

The Springfield Armory



Historic Background

Report by Todd Jones, Historic Preservation Specialist
Federal Emergency Management Agency
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The Springfield Armory

Exceptionally unique among the structures in Springfield, MA, the Springfield Armory has stood on Howard Street for over one hundred years. Yet, with its impressive medieval architecture, the building could easily pass for a centuries-old European castle. It may appear as a much unexpected feature on the skyline of a Connecticut River Valley city, but considering Springfield's illustrious history as a manufacturer of war goods, a castle is actually quite an appropriate inclusion.

The Armory is located today at 29 Howard Street. It is surrounded by a dense urban community characterized by commercial interests, with parking lots, a strip mall, and an apartment block included as its primary neighbors. The area transitioned from an urban working class residential neighborhood to its present commercial character during the mid and late twentieth century.



Figure 1: Location of the State Armory in Springfield, 29 Howard Street, Springfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts (42.10144, -72.60216).¹

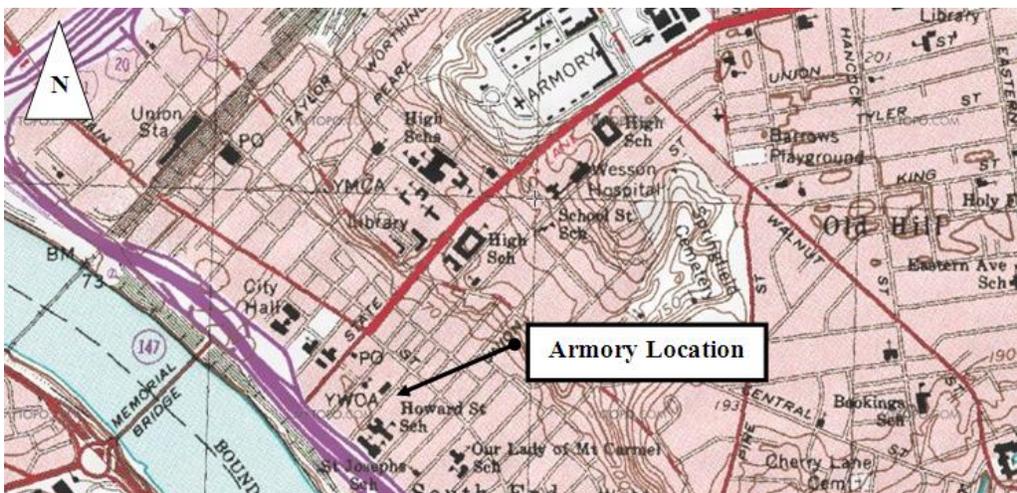


Figure 2: Topographic map of Springfield showing the location of the State Armory.²

¹ <http://mapper.acme.com>, accessed September 22, 2011

² <http://mapper.acme.com>, accessed September 22, 2011.

The 1895 Armory

The structure was finished in 1895 for the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia (MVM), referred to in modern times as the Massachusetts National Guard. It was designed by the Boston architectural firm of Wait & Cutter, led by Robert Wait and Amos Cutter, who also planned the Fall River Armory at the same time. Local Springfield architects Gardner, Pyne, & Gardner acted as the project's supervising architects and builders. The "castle" portion of the building, fronting Howard Street in the city's South End neighborhood, was referred to as the "Head House" (*see figure 3*). The fortress-like style was popular among contemporary state armories. The granite structure consisted of brownstone and brick ornamentation at the doors, windows, and crenulated parapet walls. Its front façade, with twin cylindrical towers on either side of an ornate center entrance, mimicked the insignia of the United States Army Corps of Engineers. The Head House was primarily utilized for administrative and barracks purposes (*see figures 7 and 8*).



Figure 3: The Head House c. 1899.³

³ Charles Winslow Hall, ed., *Regiments and Armories of Massachusetts* (Boston: W. W. Potter Company, 1899), following p. 240.

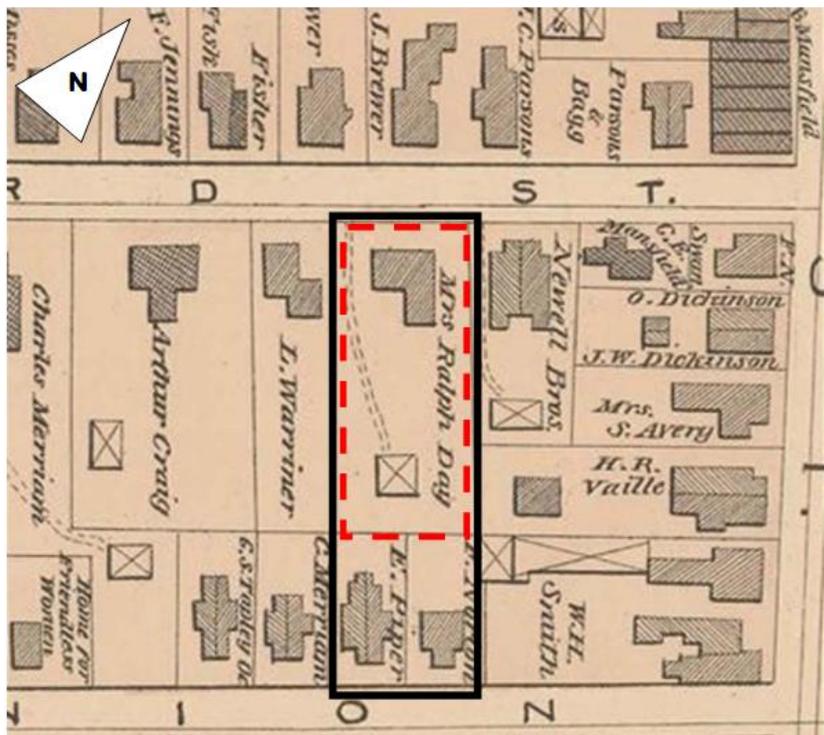


Figure 4: Site of the Springfield Armory in 1882, before construction of the Armory. The dashed red line delineates the location of the 1895 Armory and the black box outlines the site of the 1915 Armory.⁴

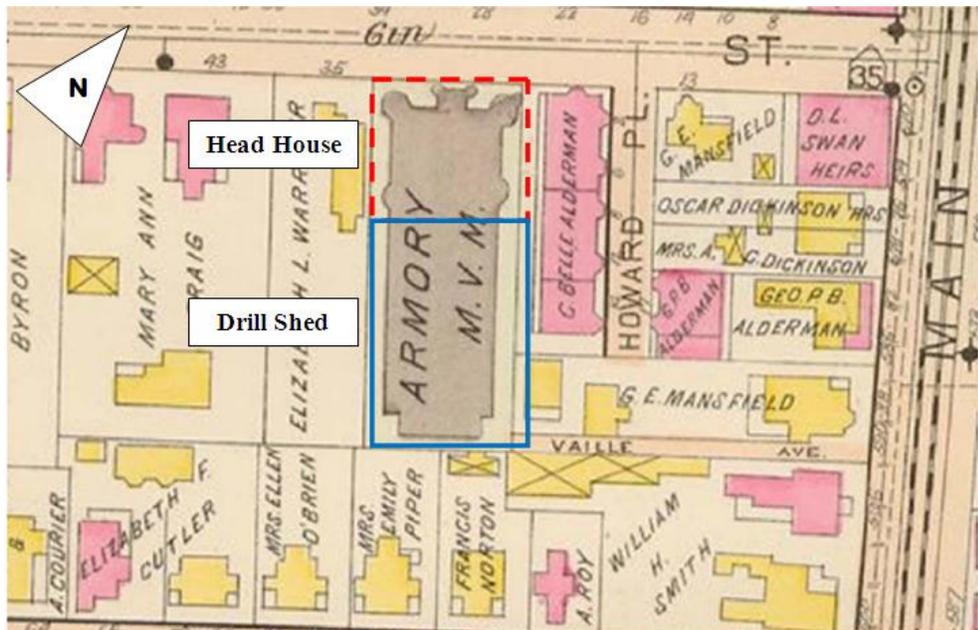


Figure 5: This 1899 map shows the 1895 Head House (dashed red line) and 1895 Drill Shed (blue).⁵

⁴ George H. Walker & Company, *Atlas of the City of Springfield, MA, 1882* (Boston: George H. Walker & Company, 1882), Plate 4.

⁵ L. J. Richards & Company, *Atlas of the City of Springfield, 1899* (Springfield: L. J. Richards & Company, 1899), Plate 1.

The rear portion of the Armory was known as the “Drill Shed,” and featured low buttressed walls of granite, brownstone, and brick supporting a gable roof. A series of small arched-windows placed evenly along the side walls allowed the sun to beam in from the east and west (*see figure 9*). The vast gymnasium-like interior space was primarily used by soldiers for assembly, practice, and exercise (*see figure 6*). In a 1910 Adjutant General’s Report, the Drill Shed was described as a 75’ X 146’ structure.⁶ Its southern extent terminated at a one-story projection labeled “boat shed,” associated with the Connecticut River located 1200’ to the west, as well as the Armory’s Naval Brigade.⁷ The Drill Shed extended as far south as the property lines of E. J. Piper and the late F. Norton⁸ (*see figures 4 and 5*).

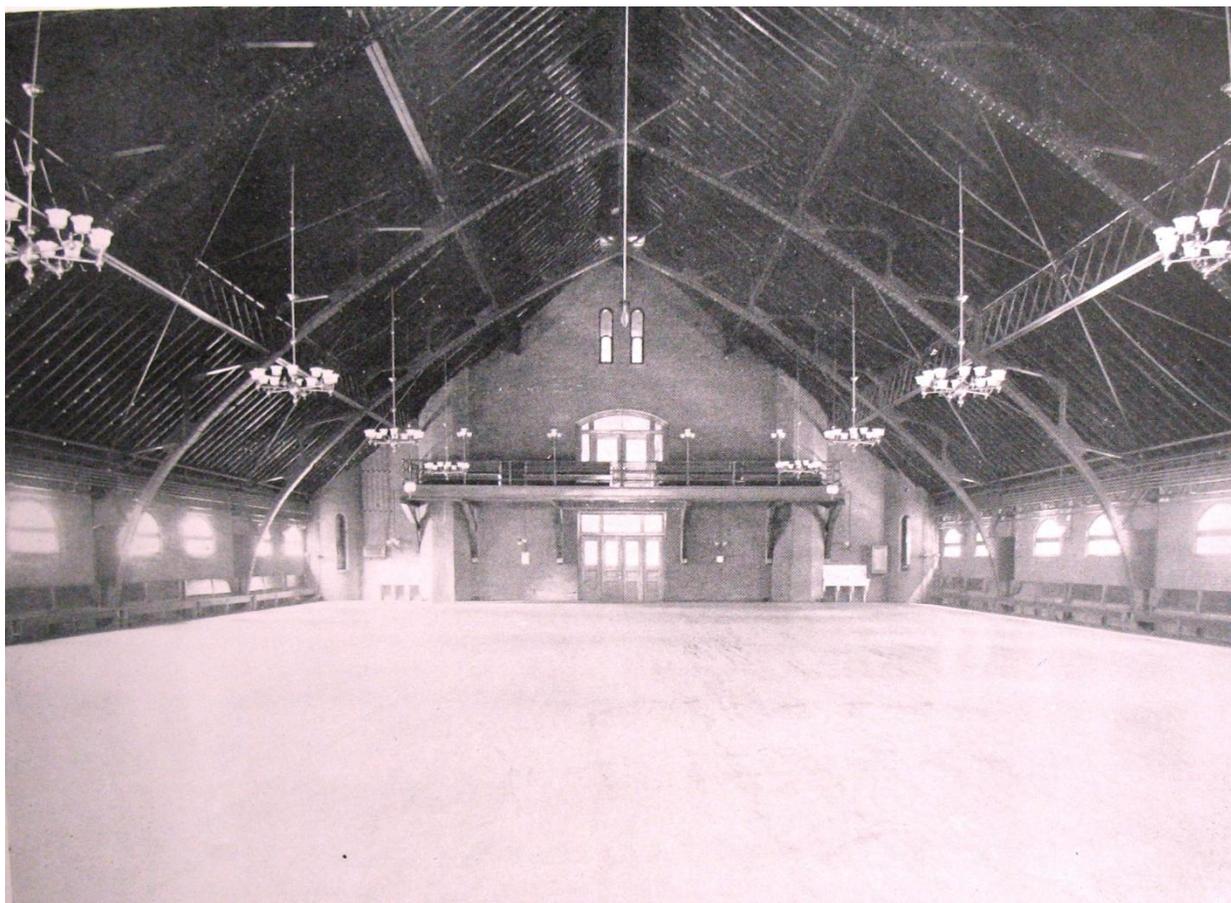


Figure 6: The interior of the 1895 Drill Shed as it appeared c. 1899. The image is looking north towards the Head House.⁹

⁶ Massachusetts Adjutant General’s Office, *Annual Report* (Boston: Wright & Potter Printing Company, 1910), 67.

⁷ Wait & Cutter, Architects, *Sketch of the Armory for Springfield, Mass, First Floor Plan*, folder: Pictures-Buildings and Blocks, State Militia Armory, Howard Street, Vertical Files, Museum of Springfield History, Springfield, MA.

⁸ L. J. Richards & Company, *Atlas of the City of Springfield, 1899* (Springfield: L. J. Richards & Company, 1899), Plate 1.

⁹ Hall, following p. 370.



Figure 7: Company quarters in the Head House, c. 1899.¹⁰



Figure 8: Second Regiment headquarters room, with distinctive fireplace, c. 1899.¹¹

¹⁰ Hall, following p. 374.

The Armory became the permanent home and headquarters of the Second Regiment, MVM, which consisted of two companies. Company B, known proudly as the “Springfield City Guards,” had been organized in 1852 and could claim veterans from the Civil War. Company D was organized only recently, in 1894. The Connecticut River Division of the Naval Brigade also called the Armory home.¹² The companies were always ready for military action, but the organizations often took on the appearance of gentlemen’s clubs, and usually hosted public parties. In the 1899 publication *Regiments and Armories of Massachusetts*, edited by Charles Winslow Hall, it was noted that at the Springfield Armory, “their gatherings are recognized as among the most popular and enjoyable of the year.”¹³

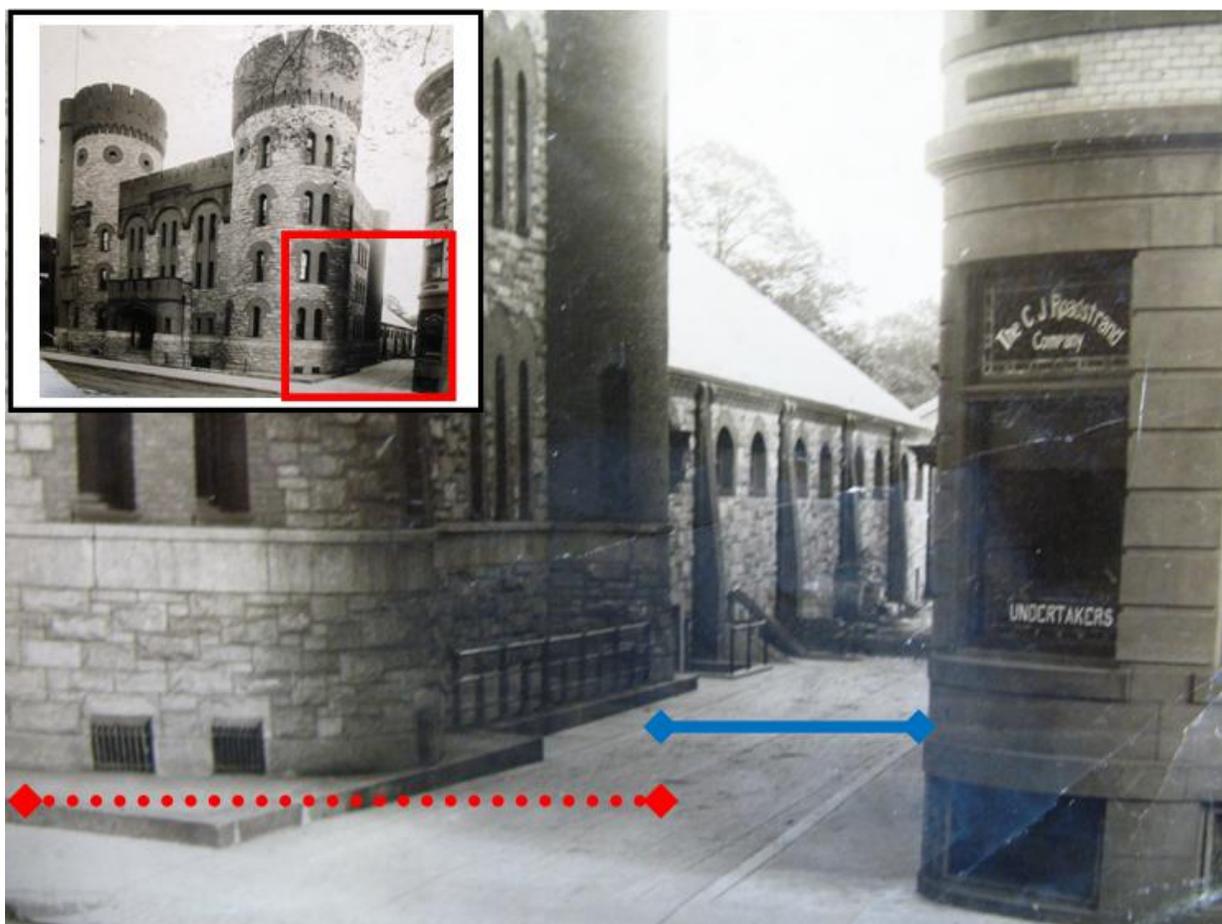


Figure 9: Circa 1910 photograph detailing the stylistic uniformity between the 1895 Head House (delineated by the dotted red line above) and Drill Shed (delineated by solid blue line). Note the Drill Shed’s gable roof and buttresses (center).¹⁴

¹¹ Hall, following p. 366.

¹² Hall, 238-240.

¹³ Hall, 240.

¹⁴ Unattributed Photograph of Springfield Armory, c. 1910, folder: Photos-Buildings and Blocks, State Militia Armory (Howard Street), Vertical File, Museum of Springfield History, Springfield, MA.

The 1915 Armory

From the summer of 1914 to February 1915, the entire Armory underwent a major \$125,000 expansion and alteration (see *Springfield Armory Construction Timeline* below).¹⁵ The work included the construction of an addition to the head house, and a new, larger drill shed.

Springfield's Samuel M. Green Company was the project's architectural firm, with Boston architect James E. McLaughlin acting as an advisor to the state's Armory Commission. In 1908 the Commission had sought a standard plan for the state's one-company armories, and after analyzing submissions by twenty-one architects, chose the design by McLaughlin and James Mulcahy.¹⁶ Thus McLaughlin was likely considered an expert on armory design, and though the Springfield Armory was one of the state's rare two-company armories (a distinction also shared with the Worcester Armory), the architect offered numerous suggestions regarding the Springfield plans in correspondence to the Commission's secretary.¹⁷



Figure 10: The 1915 Armory as it appeared in 1939. This view is looking southeast from Howard Street, with the Armory at left and center. The dashed green line details the extent of the original 1895 Head House; the solid red line shows the length of the 1915 addition to the Head House; the dotted blue line exhibits the span of the 1915 Drill Shed.¹⁸

¹⁵ James E. McLaughlin to George Howland Cox, May 13, 1914, Springfield File, Massachusetts National Guard Military Museum & Archives, Worcester, MA; "Remodeled State Armory," *Springfield Republican*, May 9, 1915, 10; see also attached Construction Timeline.

¹⁶ Massachusetts Adjutant General's Office, *Annual Report* (Boston: Wright & Potter Printing Company, 1910), 67.

¹⁷ James E. McLaughlin to George Howland Cox, May 13, 1914, Springfield File, Massachusetts National Guard Military Museum & Archives, Worcester, MA; James E. McLaughlin to George Howland Cox, May 19, 1914, Springfield File, Massachusetts National Guard Military Museum & Archives, Worcester, MA. Cox was secretary of the Armory Commission.

¹⁸ Works Progress Administration, *Springfield Buildings Survey*, City of Springfield Building Department, Department of Public Works, Springfield, MA.

The original 1895 Drill Shed was deconstructed to make room for the expansion, but some of it was re-used, such as two of its steel trusses. The Head House Addition and a portion of the 1915 Drill Shed were also likely constructed on the foundation walls of the original 1895 Drill Shed.¹⁹ The Head House Addition nearly doubled the size of the 1895 Head House, extending to the south approximately the same length and width as the earlier structure. Historic maps indicate that the properties to the south owned by Piper and Norton's estate were acquired by the state for this expansion (*see figure 10*).²⁰

Work began in the summer of 1914. Roofers removed the slate carefully from the 1895 Drill Shed, and iron workers removed the trusses, some of which were saved for reuse. In early August 1914, the rifle range in the basement was started and bricklayers and stonemasons began to construct the Union Street wall of the new Drill Shed, which would become a character-defining feature. By late August, footings were being placed in the new basement foundation, and the steel framework began to take shape in the Head House Addition. In late September and early October, the brick work on the Head House Addition had almost been completed, and the two roof trusses saved from the original Drill Shed were installed in the new one.

The project progressed relatively quickly. No later than October 6, 1914, the openings for access between the Head House Addition and new Drill Shed were created, and by October 9, the distinct skylight was placed on the roof of the Head House Addition. The Drill Shed's noticeable concrete ramp on Union Street was nearly done before the end of October, by which time the Armory's superintendent claimed that 97% of the brick work was completed.

The Drill Shed's impressive roof was completely slated by November 14, 1914, and its windows were placed at the same time. Later that month, the Drill Shed started to receive its first coats of paint, while portions of the Head House Addition had their final layers of plaster. In late November, the Drill Shed also received temporary heating mechanisms which finally allowed the building to be used for drill, even while construction continued. At the same time, the Drill Shed was topped by both of its rooftop copper ventilators.

Design plans also called for installation of a bowling alley and billiard room in the basement, both of which received their concrete floors in December. The basement also featured enough space to fit numerous army wagons, the first of which parked in their new home no later than December 4. Before Christmas 1914, drinking fountains and shower baths were installed in the Drill Shed, and the water supply was first turned on to the entire new addition.

In January 1915, the steel fire escapes were constructed on the east and west sides of the Head House. In February, the building was ready for finishing touches, as the lettering on the doors were painted and the window shades were finished. Representatives from the Brunswick-Balke-Collender Company also finally arrived to install the anticipated bowling alley. The builder's

¹⁹ This fact is suggested by passages quoted from the attached Construction Timeline, written by Thomas Kimmett, Superintendent of the Armory. Also: James E. McLaughlin to George Howland Cox, May 13, 1914, Springfield File, Massachusetts National Guard Military Museum & Archives, Worcester, MA.

²⁰ L. J. Richards & Company, *Atlas of the City of Springfield, 1899* (Springfield: L. J. Richards & Company, 1899), Plate 1.

contract expired on February 22, 1915, upon which time the Armory was almost completely finished.²¹

The Head House Addition was a plain brick structure with embellishment limited to brick corbelling and crenulations at the parapet walls. The simple rectangular form with regularly placed, identical arched window openings, contrasted with the elaborate form and ornamentation of the 1895 Head House. However, the size, proportion, materials, alignment, composition, and color were sensitive to the 1895 structure. It consisted of three stories and a basement, one floor less than the 1895 Head House, and had a low-pitched roof that drained to the center. A centered door on the first floor of the south wall provided access to the 1915 Drill Shed to the south, and a door on the west façade accessed the basement. The second and third floor windows centered in the south façade opened into the 1915 Drill Shed interior.



Figure 11: The Drill Shed as it appeared in 1939 from Union Street looking north towards the Head House.²²

²¹ Thomas Kimmet, Weekly Progress Reports, 1914-1915, Springfield File, Massachusetts National Guard Military Museum & Archives, Worcester, MA. See Springfield Armory Construction Timeline below for specifics.

²² Works Progress Administration, *Springfield Buildings Survey*, City of Springfield Building Department, Department of Public Works, Springfield, MA.

The new 1915 Drill Shed was directly attached to the Head House Addition. At 211' in length, this new Drill Shed was longer than its predecessor, but retained a similar gable roof with an even more impressive expanse of unbroken slate tiles, interrupted only by two rooftop copper ventilators. Tongue-and-grove board sheathing upon a complex system of steel joists and purlins supported the roof. Long steel trusses spanned from east to west, and the impressive roof structure was intentionally exposed on the interior. The brick gable end on Union Street had large wooden doors and arched windows, echoing the style of the 1895 Head House in a much simplified form. The large interior room of the new Drill Shed consisted of over 16,000 square feet of floor space. According to the *Springfield Republican* in 1915, "the drill shed easily makes the largest hall in the city"²³ The expanded Drill Shed basement created a massive storage area, even offering access and subterranean space for numerous army wagons, and later automobiles. The basement also included a bowling alley, rifle range, and billiard room among other amenities.²⁴

The finished structure consisted of the 1895 Head House, the 1915 Head House Addition, and the 1915 Drill Shed, all of which were adjoined to form one continuous structure extending an entire city block between Howard and Union Streets. The *Springfield Republican* in 1915 proudly claimed that "the new building is modern in every particular, and is probably one of the best of its kind in the country."²⁵

The Dedication

On May 21, 1915, the public dedicated the finished structure in a grand ceremony. Over 2500 people were in attendance, including Massachusetts Governor David Walsh, who, according to a local newspaper, "delivered a stirring address which was frequently interrupted by applause."²⁶ The Governor and most of the other dignitaries had arrived the day prior, and proceeding to the Armory on the morning of May 21st via a large military escort parade, which caused massive traffic jams for locals. By necessity, Howard Street transformed into a one-way street, and extra police officers were posted at numerous downtown corners.²⁷

The day's epicenter was the large, newly-completed Drill Shed, where all in attendance eventually arrived. The soldiers forming the escort parade marched into the large hall, and lined up around its interior perimeter. Near the middle of the Drill Shed stood the speakers platform, and next to that were priority seating for the dignitaries as well as a number of aging Civil War veterans. Flags and flowers draped the speaker's stand on the platform. In his address, the Governor spoke of the soldiers who would occupy the updated Armory, exclaiming, "These young men through their love and loyalty are giving up their leisure time to prepare themselves to serve the country in time of need."²⁸ And a time of need was only a couple years on the horizon with United States entry into World War One fast approaching. In addition to the

²³ "The Improved Armory," *Springfield Armory*, March 28, 1915, 3.

²⁴ "Remodeled State Armory," *Springfield Republican*, May 9, 1915, 10.

²⁵ "Remodeled State Armory," *Springfield Republican*, May 9, 1915, 10.

²⁶ "Armory Dedicated," *Springfield Republican*, May 22, 1915, 1.

²⁷ "Armory Dedicated," *Springfield Republican*, May 22, 1915, 22.

²⁸ Ibid.

Governor, many representatives of the Massachusetts Militia spoke, with the military band's playing of the Star-Spangled Banner signaling the close of the dedication ceremonies.²⁹

Yet the festivities were hardly concluded. The band, accompanied by a forty-piece orchestra, continued to play well into the afternoon as dancing erupted in the Drill Shed. At least 2000 people partook, and according to the *Springfield Republican*, "both the new and old dances were given, so that everyone had opportunity to enjoy the good time."³⁰ A large lunch buffet was also served in the basement mess hall. At the end of the day, many attendees left the Armory with souvenirs and badges especially created for the occasion, including a booklet containing the programme and historical information.³¹

The Armory in the Twentieth Century

In addition to official training uses by soldiers, including during both world wars, the public was also invited to use the large Drill Shed. For many decades, social functions, fairs, expositions, youth activities, and local sporting events were held in the building. The Drill Shed also provided shelter for victims of Springfield's past natural disasters, such as floods in the 1930s.³²

In a report of National Guard armories conducted in 1938, officials recorded a number of facts regarding the armory, which may seem trivial, but were clearly considered important at the time. The nearest major roads and railroads were noted, likely for logistical purposes. The Drill Shed was described as a 275' X 75' space, while the dimensions of the entire structure were 356' X 90.' It was also noted that the Armory contained eighteen toilets, one urinal, eighteen shows, sixteen lavatories, and seven tubs, as well as both coal and gas ranges in the kitchen and space for twelve trucks in the Drill Shed's basement garage. In one revealing question, which evokes the original reason why armories were built during the late nineteenth century's large labor strikes, the report asks whether the building is "Defensible against mobs?," with the answer being in the affirmative.³³

Yet, thought the Armory could defend against mobs, it evidently had trouble defending against common criminals. In 1975, the Guard complained about two separate break-ins at the Armory, on January 27 and February 23, which resulted in the stealing of two electric typewriters, a portable radio, and \$45 in change and cash. The Armory's security director, Colonel William J. King, Jr., sought immediate erection of bars or wires on the windows near the fire escapes, claiming that "it is apparent that this is a high risk area and this must be accomplished as soon as possible to prevent recurring thefts."³⁴

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Ibid.

³² "Track Meet Opens At Armory Today," *Springfield Republican*, February 22, 1924 4.

³³ William H. Harrison, Jr., Acting State Quartermaster, Massachusetts National Guard, "Data on National Guard Armories, Springfield Armory," 1938, Springfield File, Massachusetts National Guard Military Museum & Archives, Worcester, MA.

³⁴ Colonel William J. King, Jr., Massachusetts National Guard, "Disposition Form: Improvement of Physical Security at the Howard Street Armory, Springfield, MA," 1975, Springfield File, Massachusetts National Guard Military Museum & Archives, Worcester, MA.



Figure 12: 1931 Sanborn Map showing Armory.³⁵

³⁵ Sanborn Map Company, *Springfield, Mass.*, 1931, Microfilm Map Collection, Museum of Springfield History, Springfield, MA.

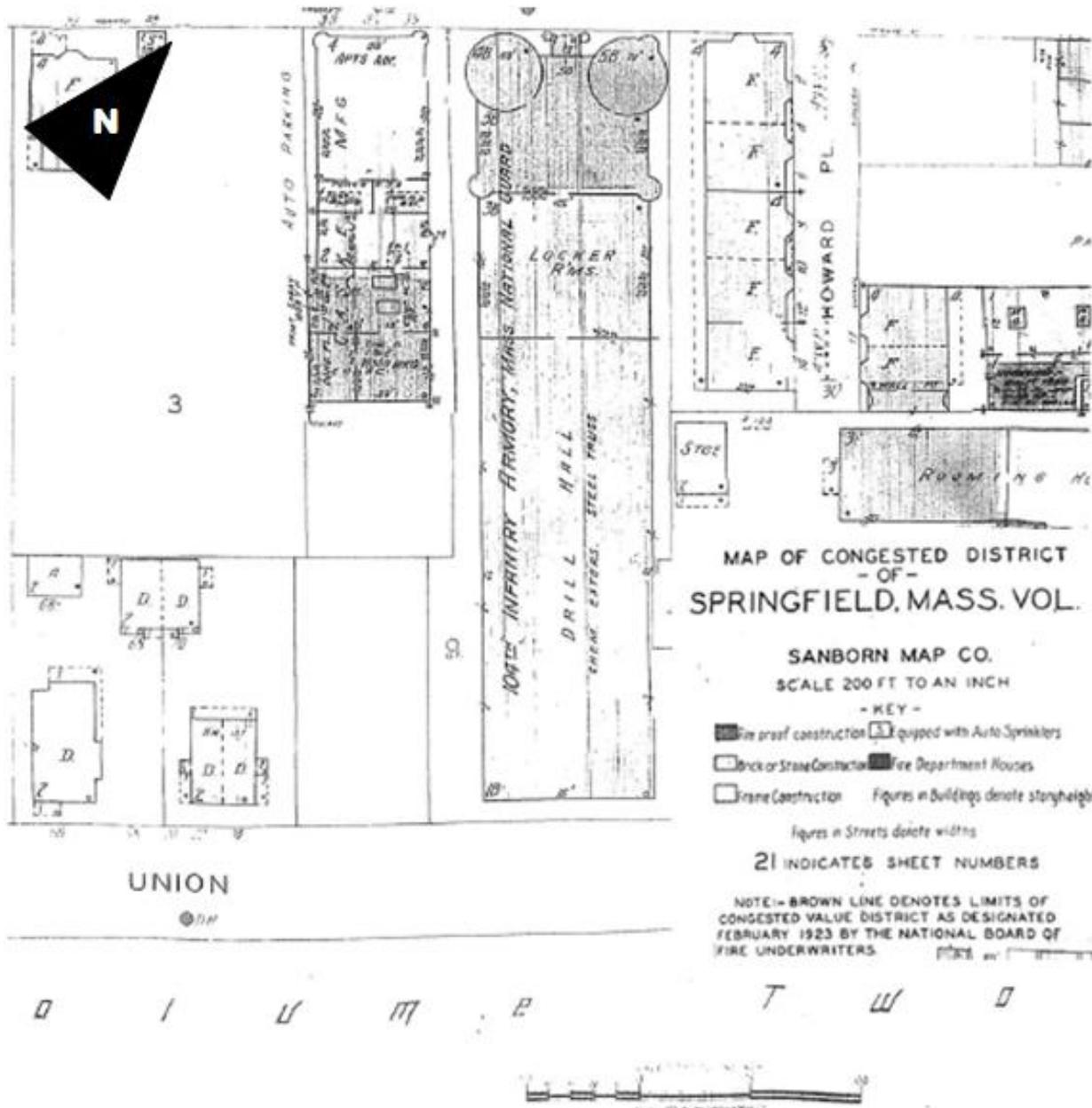


Figure 13: 1950 update to 1931 Sanborn Map.³⁶

³⁶ Sanborn Map Company, *Springfield, Mass.*, 1950, Microfilm Map Collection, Museum of Springfield History, Springfield, MA.

The Massachusetts National Guard vacated the building in the late 1970s, at a time when many armories were being decommissioned. The South End Community Center (SECC) took up residence in the structure from about 1976 to 2011. The SECC utilized the Drill Shed gymnasium for sporting activities, such as basketball and boxing, and also had exercise equipment located in the basement. The Head House was used for a variety of purposes, from classrooms to karate training rooms. The Springfield Armory was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976.

Tornado

On the afternoon of June 1, 2011, the Drill Shed provided essential cover for the last time, as a group of people rushed into the structure's stone basement to escape the horrific winds and screams of an unthinkable urban tornado. The people thankfully survived; the Drill Shed sadly did not. The tornado carved a visible path of destruction through the city's South End, from the Connecticut River, up Central Street, all the way to Springfield's eastern border. The Head House suffered superficial damages compared to the devastation brought upon the Drill Shed. The eastern half of the roof had almost entirely fallen to the ground, taking a large portion of the brick side wall with it and exposing a massive amount of the interior. On July 2, 2011, officials saw it prudent to demolish the Drill Shed for health and safety reasons on account of its structural deficiencies.

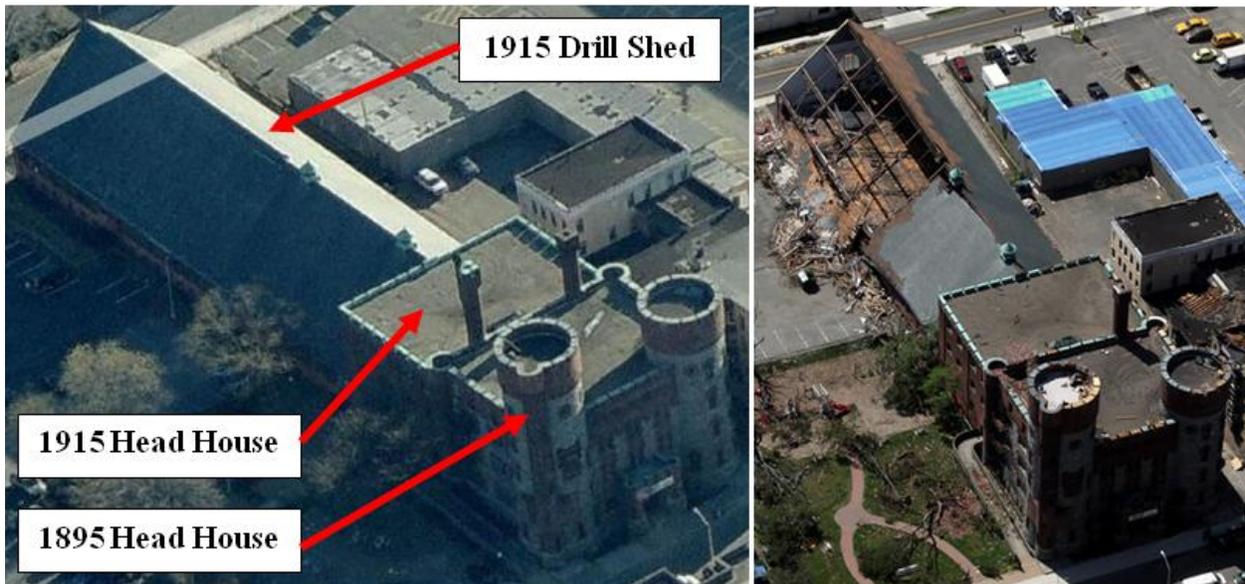


Figure 14: Pre-tornado (left) and post-tornado (right) images of the Springfield Armory

Springfield Armory Construction Timeline, July 1914- February 1915

The following construction timeline is made up of select passages from the Weekly Reports of Progress, written by Thomas P. Kimmett, Superintendent of the Springfield Armory in 1914 and 1915. The passages are quoted directly from Kimmett, with no editorial changes made. The original documents can be found in the Springfield Armory file, Massachusetts National Guard Military Museum & Archives, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Weekly Reports of Progress

Submitted by Thomas P. Kimmett, Superintendent

July 17, 1914

- The east side foundation wall of the addition will be completed today
- We are waiting for the roofer to finish taking off the slate so that the roof trusses can be taken down where the addition to the head house is to be erected

July 22, 1914

- The Union Street side of the foundation is completed so that 2/3 of the foundation for the addition is now in
- Brick work was started July 21 on the east side wall of the new addition
- The roof of the drill shed where the head house addition is to be made is now being stripped and expect it to be ready by tomorrow so that the iron workers can take down the trusses

July 30, 1914

- The roof trusses of drill shed have been taken down to make room for addition to head house
- The concrete footings for rifle range have been put in and water-proofed
- The backfilling at east side and Union Street walls has been put in
- The brick wall at end of present drill shed has been removed to make way for new addition
- We are waiting for the steel columns for the basement at Mess Hall section. I would like to see these columns in place as there is now quite a load upon the drill shed floor

August 7, 1914

- The brick walls for rifle range in basement have been erected
- Brick and stone work has begun on the Union St. elevation

- The side walls of drill shed, where head house extension is to be erected, have been taken down
- We have not yet received the steel columns for basement, and I would like to see these in place so as to take some of the load off the drill shed floor

August 14, 1914

- The brick work on east side of addition is up as far as it can go at present. We are waiting for the angle irons that go over windows
- The wall on Union St. side is up to the first floor level
- The foundation for the Head House Extension is being put in
- The steel has arrived on job and expect to erect it next week
- The teaming in the basement is about done so that the west side foundation wall for new addition can be put in next week
- We are waiting for the cast stone window sills for the new addition

August 21, 1914

- The erection of steel has begun, and the first floor of Head House Extension is being put in
- The foundation wall on west side of new addition has been begun and the footing is now in
- The footings for the columns in the new addition have been put in
- The brick wall in basement for Mess Hall has been built
- We are waiting for the cast stone window sills, and will be ready for them in a short time

August 29, 1914

- Brick work begun on east & west elevation of Head House extension and up to first floor level
- Brick work begun on partition wall between Head House extension and drill shed
- Brick work begun on 8" wall at end of present drill shed in basement
- Footings for piers in basement all in
- Steel being erected at Head House extension
- We are still waiting for the cast stone window sills
- Foundation wall on west side of drill hall extension being put in

September 18, 1914

- All of the floor steel is now in place, and the steel for roof of head house extension is also in place
- The brick work is now up to the roof on the head house extension
- Brick work on east side of addition to drill shed is up to top of windows
- The brick work on the Union St. elevation is well under way
- The floor system for addition to drill shed is now in, and the under floors are being laid

September 25, 1914

- The brick work on east side of addition to drill shed is topped out, and the west side will be topped out today
- The brick work of the head house extension is almost topped out
- The roof timbers for head house extension are being put on
- The two roof trusses taken down in old drill shed have been erected in drill shed addition
- All the steel is now erected excepted the two new roof trusses for drill shed addition

October 2, 1914

- The finished roof is now upon the head house extension
- The brick work on the addition to the drill shed is now completed except topping out the Union St. elevation
- The remaining walls of old drill shed are being taken down and will be built up next week
- The two new roof trusses for roof of drill shed addition are now on the job. They will be erected next week

October 6, 1914

- The Head House extension is plastered out, that is it has received the first coat or scratch coat
- The roof of drill shed is being slated. The whole roof is now protected from the weather
- Frame work for ventilator on roof of drill shed is up
- The driveway from parking space to Union St. has been graded
- The openings from Head House extension to old Head House have been cut through
- The first load of glazed sash arrived here today

October 9, 1914

- The roof of head house extension is now completed, the skylight is in place and the walls are flashed
- All the roof trusses are now erected. There are 7 more purlins to be erected and when these are erected all the steel will be in place. It will take one more day to erect these purlins
- We will begin to rivet this steel next Monday
- The studding for the partitions in corridors on first, second, and third floors is in place
- All the brick work on the east side of building is now completed
- We have begun to grade off the first floor of mess hall

October 23, 1914

- The steel work is all erected and completed
- The brick work on west side of head house extension has been washed down
- The reinforced concrete wall on the east side of basement at bowling ally has been put in
- The 12" cinder fill has been put in for floor in mess hall
- The basement in general has been graded except the rifle range

- About 97% of brick work is now done
- Stone work has been commenced on the driveway from drill hall on to Union St
- The concrete wall for driveway from parking space to Union St. is being put in
- The roofer is assembling his gutters here
- We are waiting for the roof boards to board in the roof of drill shed

October 30, 1914

- Outside brick work will be completed today
- Brick work of head house extension all washed down
- Stone work for runway from drill hall to Union St. completed
- Concrete wall for driveway from parking space to Union St. completed
- Roof of drill shed all boarded in
- Slaters have started on the east side of drill shed roof
- Second and third floors are being lathed out
- Gutters put up on east side of drill shed
- The dirt in the rifle range has not yet been removed

November 13, 1914

- Driveway from parking space to Union St. completed
- Rampart from drill hall to Union St. completed
- Edge stone on Union St. reset
- Union St. sidewalk will be completed today
- The slate roof of drill shed will be completed tomorrow
- The windows of drill shed have been set in place
- The plasterer is now putting on the second coat in the Head House extension
- The east side of lot has been graded and loamed
- The parking space has been graded and is now ready for concrete
- The walls of drill shed back of radiators are being painted so that the steamfitter can put up his wall radiators
- Kalamain windows put on 10 windows on east side of drill shed
- All outside staging for new work is now down
- All outside drains in connection with new building have been laid

November 23, 1914

- The drill shed has received the first coat of paint
- The outside windows of drill shed are being painted
- The second and third floors of head house extension have received the final coat of plaster
- Temporary heat is now on in drill shed & head house extension
- The gas arcs have been connected up in drill shed so that the drill shed can be used for drills
- The 500 gal. tank has been erected in boiler room for hot water for the bath

- The walls of the parking space, bowling ally, mess hall, and billiard room have received the cement finish coat
- The ventilator for drill hall roof is being assembled

November 27, 1914

- The addition to drill shed has received its final coat of paint
- The old part of the drill shed is now receiving its second coat of paint
- The new windows are being put in on east & west side of present head house in company rooms
- The terrazzo floors are being put in in toilets & bath rooms on second and third floors
- The plastering of head house extension is finished except the basement and light well
- The ventilator is being put up in addition to drill shed

December 4, 1914

- Painting of drill shed completed
- Painting outside railing and iron fence
- Concrete base down in bowling alleys and billiard room
- Plastering all done except patching
- New windows in company rooms all in
- The army wagons are now in their place down in the parking space
- The top flooring for the drill shed is now on the job
- Will begin to put up finish next week
- The steamfitter is on odds and ends of his work

December 11, 1914

- Shower baths installed in basement
- Drinking fountains installed in drill hall
- Slate partitions up in bath rooms on 2nd & 3rd floors
- Under floor laid in billiard room
- Foundation in for bowling alleys
- First coat of paint on walls and ceilings of Head House extension
- Door frames set in Head House extension
- Interior finish being put up in Head House extension
- Studding is up for the locker rooms of Officers of Companies "B", "G", "K", Naval Brigade and Hospital Corp
- The ventilator for drill shed is about ¾ completed

December 18, 1914

- Finished maple floor laid on third floor of Head House extension
- Finished maple floor laid on one-half of second floor

- Doors being hung and interior trim being put up in Head House extension
- Under floor laid in billiard room, bowling ally and basement corridor
- Painting being done throughout Head House extension

December 24, 1914

- Plastered ceiling in bowling alleys put in
- Water supply turned on to new additions
- Trim on 2nd & 3rd floors completed
- Finished floors on 2nd & 3rd floors completed
- Painting on all floors of Head House extension

January 1, 1915

- Second and third floors of Head House extension completed with the exception of a few odds and ends
- First floor corridor of Head House extension being finished up
- New cement floor laid in basement toilet room
- Louvers being put up at ventilator
- Stairs from drill hall to parking space completed
- Lockers being moved from old head house to new head house

January 15, 1915

- New windows all installed in old Head House on East and West sides
- Fire escape erected on east and west sides of Head House
- New floor laid in drill hall extension
- New floor in mess hall one-half laid
- Water pipes in basement being covered

January 29, 1915

- Light iron work completed
- Grills being erected for store rooms in parking space
- Check room completed
- Floor in drill hall extension completed
- New floor in first floor corridor laid
- Armorer's office completed
- Light well completed
- Counter, rack and trays in mess hall kitchen completed
- Iron fence on east side straighten
- Electric fans in basement installed

February 5, 1915

- Partitions for store rooms in parking space erected
- Terrazo floor in toilet for Colonel laid
- Bowling ally material being carted here
- Lettering on doors begun
- Windows throughout building cleaned
- Have notified Brunswick-Balke-Collender Co. to send their men here to install the bowling alleys

February 19, 1915

- The bowling alleys will be finished up tomorrow
- The electrician is hanging fixtures and will be finished the middle of next week...
- The general contractor has to put up some window shades and will be finished with the exception of a few odds and ends
- The building will be ready to be turned over by the contractors the middle of next week
- Time of expiration of contracts February 22, 1915