

# 2014 MOST ENDANGERED

## UNION HOUSE



Built in 1846, Union House at **1132-1142 Main Street** was designed by Henry Sykes, architect of the Mills-Stebbins Villa on Crescent Hill. It is the third oldest commercial building in Downtown. In 1847, President James Polk stayed here while on a trip from New York to Boston. With him was Secretary of State James Buchanan. MGM plans to demolish the structure for a new four-story building. The Springfield Historical Commission has asked that the four-story Union House instead be adaptively re-used.

## OLD YWCA



Built in 1907, the YWCA at **22-30 Howard Street** was modeled after the 17th century Ham House in England and designed by Eugene Gardner, one of the region's most important architects. The building has been formally found eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places not only for its architecture but also for its importance to early social service history in Springfield. Its façade sits where an exterior wall of the proposed casino will go. The Springfield Historical Commission has asked that the façade be incorporated into the casino.

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### 174 & 176 MAPLE STREET



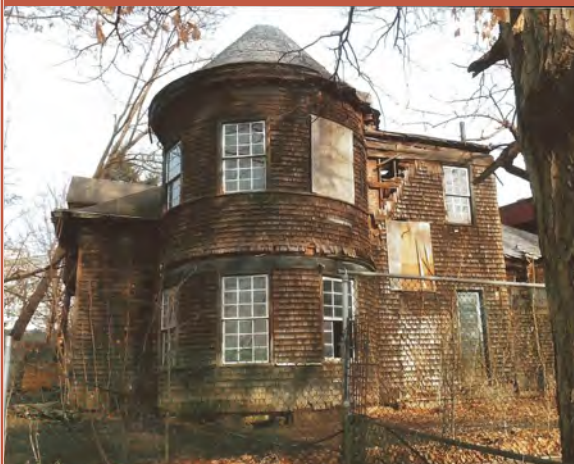
In 1873, local architect George Potter designed a row of six High Victorian Gothic style brick row houses at the corner of Maple and Central Streets. The houses have been in multiple ownership and have been neglected. **174 and 176 Maple Street** have been tax-foreclosed by the City of Springfield and have been offered for sale with Community Development Block Grant assistance to help in exterior renovation.

### JUNIOR OFFICERS QUARTERS



The Junior Officers Quarters is a double second French Empire style house. It was built in 1870 at the **Springfield Armory**. When the federal facility closed, this property as well as most of the complex was transferred to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. It is vacant and deteriorated.

### CARRIAGE HOUSE AT 63 MULBERRY STREET



In 1895, local architect Guy Kirkham designed a large shingle style carriage house for Chester Bliss behind his home at **63 Mulberry Street**. The building is now in serious disrepair and is a very good example of demolition by neglect.

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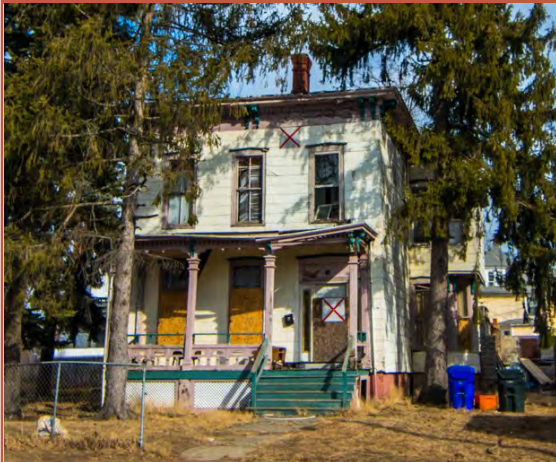
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## 25-27 ELLIOT STREET



**25-27 Elliot Street** is a double house constructed in 1872 by local mason and builder Benjamin Farrar. In 2008 a fire destroyed much of the interior and the third floor mansard roof. The house remained open to the elements, causing additional damage. The owner at the time received more than \$700,000 from insurance and instead of using it to restore the building, kept the funds and sold the property to an individual who has not restored the property. The property was put into receivership. Rehab costs are said to greatly exceed fair market value.

## 71 THOMPSON STREET



This flat roof Italianate style house at **71 Thompson Street** was built around 1874 in the growing McKnight neighborhood. Its first owner was Charles Maxfield. Situated at the corner of two busy streets, this building is a very visible sign of decay.

## HALE SMITH HOUSE



In 1883, factory owner Hale Smith had constructed an elaborate Queen Anne Style home at **2335 Main Street**. The house is now part of the Memorial Square District, listed on the National Register. This prominent and very visible building is boarded and showing signs of disrepair.

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### KNOX AUTOMOBILE COMPANY



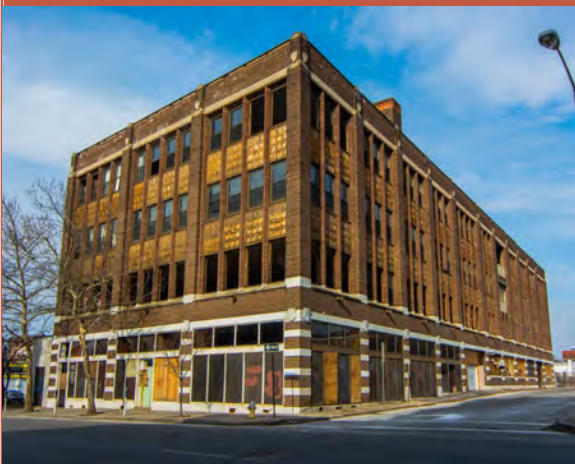
The Knox Automobile Company at **53 Wilbraham Road** was a leading manufacturer of gasoline engine vehicles during the first two decades of the 20th century. The building was constructed in three stages between 1891 and 1910. The company built touring cars, delivery vehicles, and fire trucks. The Springfield Fire Department, in fact, was the first in the nation to become fully motorized. Neglected for decades, it is now tax-foreclosed by the city.

### SMITH CARRIAGE COMPANY



**14-38 Park Street** was built in 1924 as part of the Smith Carriage Company complex, a district on the National Register of Historic Places. The company made the switch from horse drawn carriages to automobile carriages and erected this four-story building as well as a twin building across the street which was renovated in the 1980s as Park Street Lofts. The building was been vacant and neglected and slightly damaged by the 2011 tornado. Its owner has shown no interest in renovating it.

### WILLYS-OVERLAND BUILDING



The four-story Willys-Overland Building at **151-157 Chestnut Street** was constructed in 1916 as salesroom, service station, and garage for the Ohio-based company, which at the time was the second largest maker of motor vehicles in the world. The building was marginally used in recent years and was damaged in the 2011 gas explosion. Its owner is not interested in repairing or renovating this National Register property. A twin building in Detroit, however, has recently been renovated for loft housing.

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