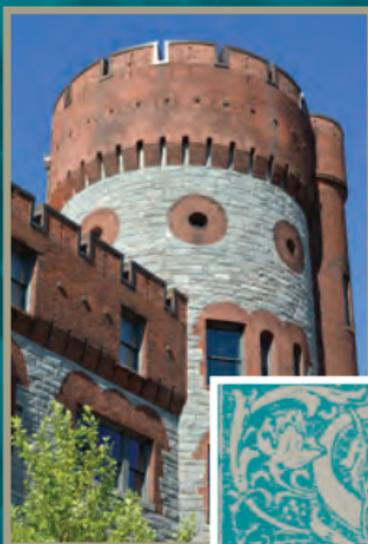


# Downtown Springfield

## *Heritage* TOUR



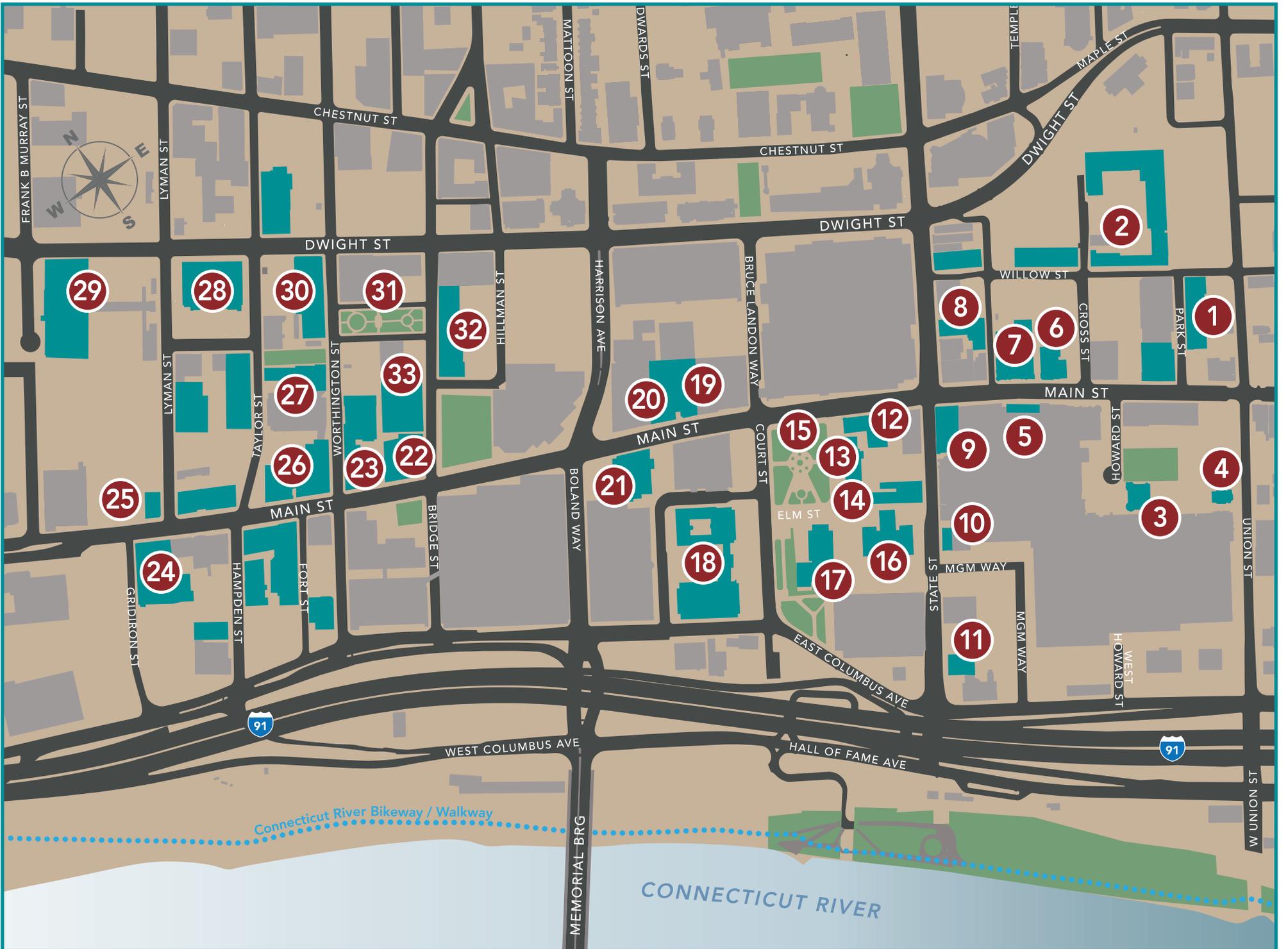
SPRINGFIELD, MA

# Downtown Springfield

## *Heritage* TOUR

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.





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- 1 Smith Carriage Company District** (c1890, 1916, 1923)  
12 & 11-31 Park Street  
12 Park Street was constructed to accommodate the expanding carriage business of David Smith. It was a refurbished Smith Carriage that the Duryea brothers used for their first automobile body. 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 Wait and Amos Cutting, this castle-like structure was built as the State Armory. The northeast tower features the Massachusetts coat of arms. The drill shed was destroyed by the 2011 tornado.
- 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)  
1132-1142 Main Street  
Regional architect Henry Sykes designed this hotel in the Italianate style. It was such a posh establishment that President James Polk stayed here in 1847 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 1900s, is five stories high and faced with yellow brick. The second building is from 1870 and is brick, featuring arched lintels with keystones over the windows. The third building dates to 1882, 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 facade is of buff and gray Indiana limestone, while the interior is ornamented with yellow Numidian marble. The banking hall features a large mural by Carroll Bill entitled *The Modern Impulse Made Possible by Modern Banking*.
- 9 Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Office Building** (1908)  
1200 Main Street  
MassMutual was founded in 1851 and has become a Fortune 500 company. This Classical Revival style building served as its headquarters from 1908 to 1927 and was the tallest commercial building in the city at the time.
- 10 United Electric Company** (1911)  
73 State Street  
This building was designed by Boston architect Thomas James in the Beaux-Arts style popular in the early 20th century. Only its façade remains.
- 11 Springfield Gas Light Company** (1910)  
39 State Street  
This building was designed by Winslow, Bigelow & Wadsworth of Boston in the French Renaissance style. The building has an abundance of white stone trim, including balustrade with festooned urns.
- 12 Chicopee National Bank** (1889)  
1250 Main Street  
Designed by Frederick Newman, this building was built for the Chicopee National Bank. A three-story oriel window, capped by a turret and finial, add visual interest to the Main and Elm Street corner.
- 13 Byers Block** (1835)  
3-7 Elm Street  
The Byers Block is one of Springfield's oldest commercial buildings and has served as the offices for many notable people: George Ashmun, three-term Congressman and president of the 1860 Republican Convention which nominated Abraham Lincoln; George Bancroft, Secretary of the Navy when the Naval Academy was founded and minister to Prussia and Great Britain; Massachusetts Supreme Court Justice Reuben Chapman; as well as seven of Springfield's mayors.
- 14 Court Square Building** (1892)  
13-31 Elm Street  
The Court Square Building has played an important role in Springfield's business life. Designed by local architect Frederick Newman, it originally consisted of a five-story office block facing Elm Street with the Court Square Theater in the rear. In 1900, a sixth floor was added to the office block and the six-story Court Square Hotel was built towards State Street.
- 15 Court Square**  
Main Street & Court Street  
Long the religious and governmental center of Springfield, Court Square was created in 1812 by citizens hoping to attract the newly formed Hampden County government. The President McKinley Memorial, sculpted by Philip Martiny, a student of Augustus Saint-Gaudens, is located behind Old First Church.
- 16 Hampden County Courthouse** (1874)  
Elm Street  
This granite building is one of two surviving Springfield buildings designed by the great American architect Henry Hobson Richardson. Capturing both Italian and Romanesque forms, the building's tower is modeled on the Palazzo Vecchio of Florence.
- 17 Old First Church** (1819)  
Court Square  
The fourth meetinghouse of a congregation 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 1848, 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 1873 parish hall was designed by the local firm of Perkins & Gardner and was substantially remodeled in the 1920s. The congregation disbanded in 2007.
- 18 Municipal Group** (1913)  
Court Street  
The Municipal Group is the most imposing monument of the early 20th century in Springfield. It is composed of City Hall, Campanile (bell tower), and Symphony Hall. The old city hall burned in 1905. A national competition was held, and a design by Pell & Corbett 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 interiors have decorative woods and are ornamented with 27 varieties of marble. The doors to City Hall, Symphony Hall, and the Campanile all feature bronze-cast bas-reliefs of Springfield history. Be sure to visit City Hall's marble lobby and ornate second floor meeting rooms.
- 19 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 limestone facade features an imposing and elaborately decorated three-story arch, which is enriched by ornate decorations above the main entrance.
- 20 Republican Block** (1858)  
1365 Main Street  
One of the few remaining downtown buildings to predate the Civil War, it served until 1867 as the home of the *Springfield Republican*, the local newspaper run by Samuel Bowles, a founder of the Republican Party.
- 21 Haynes Building** (1864)  
1386-1402 Main Street  
This Italianate style building once housed a hotel erected by entrepreneur Tilly 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.
- 22 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 letter chute. Designed by Frederick Newman, it was capped by two large onion domes, which were removed during the 1920s reaction against extravagant Victorian architecture.
- 23 Worthy Hotel** (1894)  
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 in the Renaissance Revival style, the elevations are rich with terra cotta ornamentation.
- 24 Massasoit Building** (1857, 1912, 1926)  
1708 Main Street  
The Massasoit House Hotel served generations of travelers. An 1857 section exists behind a 1912 Classical Revival facade. The Paramount Theatre was added behind the building in 1926. The theatre hosted major motion pictures, vaudeville shows, big band concerts, and talents such as Jack Benny and Ethel Barrymore.
- 25 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.H. Richardson received the commission but died soon afterwards. His successor firm of Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge completed the granite arch.
- 26 Worthington & Wilkinson-Wight Buildings** (1873)  
1585-1685 Main Street  
Emerson Wight, a four-term mayor of Springfield and president of the Morgan Envelope Company, owned the Worthington Building, whose classical façade was added in 1914. W.H. Wilkinson manufactured harnesses and saddles at the building on the corner of Taylor Street.
- 27 Stacy Building** (1893)  
41-43 Taylor Street  
J. Frank and Charles E. Duryea, brothers who designed and built America's first gas powered automobile, worked out of a now-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.
- 28 Old Post Office & Federal Building** (1932)  
436 Dwight Street  
This limestone building features a restrained Art Moderne style that is enlivened by colorful spandrels between upper floor windows. Constructed during the Depression, its lobby features a 1937 Social Realist WPA murals by Umberto Romano entitled *Three Centuries of New England History*.
- 29 Union Station** (1926)  
55 Frank B Murray Street  
This is Springfield's fourth station. It was renovated in 2017 after being closed for more than 40 years and now provides both train and bus service.
- 30 Bicycle Block** (1891)  
266-270 Worthington Street  
The Springfield Bicycle Club was founded in 1881 and mounted numerous races over the years. Local rider George Hendee won fame racing high-wheel bicycles and went on to invent the Indian Motorcycle.
- 31 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 and nationally prominent architect Stanford White were commissioned to redesign the park, which now features a fountain and granite bench. The memorial to Deacon Chapin, called the Puritan, was moved to Merrick Park on State Street in 1899.
- 32 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.
- 33 Trinity Block** (1922)  
266-286 Bridge Street  
The colorful terra cotta tile facade makes this building one of the most fanciful in downtown. It was designed by the Samuel Green Company on the site of Trinity Methodist Church.

Founded in 1972, the Springfield Preservation Trust is a volunteer, private nonprofit organization working to preserve Springfield's built environment. Its mission is to preserve and protect properties which have architectural, historic, educational, or cultural significance.

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](http://springfieldpreservation.org)**.



**SPRINGFIELD  
PRESERVATION  
TRUST**  
incorporated 1972

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