

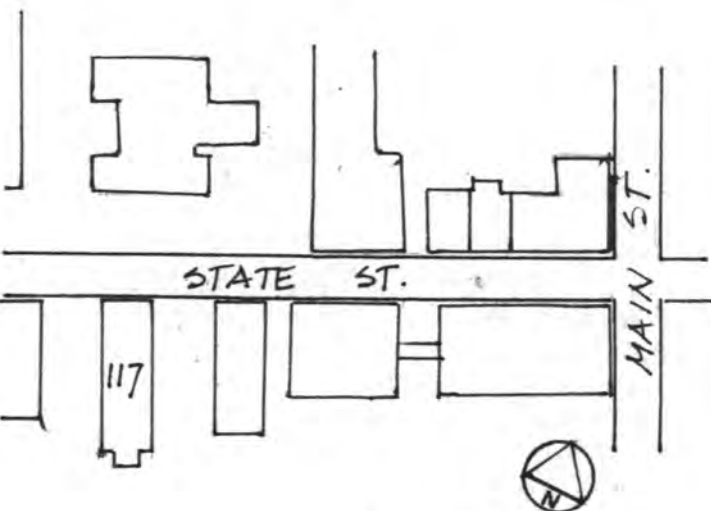
FORM B - BUILDING

Area
3000Form no.
117MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108PHOTO (3x3" or 3x5", black & white)
Staple to left side of form
Photo number _____✓ Town Springfield✓ Address 73 State Street✓ Historic Name United Electric Co. Building
(DSMRA)Use: Original officesPresent officesOwnership: ☒ Private individual
Private organization _____

Public _____

Original owner United Electric Co.

SKETCH MAP

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

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1910Source Building PermitStyle Beaux Arts ClassicismArchitect Thomas M. JamesExterior wall fabric LimestoneOutbuildings none

Major alterations (with dates) _____

1927 - Compatible 3-story addition at rear
designed by Kirkham & Parlett

Moved _____ No _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage Less than 1 acreSetting Urban context; State Street main-
tains its feeling of an urban area, despite
several open lots and new buildings to the
west.Recorded by Margo WebberOrganization Anderson Notter Finegold Inc.Date June, 1981

Assessor's Map #307

UTM Ref: 18/699430/4663480

Springfield South Quadrangle

(Staple additional sheets here)

Criteria Statement

✓ The United Electric Company Building possesses integrity of location, design setting, materials and workmanship. Built to house the offices of a major utility company, it represents the growth and prosperity of the city in the early twentieth century. Additionally, it is a major local example of the Beaux-Arts style. 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 fine example of the Beaux Arts style, and one of only a few examples which exist in downtown Springfield. The exterior has not been altered and retains its original integrity. The bold design of the facade is three bays wide with two-story Ionic pilasters set between the slightly recessed bays. The two upper floor windows are grouped as round-headed openings with ornate spandrel panels between stories. The center entrance has a projecting iron canopy with nice detail. The building has a prominent frieze and modillioned cornice, above which is a clockface set in Classical framing.

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

This building was constructed to house the offices of the United Electric Company, which played a major role in providing electricity to the city from the 1880's onward. In 1881, the first electricity in Springfield was provided by Henry Fisk of Blair and Fisk, lawnmower manufacturers. In 1882, the Springfield Electric Light Company was organized but soon failed. It was re-organized and was able to provide electric lighting for the Boston and Albany depot and for Main Street. In 1887, the United Electric Company was chartered as successor to the earlier company, with capital stock valued at \$110,000. Gideon Wells served as its first president and H.S. Hyde as the first treasurer. Here for the first time, was an organization ready to fully address the city's demand for electric power.

United Electric in 1887 adopted the Westinghouse system of incandescent lighting. Within the next year, they built their first power plant at the foot of State Street. It later became the No. 1 Station of the Western Massachusetts Electric Company. Electricity was used to promote and develop the downtown's commercial trade. Forbes & Wallace was among the first company to install street lamps to attract attention to their store. In 1890, the first electric trolleys were providing service on Main Street. In 1904, United Electric installed a 1000-kilowatt Westinghouse steam turbine which greatly increased production capacity. Longmeadow service was initiated in 1912, West Springfield in 1914. The company continued to expand its service and capacity, except for when it was put out during the 1936 flood. In 1942, United Electric Company was consolidated with the Western Massachusetts Electric Company, the largest supplier of electricity in the western half of the state.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Building Permits

The Graphic, June 21, 1894.

Springfield Scrapbook, Volume 28, p. 64.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:	Form No:
Springfield	117
Property Name: United Electric Co.	

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

It is an outstanding local example of early twentieth century classical revivalism; other related examples include several banking and insurance offices as well as municipal buildings. Its architect, Thomas M. James, was a Boston architect noted for his many bank designs.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

United Electric Co. Building (Downtown Springfield
MRA)
Hampden County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 11/10/82-3025

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
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	☐ date _____

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

X 10. Geographical Data

Address of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

USMT References _____

X 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 *L. 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

United Electric Co. Building (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	☐ unaltered	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ altered	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ unexposed		

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 Reference _____

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



Downtown Springfield MA, Ma

United Electric Co. Building

73 State St.

STREET

811

Noted elegantly
14893
B-10931 Overia

United Electric Company
73 State St. #117
1"=50' Springfield MA

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