

FORM B - BUILDING

Area

Form no.

3000

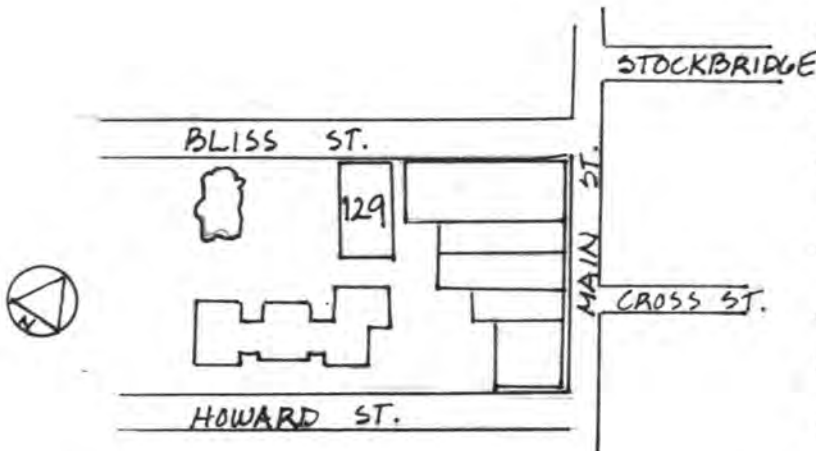
129

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.



Town Springfield

Address 19 Bliss Street

Historic Name WCA Boarding House (DSMRA)

Use: Original Boarding house

Present Boarding house

Ownership: ☐ Private individual
Private organization _____
Springfield Rescue Mission
Public _____

Original owner Women's Christian Association

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1884

Source Springfield Daily Republican

Style Eastlake/Queen Anne

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric Brick

Outbuildings none

Major alterations (with dates) _____

Upper stories of wooden porch removed

in 1950's

Moved _____ No _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage Less than 1 acre

Setting Mixed use area; commercial

buildings to the east, garage across the

street, open lots and small church to west.

Determined eligible by the Secretary of
Interior

Recorded by Margo Webber

Organization Anderson Notter Finegold Inc.

Date June, 1981

Assessor's Map #308

UTM Ref: 18/699520/4663460

Springfield South Quadrangle (Staple additional sheets here)

CRITERIA STATEMENT

The WCA Boarding House possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship. It is significant for its strong associations with social/humanitarian groups in the city - first the Women's Christian Association for which it was built, and since 1962, the Springfield Rescue Mission. Additionally, it is a fine local example of the Queen Anne style. It 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 is a good example, and one of the very few remaining examples, of late 19th century residential boarding houses in the downtown. The brick building is characteristic of the period. Three stories in height, the design includes corbelled brick piers and a patterned brick cornice on the facade. The most interesting feature is the wooden one-story porch, which is of Eastlake-type turned wood supports and bracing. There were two additional levels to the porch which were removed in the 1950's. The overall simplicity of massing and materials reflects the more restrained design of residential/social institutions, when compared to period commercial and industrial structures.

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

This three-story brick boarding house was built by the Women's Christian Association, predecessor organization to the Y.W.C.A. The building was constructed in 1884 to house 35 boarders as part of the WCA's program to provide a Christian environment for young women. This need corresponded directly to the city's growing demand for a work force to service customers, etc. in the expanding commercial climate of the downtown. Young women came to the city from surrounding communities and created a great need for good housing and social environments.

The WCA's history dates back to its founding in 1875, but it became active in 1878. Its objective was to provide room and board at reasonable rates for respectable working girls. It strove to provide the comforts of a refined home and Christian influence. The WCA began with a boarding house in the Shaw Block on Vernon Street, then moved to a larger Vernon Street block, built by D.L. Swan. The Bliss Street building of 1884 supplemented the earlier blocks and was run by Miss A.L. Barnes as superintendent. The WCA in the 1890's purchased the Sanderson House on Court Street as a household exchange and "noon rest" place for working girls, and later diversified into other humanitarian work, such as day nursery, lectures and classes for women.

When the new Howard Street building was completed in 1910, (#131) the Bliss Street boarding house was sold for use as a private boarding house. In 1962, it was acquired by the Springfield Rescue Mission, another charitable social organization, and is now the sole remaining property associated with this group.

The Springfield Rescue Mission was founded in 1892 by Julius L. Cummings, a Salvation Army Captain, who had been urged by local businessmen to set up a private mission in the city. The Mission's purpose was to give "shelter,

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Building Permits

Springfield Daily News, Supplement, June 26, 1901

Springfield 1880-1901, p. 74

Historical Sketches of Clubs and Charitable Organizations, 1911, p. 533

Springfield Daily Republican, January 5, 1885, p. 5

Springfield Scrapbook, Vol. 7, pp. 109-111

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Springfield	Form No: 129
Property Name: WCA Boarding House	

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

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

home, friends, bread and work" to local men. At first, quarters were rented in a building on Sanford Street. A new Mission was built on Court Street several years later, only to be acquired by the City for Court Square Extension. The structure at 68 Court Street was built for the Mission, but the public complained that this was not an appropriate use for such a prominent Court Square location. The Mission moved in 1910 to its own building on Willow Street at Cross Street (demolished, 1981), which was regarded as "one of the finest missions devoted to such work in the country".

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

WCA Boarding House (Downtown Springfield MRA)
Hampden County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. W/1982-3025

Fed. Reg. Date:

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

Action: ☐ ACCEPT
☒ RETURN 12/23/82
☐ 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

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle 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 D. Byers Date 12/20/82 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 524.5

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Downtown Springfield Multiple Resource Area
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

41. Colonial Block

Entered in the
National Register *for* Keeper

Melvin Byers 2/24/83

Attest

42. McKinney Building

Entered in the
National Register *for* Keeper

Melvin Byers 2/24/83

Attest

43. Bangs Block

Entered in the
National Register *for* Keeper

Melvin Byers 2/24/83

Attest

44. Burbach Block

Entered in the
National Register *for* Keeper

Melvin Byers 2/24/83

Attest

45. Apremont Triangle Historic
District

Substantive Review

Keeper

Kevin Ben Dwyer 5/27/83

Attest

46. WCA Boarding House

Entered in the
National Register *for* Keeper

Melvin Byers 2/24/83

Attest

47. French Congregational
Church

Entered in the
National Register *for* Keeper

Melvin Byers 2/24/83

Attest

48. St. Joseph's Church

Entered in the
National Register *for* Keeper

Melvin Byers 2/24/83

Attest

49. Milton-Bradley Company

Entered in the
National Register *for* Keeper

Melvin Byers 2/24/83

Attest

50.

Keeper

Attest

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

WCA Boarding House (Downtown Springfield MRA)

Hampden County

MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 11/10/82 - 3025

Fed. Reg. Date: 2.7.84

Date Due: 4/1/87

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

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- _____ 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 _____

Site _____ date _____

13. Other

- _____ Maps
- _____ Photographs
- _____ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272-3500



Downtown Springfield MRA, Ma

WCA Boarding House

19 Bliss St.

307

STREET

RD

STREET

WCA Boarding House #129
19 Bliss St.
1"=50' Springfield MRA

