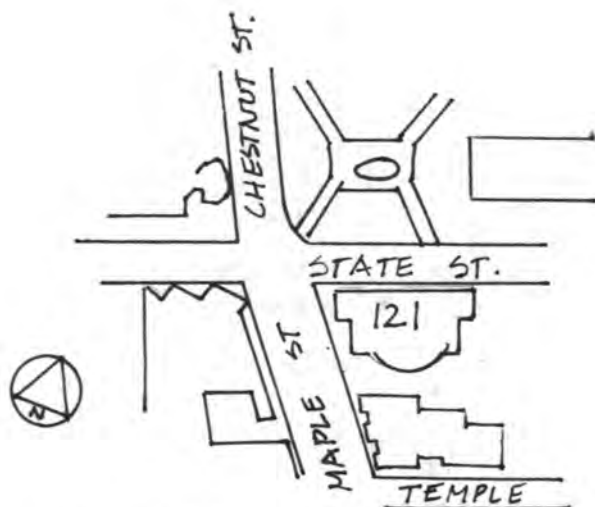


MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

PHOTO (3x3" or 3x5", black & white)
Staple to left side of form
Photo number _____

SKETCH MAP

Draw map showing property's
location in relation to nearest
cross streets and other buildings
or geographical features.
Indicate north.



Recorded by Margo Webber

Organization Anderson Nottter Finegold Inc.

Date June, 1981

Assessor's Map #407

UTM Ref: 18/699590/4663660

Springfield South Quadrangle (Staple additional sheets here)

✓ Town Springfield

✓ Address 195 State Street

✓ Historic Name Springfield Fire & Marine Insurance Co. (DSMA)

Use: Original Offices

Present offices; school administration

Ownership: ☐ Private individual
Private organization _____

Public City of Springfield

Original owner Springfield Fire & Marine Insurance Co.

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1905

Source The Spur, September, 1932

Style Classical Revival

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric Limestone

Outbuildings none

Major alterations (with dates) none

Moved no Date _____

Approx. acreage Less than 1 acre

Setting Urban context; opposite historic

museum Quadrangle; as last commercial

building going north on State Street, it forms an edge to the downtown area.

CRITERIA STATEMENT

The Springfield Fire and Marine Insurance Company Building possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials and workmanship. Built to house the offices of an expanding insurance company, it represents the growth and prosperity of the city in the early twentieth century. Additionally, it is a major local example of the classical revival. Thus the building meets criteria A & C of the National Register of Historic Places.

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

This building is a prominent corner structure with characteristic proportions and detailing of the Classical Revival style. The exterior is of limestone, with the first story set in wide courses to create the appearance of a rusticated base. The facade is 9 bays wide and 3 stories high, with a recessed center entrance. The windows of the upper two stories are set within recessed bays which are defined by two-story columns between each bay. The building has a modillioned cornice and above it a Classically-detailed parapet.

It is an outstanding local example of early twentieth century classical revivalism. Other related examples include several banking and utility company offices as well as municipal buildings.

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 Fire and Marine Insurance Company was one of the leading companies in the city. It was founded in 1849 and was first located in offices in the City Hotel. In 1857, the company purchased land at Fort and Main Streets and erected the Fort Block as its home office building. The company moved to 195 State Street in 1905, remaining there until 1966.

The company was founded by Marvin Chapin, a Springfield resident who had also been a proprietor of the Massasoit House. It was founded on the basis that the insurance business should be kept local. Soon, a branch agency in New York opened to service expanding western areas of the country. By 1860, the marine insurance aspect of the business was discontinued, except for inland risks. The entire capitalization was lost in the Chicago Fire of 1871, and it took a 65% assessment of stock to restore capital. The Great Boston Fire of 1872 produced \$250,000 in losses, requiring another 30% assessment to restore the stock. After surviving these two disasters, the firm experienced rapid growth into the 20th century. In 1958, it merged with the Insurance Company of North America.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Building Permits

The Spur, Springfield Institution for Savings, Vol. XI, No. 1, September, 1932
Moses King, King's Handbook of Springfield, Massachusetts, 1884, pp. 310-11.
Progressive Springfield, March, 1891, pp. 143-47.
Springfield Scrapbook, Vol. 28, pp. 40, 45, 50, 144

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Springfield Fire & Marine Insurance Co. (Downtown
Springfield MRA)
Hampden County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 11/1/82-3025
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:

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 _____ 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

Average of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

USGS Reference _____

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 *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

425

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Downtown Springfield Multiple Resource Area
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

31. Hibernian Block

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Melona Byers 2/24/83

Attest

32. McIntosh Building

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Melona Byers 2/24/83

Attest

33. Willy's Overland Block

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Melona Byers 2/24/83

Attest

34. Haynes Hotel Waters
Building

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Melona Byers 2/24/83

Attest

35. Springfield District
Court

Substantive Review

Keeper

Anna M. Boyd 2/24/83

Attest

36. Walker Building

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Melona Byers 2/24/83

Attest

37. United Electric Company
Building

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Melona Byers 2/24/83

Attest

38. Radding Building

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Melona Byers 2/24/83

Attest

39. Springfield Fire & Marine
Insurance Company

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Melona Byers 2/24/83

Attest

40. Guenther & Handel's Block

Substantive Review

Keeper

Anna M. Boyd 2/24/83

Attest

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Springfield Fire & Marine Insurance Co.
(Downtown Springfield MRA)

Hampden County

MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 11/10/82-3025

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
☐ 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	☐ unrestored	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
dates _____

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 _____

Geographic name _____

USIT 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



Dorchester Springfield MRA, Ma

Springfield Fire + Marine Insurance Co.

Springfield Fire & Marine Insurance Company Building #121
195 State St.
1"=50' Springfield MEA

107

CHESTNUT ST.

12.53

376.41

STATI

195

207

191.33

STREET

PASSAGEWAY

STOCKBRIDGE STREET

PLE

121

1872.4

4438

98.62

883.6

PASSAGEWAY

44.72

14.04

14.04

14.04

14.04