

# **Springfield Central Cultural District Walking Tour Map Points of Interest**

## **1- 73 State Street (1911)**

The former headquarters for the United Electric Company, this building was designed by the Boston architect Thomas M. James in the Beaux-Arts Classic style popular in the early 20th century and features a lovely stained glass dome in the lobby.

## **2- Courthouse (1874)**

Elm Street

The former Hampden County Courthouse is one of two surviving Springfield buildings designed by the great American architect Henry Hobson Richardson. Capturing Italian and Romanesque forms, the building's central tower is modeled on Palazzo Vecchio of Florence. Housing and Juvenile Courts now occupy the building.

## **3- Court Square Building (1892)**

Elm Street

Long playing an important role in the city's business life, this building was designed by local architect F.S. 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.

## **4- Byers Block (1892)**

3-7 Elm Street

The Byers Block is one of Springfield's oldest remaining 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.

## **5- 1250 Main Street (1889)**

Designed by F.S. Newman, this building is noted for its finely detailed brownstone panels between the first and second floors of both facades. A three story oriel window capped by a turret adds visual interest to the Main and Elm Street corner.

## **6- Community Music School ( 1932)**

127 State Street

The Thomas James Company designed this Art Moderne building for the Springfield Safety Deposit and Trust Company. Now home to the Community Music School, its vault holds an impressive music library. The lobby area features a large mural by Carroll Bill entitled, The Modern Impulse Made Possible by Modern Banking.

## **7- MassMutual Center (1972)**

Main and Court Streets

This multipurpose venue and convention center includes exhibit space, a ballroom, meeting rooms, and a large performance, sport and event arena.

#### 8- Court Square

Main and Court Streets

Long the religious and governmental center of Springfield, Court Square is a recently refurbished city park. In 1812, citizens acquired the land in an effort to attract the newly formed Hampden County government. Be sure to visit the President McKinley Memorial. It was sculpted by Philip Martiny, a student of August Saint-Gaudens, and is located behind Old First Church.

#### 9- Old First Church (1819)

Court Square

The fourth meetinghouse of a congregation that dates back to 1637, this church was designed and constructed by master builder Isaac Damon of Northampton. It is sophisticated early Greek revival style. The copper rooster weathervane was built in 1750 in London and was presented as a gift to Massachusetts.

#### 10- 1350 Main Gallery and Studio 9

The artwork of John Simpson and UMass honors students is displayed on the first and ninth floors of this downtown building.

#### - Springfield Symphony Orchestra Box Office

The SSO is the largest Massachusetts symphony outside of Boston. It consists of over 80 musicians from the NE region of the United States and Canada, and holds many performances at Symphony Hall each season.

#### 11- City Hall and Symphony Hall (1913)

Court Street

After the old city hall burned down in 1905, the city conducted a national competition and selected a design by Pell and Corbett of New York. President Taft gave the address at the dedication ceremony. The two municipal group buildings are a blend of Greek and Roman styles. Be sure to visit City Hall's marble lobby and ornate second floor meeting rooms. Symphony Hall is home to the Springfield Symphony Orchestra, the Springfield Public Forum, and a schedule of Broadway musicals and concerts.

#### 12- Northwestern Mutual Life Building (1907)

1351 Main Street

The Boston architectural firm of Peabody and Stearns designed this Beaux Arts style building for the Union Trust Company. 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.

#### 13- Republican Block (1858)

1365 Main Street

One of few remaining 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 Republican Party founder

#### 14- Haynes Building (1864)

1386-1402 Main Street

This Italianate-style building once housed the Haynes Hotel. Erected by entrepreneur Tilly Haynes, it was the largest building in the city at the time, with rooms above ground floor commercial space. Note the decorative heads above the windows.

15- Tower Square  
1500 Main Street

Pan African Historical Museum USA  
PAHMUSA displays art, artifacts, photographs and documents that show the struggles and success of African Americans over time.

Artist Square Group Gallery  
This community gallery displays and sells work created by twenty local artists, featuring artwork in a variety of media.

Avis Neigher Art Gallery  
This gallery is comprised of original pieces of art on canvas created by artists from across the Pioneer Valley.

Valley Photographic Center  
Dedicated to promoting local photography, this center exhibits professional and skilled amateur work.

DREAM Studios Inc  
DREAM Studios Inc. is a youth performing art school offering acting, voice and dance classes in an after school setting or in conservatory arts environment.

16- Fuller Building (1889)  
1531-1545 Main Street

Once the most modern business block in the city, it was the first to have marble wainscoting, a marble staircase, and a central letter chute. Designed by F.S. Newman, the building was originally capped by two large domes, but they were removed during the 1920s reaction against extravagant Victorian architecture.

17- Worthy Hotel (1894)  
1571 Main Street

A turn of the century landmark, this building was the city's first to have a steel skeleton, which was covered in tile for fireproofing. Designed by Gardner, Pyne and Gardner in the Renaissance Revival style, the elevators are rich with terra cotta ornamentation.

18- CityStage  
150 Bridge Street

This performance venue for live professional theater presents a schedule of Off Broadway musicals and comedies.

19- WGBY  
44 Hampden Street

WGBY is a community-supported public broadcasting organization.

20- Paramount Theater (1912, 1929)  
1708 Main Street

The Massasoit House Hotel served generations of travelers. An 1870-era section still exists behind a 1912 classical facade. The Paramount Theater was added behind the building in 1929.

In its heyday, the Paramount hosted major motion Pictures, vaudeville shows, big band concerts, and talents such as Jack Benny.

#### 21- Railroad Arch (1889)

Main Street

When the railroad reached Springfield in 1839 the tracks crossed Main Street at ground level. With the growth of the city however, it was decided in the 1870s to raise the tracks. Famed American architect H.R. Richardson originally received the commission for the project, but died soon thereafter. His successor firm, Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge, completed this granite arch.

#### 22- Morgan Square

These late-19th century brick buildings were built for commercial purposes. Emerson Wight, four-term city mayor and president of the Morgan Envelope Company, owned the Worthington Building at 1597 Main St. Its classical facade was added in 1914. For a time, 39-43 Lyman Street was home to the Springfield Daily Union. W.G. Wilkinson manufactured harnesses and saddles at 1611-23 Main St, and 26-52 Taylor St housed the Wason Manufacturing Company, producers of world-renowned railroad cars.

#### 23- State Office Building (1932)

436 Dwight Street

Built as the Post Office and Federal Building, its restrained Art Moderne styling is enlivened by colorful spandrels between upper floor windows. Constructed during the Depression, its lobby features a 1937 Social realist-style WPA mural by Umberto Romano entitled Three Centuries of New England History.

#### 24- Duryea Way

This walkway is named after J. Frank and Charles E. Duryea, two brothers who designed and build America's first gas powered automobile in a since-demolished building on Taylor Street. On the night of September 22, 1893, they took the first automobile trip in the US 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 on Taylor Street. Note the copy of the Duryea car by Richard Stevens.

#### 25- Stearns Square (1881)

Worthington and Bridge Streets

Charles Stearns, a mason and real-estate developer, deeded this land to the city. In 1887 the park was selected as the site for a memorial to Deacon Samuel Chapin, one of the founders of Springfield. Famous sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens and the nationally prominent architect Stanford White were commissioned to redesign the park around the statue. Known as The Puritan, the statue is regarded as one of Saint-Gaudens' finest works. In 1899 the statue and its pedestal were moved to Merrick Park.

#### 26- Apremont Triangle Area

Pearl and Chestnut Streets

This park is dedicated to the 104th Regiment that distinguished itself at the Battle of Apremont during World War I. It's the center of a grouping of early 20th century buildings. 140 Chestnut St (1911) was the lavish Kimball Hotel, now condominiums. Shattuck and Hussey of Chicago designed 122 Chestnut St (1916) for the YMCA. The two-story buildings across the Triangle were built in the 1920s to house automobile dealerships, among them Rolls Royce, a one-time manufacturer of cars in Springfield.

### Springfield Pulse Art Space

This community art studio invited the public to engage in artistic education, exploration, and expression.

### 27- Armory Commons

Spring and Pearl Streets

Public Park and Reaching Woman II, a bronze bust by Lu Stubbs.

### 28- Hispanic Baptist Church (1872)

18 Salem Street

Originally known as North Congregational Church, this building was designed by Henry Hobson Richardson and is one of the most important landmarks in Springfield. The brownstone edifice features a 150-foot stone tower and Tiffany window.

### 29- Historic Mattoon Area

Mattoon and Elliot Streets

Developed in 1870-90 is one of few remaining examples of a large stand of Victorian row houses. Residents have included William Haile, Lieutenant Governor in the 1890s, at #41. Postmaster General Lawrence O'Brien grew up at #42. Rev. William Faunce lived at #17 before he was president of Brown University. Note the rare iron cresting on the roofs of #68 and #76 Elliot St, now the home and office of the Catholic Bishop of Springfield.

### 30- Pynchon Plaza (1977)

Between Dwight and Chestnut Streets

Named for William Pynchon who founded Springfield in 1636, Pynchon Plaza is a hillside park that features Everglades, contemporary steel sculpture by Isaac Witkin.

### 31- Christ Church Episcopal Church (1874)

35 Chestnut Street

Architects Lord and Fuller and H.G. Wadlind assigned this church of Longmeadow brownstone. Its original 146-ft tower was removed due to foundation problems. The present 75-ft tower was built in 1927 from designs by the local firm of Kirkham and Parlett.

### 32- Merrick Park and Puritan Statue (1899)

State and Chestnut Streets

This park was funded by William Merrick, after whom it is named. Since 1899 it has been home to the statue of Deacon Samuel Chapin, a founder of Springfield. Augustus Saint-Gaudens, one of the greatest American sculptors, designed the statue while noted architect Stanford White designed the granite pedestal.

### 33- Springfield Fire and Marine Insurance Building (1904)

195 State Street

Built for the Springfield Fire and Marine Insurance Company, this Peabody and Stearns-designed building is composed of cut granite and features twelve two-story Corinthian columns, doors and mahogany and plate glass, a vestibule of imported marble, and bronze lanterns mounted on granite buttresses.

### 34- Central Library (1912)

220 State Street

This building was designed in an Italian Renaissance style by Edward L. Tilton. Featuring a marble exterior and interior with a hip roof of green tile, the library was built with financial

support from Andrew Carnegie on the site of the old library. It houses a collection to match many large cities. Note the ornate rotunda.

#### 35- St. Michael's Roman Catholic Cathedral (1860)

240 State Street

St. Michael's was the first Roman Catholic parish in Springfield. The church was designed by New York architect Patrick C. Keeley, a prominent architect of Catholic buildings in the 19th century. Note the statue of the conquering St. Michael in the tower.

#### 36- Classical Condominiums (1897)

235 State Street

This large Renaissance Revival building was designed by the Boston firm Hartwell, Richardson and Driver. Originally called "Central" High School, a large western addition was designed by H.L. Sprague in the 1920s. Renamed "Classical" in 1934, the school closed in 1986 and was converted into condominiums.

#### Art for the Soul Gallery

An art gallery featuring the work of artists in the community.

#### Classical Museum

Display cases exhibit artifacts from Classical High School.

#### 37- Springfield Federal Courthouse (2008)

300 State Street

This building, designed by renowned architect Moshe Safdie, features the 300 foot long Wall Drawing No. 1259: Loopy Doopy (Springfield) - one of the last murals designed by Sol DeWitt.

#### 38- Alexander House (1811)

35 Elliot Street

One of the city's oldest surviving buildings, this house was built by Simon Sanborn using a design thought to be by Asher Benjamin. It has had many important owners: James Byers, first postmaster of Springfield; Israel Trask, who helped negotiate the Louisiana Purchase; Chester Harding, a prominent portrait artist; and Henry Alexander, mayor of Springfield. The house was moved twice, in 1874 and in 2003 to accommodate a new federal courthouse.

#### 39 Springfield Museum

21 Edwards Street

#### D'Amour Museum of Fine Arts (1933)

Tilton and Githens of New York was chosen to design this Art Deco building. Notable works include Erastus Salisbury Field's massive Historical Monument of the American Republic as well as paintings by John Singleton Copley, John Singer Sargent, Winslow Homer, Claude Monet, Edgar Degas and Paul Gauguin.

#### George Walter Vincent Smith Art Museum (1896)

The New York firm of Renwick, Aspinwall and Renwick designed this Renaissance Revival building of Pompeiian brick and terra cotta ornamentation after Mr. Smith offered to donate his collection of Middle Eastern and Asian art, including Japanese Samurai armor, exquisite Middle Eastern rugs, and Chinese cloisonné.

#### Springfield Science Museum (1899 and 1934)

Gardner, Pyne and Gardner designed the original Museum of Natural History to match the Smith Art Museum. A large Art Deco addition was designed by Tilton and Githens to harmonize with the Museum of Fine Arts across the green. Be sure to visit the Seymour Planetarium and Dinosaur Hall with a replica of a tyrannosaurus rex.

#### Wood Museum of Springfield History (2009)

This museum's collection features antique automobiles, motorcycles, airplanes, firearms, and products made in the Pioneer Valley. Exhibits interpret Springfield history in the larger context of 19th and 20th century American history.

#### William Pynchon Memorial Building (1927)

Local architect Max Westhoff, who designed this granite Colonial Revival style building, was a prolific designer of grand homes in the area. Currently closed for renovation, this museum will reopen with a major interactive Dr. Seuss exhibition.

#### Dr. Seuss National Memorial Sculpture Garden (2002)

Children's book author Theodor Geisel, aka Dr. Seuss, was born in Springfield. His first book, *And to Think That I Saw It On Mulberry Street*, was filled with impressions from his Springfield childhood. Lark Grey Dimond-Cates, Geisel's stepdaughter, sculpted the bronze figures of Geisel and some of his most beloved characters.

#### 40- Springfield Armory National Historic Site

##### Armory Square

In 1794, President George Washington established the first American armory in Springfield. Growth of this armory spurred the growth of the city. The many nineteenth century buildings now house Springfield Technical Community College and the Springfield Armory Museum, a National Historic Site and home to the world's largest collection of American military firearms.

#### 41- Springfield Technical Community College

##### Armory Square

Founded in 1967, it is the only technical community college in the state. Performing and visual arts spaces include the Amy H. Carberry Fine Arts Gallery and the Scibelli Hall Theater.