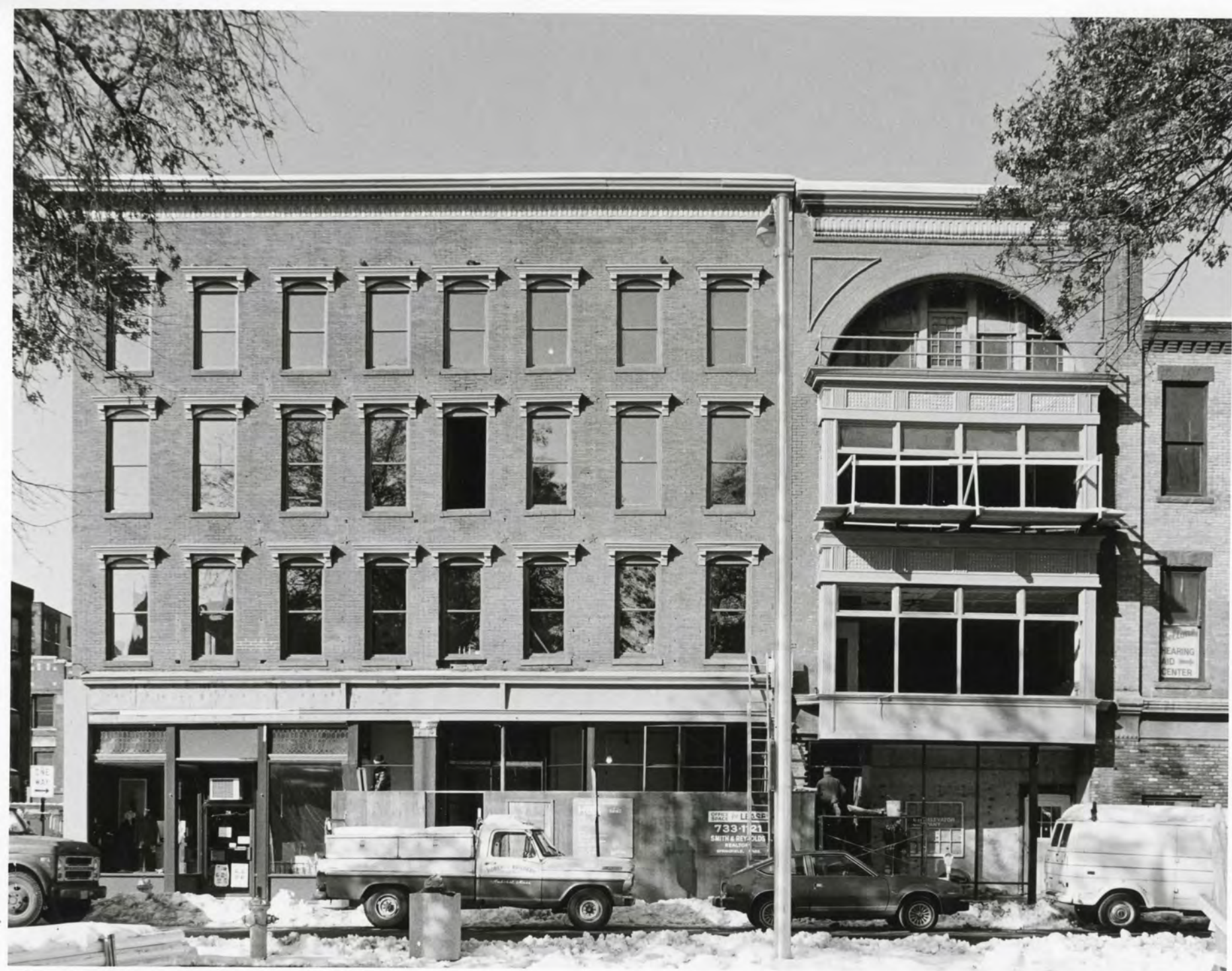
title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

## 13. Other

- \_\_\_\_\_ Maps
- \_\_\_\_\_ Photographs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: 202 272-3500



No. 1

Name: Wells Block/Bicycle Club  
Building  
250-270 Worthington St.  
Springfield, Mass.

Taken: Felice Frankel

Date: November 21, 1980

Negative Stored: F. Frankel

Description: Front Elevation  
(south)

FELICE FRANKEL  
PHOTOGRAPHER  
202 Ellington Rd. Longmeadow  
Ma. 01106 (413) 567-0222



Downtown Springfield

FELICE FRANKEL  
PHOTOGRAPHER  
202 Ellington Rd. Longmeadow  
Ma. 01106 (413) 567-0222  
Downtown Springfield  
Mc  
Bicycle Club Building  
264-270 Westington  
St.

WORTHINGTON

ST.

AYLOR

POWER

315

KAYNOR ST.

STREE

Bicycle Club Building #33  
264-270 Worthington St.  
1"=50' Springfield MA

31/11

39  
40

