



## MGM SPRINGFIELD HISTORICAL ELEMENTS

A city built on innovation, industry and intellectual progress, Springfield's remarkable history inspired MGM Resorts to develop much more than a traditional casino complex, but a destination that could inspire curiosity in the local heritage for a new wave of locals and visitors.

MGM Springfield's unique urban design integrates the region's first luxury gaming resort into the architectural fabric of downtown, combining new construction with revived historic architecture. Designed to celebrate Springfield's rich past, the preservation and reuse of multiple buildings is a central component of the property. MGM Springfield's design team salvaged hundreds of vintage treasures from Springfield that now are incorporated into the resort.

**Video tour of MGM Springfield's historic preservation efforts:** <http://bit.ly/SpringfieldHistory>

### HISTORIC BUILDINGS:

#### Union House/Chandler Hotel

*Accommodations, Chandler Steakhouse*

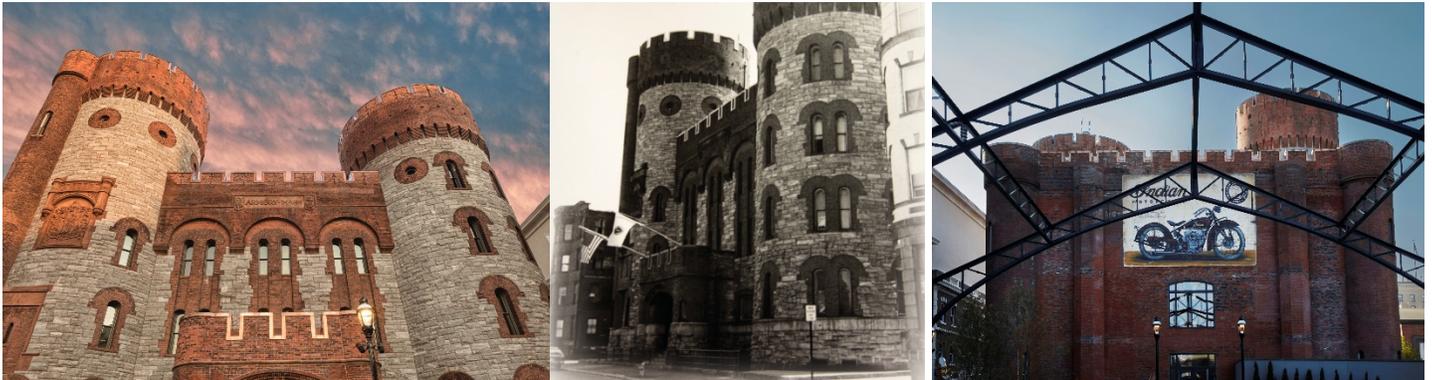


- Built in 1846 for local hotelier James Warriner, the property was originally called the Union House and later renamed the Chandler Hotel in 1880, which it remained until closing its doors in 1933. It was one of the more popular hotels in Springfield.
- In 1947, 11<sup>th</sup> U.S. President James K. Polk and future President James Buchanan stayed at the hotel.
- The historic Union Chandler facade was completely preserved and incorporated into the exterior of MGM Springfield. This was no small task as it involved carefully cutting away the front of the building, propping it with large metal beams, and then building the entire hotel behind it.

- Several guest rooms in MGM Springfield’s five-story boutique hotel are located in the Union Chandler structure. The original interior window millwork with mauve paint was salvaged and has been recreated to denote each Chandler guestroom. On the Main St. exterior, passersby can tell which rooms are in the Chandler as they have mauve framing and black stars above the windows.
- The space also holds the aptly named Chandler Steakhouse, a classic American steakhouse offering the finest steak and seafood in the region under the leadership of Hell’s Kitchen season 14-winner Meghan Gill.

### State Armory

*Armory Square, The Plaza and South End Market*



- Originally constructed in 1895 for the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia (later known as the Massachusetts National Guard), the State Armory was used to train soldiers during both World Wars. It has long been a central part of the community, playing host to fairs, concerts and youth activities while occupied by the military, and in the 1970s as the South End Community Center.
- Designed by Boston architectural firm Wait & Cutler, the original complex consisted of three sections: a head house, middle section (added in 1915) and drill shed. The Gothic-style architecture features twin cylindrical turreted towers framing an ornate central entrance, composed of granite with brownstone and brick detailing on the windows, doors and crenellated parapet walls.
- The Armory’s fortress-like appearance inspired many of the whimsical buildings in famed author Dr. Seuss’ (Theodor Geisel) books; his first home was located on Howard Street, across from the Armory.
- MGM Springfield extensively restored the State Armory’s iconic, castle-like main structure, which sustained significant damage during the 2011 tornado. Unfortunately, the 200-foot drill shed was destroyed beyond repair. The shape of the trussed structure erected over The Plaza emulates the roof lines and gables of the drill shed.
- The Armory is a prominent feature of the resort’s outdoor entertainment district as a flexible multi-use venue for events ranging from pop-up art galleries, private functions and festivals to seasonal activations during which it will become a haunted armory, winter wonderland and more. The intricate exterior masonry of the historic building will serve as unique backdrop for the buzzing retail plaza.
- During the restoration process, the design team salvaged a large table from the Armory that now has found new life as a communal dining table in the resort’s South End Market.

## French Congregational Church

### *Kringle Emporium*



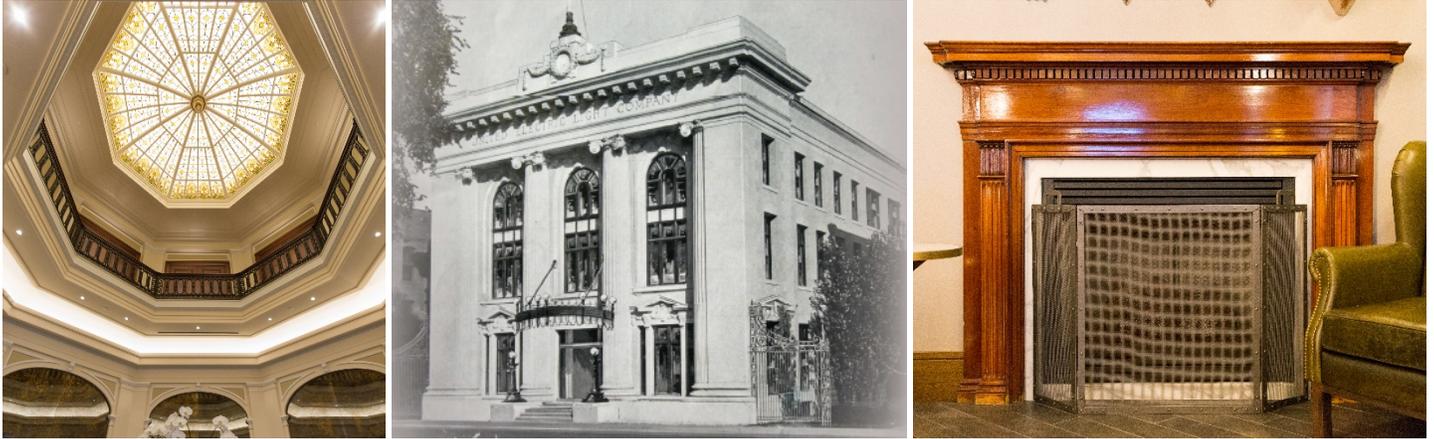
- Built in 1887 as the French Congregational Church, the building was designed by Springfield-based Samuel Provost under the sponsorship of Daniel Wesson to serve as a place of worship for the French-Canadian Protestant immigrants who worked at Smith & Wesson. The church was used by an Italian Mission and an African American Protestant congregation before its purchase in 1919 by the First Spiritualist Society.
- The church's vernacular is a High Victorian Gothic Style, composed of pressed brick with locally sourced Longmeadow brownstone trim, featuring Gothic arched windows and gabled porticos. The central structure is flanked by a three-level pyramidal tower and single-story polygonal tower with steeply pitched roofs.
- MGM Springfield relocated the French Congregational Church approximately 600 feet from its original Bliss Street location to Union Street, where it is a prominent feature of the new outdoor Plaza, serving as the flagship location of New England's beloved Kringle Candle Company. The church has been fully renovated and restored to preserve its historic architecture. The casino floor now sits on the church's original site.



- Wrought iron and wood chairs salvaged from the church are incorporated throughout South End Market's community-style dining area.
- Lumber from elm trees found on the church's property have been milled and repurposed into three tables featured in the resort's deluxe garden suites and deluxe spa suites.

## United Electric Company Building

*Property Exterior, Lobby Space, Meeting & Convention Area*



- 73 State Street was developed in 1910 as the commercial headquarters of the United Electric Company, one of the first companies to bring electricity to Springfield and a major force in its industrial growth.
- The Beaux-Arts style building, fashioned in cut limestone and brick, was designed by Boston architect Thomas M. James and constructed by local builder Casper Ranger.
- Main Façade – The building’s historic three-bay façade was completely preserved to its original design and distinctive architectural features, including the fluted ionic columns, ornate wrought iron entryway canopy, dentillated cornice, modillion brackets and clock face parapet atop the roof. The restored United Electric façade is a centerpiece of the resort’s State Street frontage.
- Stained-Glass Dome and Lobby – The stained-glass dome and rotunda, among the building’s most distinctive Beaux-Arts elements, were salvaged and restored, along with the decorative wrought iron railings, marble walls and terrazzo floors of the ornate lobby. These elements were relocated to the resort’s meeting and convention area, where the United Electric’s octagon-shaped lobby was entirely recreated and now serves as the Prefunction Rotunda.
- An antique fireplace from the original property greets guests as a focal component of the new hotel lobby. The solid-wood mantle’s detailing mirrors the columns and dentil molding of the building’s façade.

## YWCA

*TAP Sports Bar, Property Exterior*



- Constructed in 1907 for the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) following the organization's independence from the Young Men's Christian Association, the brick Renaissance Revival style building was designed by prominent local architect Eugene C. Gardner.
- The YWCA occupied the Howard Street site until the 1980s, providing social welfare services including education and affordable accommodations to Springfield's growing population of working women and the community at large. Throughout the early 20th century, as men left for wartime military service and the women of Springfield filled their shoes in the workforce, the YWCA played an important role in advocating labor rights and establishing support services for women in the armed forces and wives of servicemen.
- The Howard Street site was originally the birthplace of Dr. Seuss (Theodor Geisel), whose grandfather owned the block.
- Though the full structure could not be salvaged, the original arcaded facade was replicated as part of MGM Springfield's west exterior on the outdoor Plaza, serving as the entryway to TAP Sports Bar. Ornate friezes, medallions and quoins were salvaged from the historic facade and incorporated into the detailed re-creation.
- Wooden floorboards with original nails intact were salvaged from the YWCA building and are now part of the ceiling cladding inside TAP's main bar. An interior solid wood wall framing also was rescued and restored and is displayed as a decorative wall accent near the bowling lanes.

### **Howard Street School**

*South End Market, Meeting & Convention Area, TAP Sports Bar*



- The Howard Street School, designed by the local firm of Kirkham and Parlett, formerly stood on the MGM Springfield site. It was one of the first of many public buildings the firm, formed in 1904, was responsible for in Springfield. The Howard Street School took over the role of the West Union Street School as the South End grew and more schools were necessary. It was later the home of the Zanetti Montessori School until 2009. The building was significantly damaged in the 2011 tornado.
  - Vintage benches from the school are now being used in South End Market and MGM Springfield's meeting and convention space.
  - Blackboard slates now display chalk art and sports memorabilia on the walls of TAP Sports Bar.
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## COLLECTED ITEMS:

### The Knox vault

#### *Knox Bar*



- In 1908, the Knox vault was installed in the basement of the MassMutual Financial Building. Later, this became the 101 State Street building, and the vault was forgotten for decades.
- In 2017, the MGM Springfield construction team discovered the vault.
- It became the inspiration for the Knox Bar at MGM Springfield and is now proudly displayed in the lounge.

### Springfield Commandery No. 6 Photograph

#### *Meeting & Convention Space*



- The historic photo was found amongst the thousands of items at the Brimfield Antique Show. MGM Springfield team coordinated its careful move back to Springfield for restoration and preservation.

- The original image was created in 1888 by master craftsman and Springfield native Chauncey L. Moore.
- Moore created the work by painstakingly cutting out images of each member's face from pre-existing photographs. He then placed those images in sixteen rows, with the largest images in the front.
- The piece was displayed at the *Free and Accepted Masons Lodge of Springfield* and features each member of the Springfield Commandery No. 6.
- The 8 x 10-foot piece of history is finally returning to its roots in Springfield and is proudly displayed within the property's meeting and convention space.

### **Stained Glass Tapestry by G. Owen Bonawit**

*Escalator Atrium — Cinema/Meeting & Convention Area*



- The signed three-panel tapestry, designed by notable 20th century stained glass artist G. Owen Bonawit (1801-1971), depicts the evolution of industry in Springfield. Commissioned in 1930, the piece originally adorned the boardroom of the Third National Bank of Springfield at the corner of Main and Boland Streets. The panels were relocated in 1980 by the Bank of New England to their boardroom at Monarch Place.
- Known for his artistry in New England and beyond, Bonawit's commissioned works include pieces for such institutions as Yale University, Duke University and Connecticut College.

### **Keg Room Sign**

*TAP Sports Bar*



- Although long shuttered, The Keg Room was a downtown mainstay and beloved local watering hole formerly located at 87 State Street.
- The Keg Room's wooden exterior sign was salvaged and now hangs in the main bar at TAP Sports Bar.

## **19th Century Chandelier**

*Hotel Tower*



- The chandelier in the hotel tower elevator vestibule was discovered at a New York antique store by MGM Resorts Chairman & CEO Jim Murren.
- The gaslamp fixture is original to an 1800s Music Hall in New York City. It was completely restored and wired.

## **Cabinet of Curiosities — Springfield Museums**

*Hotel Tower Elevator Vestibules, Public Art Collection*

- Rare turn-of-the-century artifacts from Springfield’s enterprising past are displayed within the elevator lobbies of each guestroom floor, including such items as a 1925 Edison Western Union Stock Ticker, a 1915 Springfield-made Telegraphone, an 1895 Edison Home Phonograph, and more.
- These history-making inventions and industrial relics are part of the specially curated collection “*Cabinet of Curiosities: Springfield Innovations from the Springfield Museums.*” The exhibit marks the first time Springfield Museums has loaned priceless pieces for display outside of a museum setting.

## **Vintage Neon Hotel Sign**

*Lobby*



- The neon “HOTEL” sign adorning a brick column in MGM Springfield’s lobby is not just a subtle reference to Las Vegas, but an authentic example of the city’s most iconic artform.

- The vintage sign was purchased from Las Vegas' most historic hotel, the Golden Gate Hotel & Casino, which opened in 1906.

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission, MGM Resorts International and Springfield Historic Commission are developing easy-to-interpret signage to provide historical information about MGM Springfield's preserved buildings. Eight signs will be found both throughout the resort grounds and in the surrounding neighborhood as part of the property's **Springfield Experience Walk**.

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