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SPT believes historic preservation is an important part of making Springfield a great place to live, work, and visit. Historic Preservation is crucial to tourism and economic development and creating a unique sense of place. It's a means of creating jobs, attracting investment, generating tax revenue, and supporting small business.

For more than 45 years, SPT has been an independent voice supporting historic preservation. We have held countless events to showcase how our old buildings can be part of our modern lives and show off the historic places that make Springfield unique. We've helped pass legislation on the state and local levels that averts the needless loss of historic places. Our online resources help homeowners with restoration and educate the public on the beauty, quality and value of older homes. These activities have helped save and restore Springfield’s threatened historic treasures so that they are here for future generations to enjoy.

For information on events and membership, call 747-0656 or go to springfieldpreservation.org.

Springfield was founded in 1636 by English Puritans from eastern Massachusetts. It remained a small community until the establishment of the Springfield Armory in 1794. Significant growth occurred between the Civil War and World War I. This walking tour brochure will give you a sense of our history and heritage.

Brochure designed by:
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Downtown Springfield

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Springfield was founded in 1636 by English Puritans from eastern Massachusetts. It remained a small community until the establishment of the Springfield Armory in 1794. Significant growth occurred between the Civil War and World War I. Springfield is a cultural and educational center in the state of Massachusetts. It is renowned for its beautiful architecture and historic landmarks.

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**Downtown Springfield Heritage TOUR**

1. **Smith Carriage Company District** (c.1890, 1916, 1922)
   - 12 & 11-31 Park Street
   - Park Street was constructed to accommodate the expanding carriage business of David Smith. It was a refurbished Smith Carriage Company factory that served as a repair shop for the carriage maker's business needs. Smith Carriage successfully transitioned to making automobile bodies and built two large industrial structures.

2. **Milton Bradley Factory** (1867-1912)
   - 45 Willow Street
   - For more than 80 years, this large brick complex housed the manufacturing facilities of the Milton Bradley Company, game and puzzle maker. Mr. Bradley formed his company in 1860 and had his first big success producing “The Checkered Game of Life.” The factory has been converted to apartments.

3. **State Armory** (1895)
   - 29 Howard Street
   - Designed by Robert W. and Amos Cutten, this castle-like structure was built as the State Armory. The northeast tower features the Massachusetts coat of arms. The façade has been incorporated into new construction.

4. **French Congregational Church** (1887)
   - 94 Union Street
   - This Victorian Gothic style church was built to serve the small but significant number of French Protestants. It was moved to this location from Bliss Street, two blocks away.

5. **Union House** (1846)
   - 113-1142 Main Street
   - Regional architect E. Holmes French designed this hotel in the Italianate style. It was such a post-establishment that President James P. Field stayed here in 1846 with an entourage that included Secretary of State and future President James Buchanan. The façade has been incorporated into new construction.

6. **McKinney, Bangs, and Burbach Block** (1870-1900s)
   - 1113-1127 Main Street
   - These three blocks illustrate changing trends in architectural styles of commercial structures during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The first structure, built in the early 1890s, is five stories high and faced with yellow brick. The second building is from 1890 and is brick, featuring arched lintels with keystones over the windows. The third building dates to 1893, is three stories high, and features black brick banding.

7. **Stockbridge Block** (1845)
   - 7 Stockbridge Street
   - This small building is the remaining section of a much longer original building and is one of the oldest commercial buildings in Springfield.

8. **Springfield Safety Deposit and Trust Company** (1932)
   - 127 State Street
   - The Thomas James Company designed this Art Deco building, which now houses the Community Music School. The façade is of Respond to the architectural styles of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It is composed of City Hall building's tower is modeled on the Palazzo Vecchio of Florence.

9. **Old First Church** (1819)
   - Court Street
   - The fourth meetinghouse of a church that dated from 1637, this church was designed and constructed by master builder Isaac Damon of Northampton in the sophisticated Federal style. The church hosted notable guests including Daniel Webster, abolitionist John Brown, singer Jenny Lind, and evangelist Dwight Moody. In 1868, the body of former president John Quincy Adams lay in state as he was being returned from Washington to Quincy. The tower's height of 125 feet was used to set the limit for business structures in the city in the early 20th century. The third parish hall was designed by the local firm of Perkins & Gardner and was substantially remodeled in the 1960s. The congregation disbanded in 2007.

10. **Municipal Group** (1913)
    - Court Street
    - The Municipal Group is the most imposing monument of the early 20th century. The complex includes the Municipal Building, City Hall (bell tower), and Symphony Hall. The old city hall burned in 1905. A national competition was held, and a design by Peabody & Stearns of New York was selected. President Taft gave the address at the dedication ceremony. The two buildings are Neo-Classical while the bell tower is modeled after St Mark's in Venice. The buildings are of steel and reinforced concrete, faced with Indiana limestone. The interior has handsome woods and are ornamented with varieties of marble. The doors in City Hall, Symphony Hall, and the Campanile all feature bronze casings of Springfield history. Be sure to visit City Hall's marble lobby and ornate second floor meeting rooms.

11. **Union Trust Company** (1907)
    - 1351 Main Street
    - The Boston architectural firm of Peabody & Stearns designed this Beaux Arts style building. One of Main Street's architectural gems, its interior facade features an imposing and elaborately decorated three-story arch, which is enriched by ornate decorations above the main entrance.

12. **Republican Building** (1858)
    - 1365 Main Street
    - One of the few remaining downtown buildings to predate the Civil War. It is served until 1867 as the home of the Springfield Republican, the local newspaper run by Samuel Bowles, a founder of the Republican Party.

13. **Haynes Building** (1864)
    - 1386-1402 Main Street
    - This Italianate style building once housed a hotel erected by Henry H. Haynes. It was the largest building in the city at the time, with hotel rooms above ground floor commercial space. Note the decorative heads above the windows.

14. **Fuller Building** (1889)
    - 1531-1545 Main Street
    - At the time of its completion, this was the most modern business block in the city and was the first to have marble wainscoting, a marble staircase, and a central lecture choral. Designed by Frederick Newnam, it was capped by two large onion domes, which were removed during the 1940s reaction against extravagant Victorian architecture.

15. **Worthy Hotel** (1904)
    - 1571 Main Street
    - A turn-of-the-century landmark, this building was the first in Springfield with steel framing. Designed by Gardner, Pyne and Gardner, the building’s exterior style is the Adams Revival style, the eves rich with terra cotta ornamentation.

16. **Massasoit Building** (1857, 1892, 1926)
    - 1708 Main Street
    - The Massasoit House Hotel served generations of travelers. An 1875 section exists behind a 1912 Classical Revival façade. The Paramount Theatre was added behind the building in 1926. The theater hosted major motion pictures, vaudeville shows, big band concerts, and talents such as Jack Benny and Ethel Barrow.

17. **Railroad Arch** (1889)
    - Main Street
    - The railroad reached Springfield in 1839, and the tracks crossed Main Street at grade level. When it was decided to raise the tracks, the famed American architect H.L. Richardson received the commission but died soon afterwards. His successor firm of Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge completed the granite arch.

18. **Workington & Wilkinson-Wright Buildings** (1873)
    - 1585-1685 Main Street
    - Emerson Wright, a four-term mayor of Springfield and president of the Morgan Envelope Company, owned the Workington Building, whose classical façade was added in 1914. W.H. Wilkinson manufactured harnesses and saddles at the building on the corner of Taylor Street.

19. **Fall Building** (1893)
    - 41-42 Taylor Street
    - J. Frank and Charles E. Duryea, brothers who designed and built America's first gas powered automobile, worked out of a non-demolished building next door (now Duryea Way). On September 22, 1893, they took the first automobile trip in the U.S. on the streets of Springfield. In 1895, a Duryea-built car won the Times-Herald race, which was the first automobile race in America. That car was built in the Stacy Building.

20. **Old Post Office & Federal Building** (1932)
    - 436 Dwight Street
    - This limestone building features a restrained Art Modernist style that is enriched by colorful Spanishes between upper floor windows. Constructed during the Depression, its lobby features a 1937 Social Realist WPA mural by Umberto Ramonetti entitled “Centuries of New England History.”

21. **Union Station** (1926)
    - 55 Frank B. Murray Street
    - This is Springfield's first steel framed rail station. It was renovated in 2017 after being closed for more than 60 years and now provides both train and bus service.

22. **Bicycle Block** (1891)
    - 266-270 Worthington Street
    - The Springfield Bicycle Club was founded in 1881 and mounted numerous bicycle races over the years. Local rider George Hendee won fame racing high-wheel bicycles and went on to invent the Indian Motorcycle.

23. **Stearns Square** (1881)
    - Worthington Street & Bridge Street
    - In 1887, the site was selected for a memorial to Deacon Samuel Chapin, a founder of Springfield. Famous sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens, is located behind Old First Church. Memorial, sculpted by Philip Martiny, a student of Augustus Saint-Gaudens, is located behind Old First Church.

24. **Stearns Building** (1913)
    - 289-390 Bridge Street
    - This six-story structure was designed by the Samuel Green Company and features Gothic revival details. For many years, the company had its offices on the top floor.

25. **Trinity Block** (1922)
    - 286-286 Bridge Street
    - The colorful terra cotta facade the facade makes this building one of the most fascinating in downtown. It was designed by the Samuel Green Company on the site of Trinity Methodist Church.
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