

A. Indian Orchard Mills (1846)

34-40 Front Street

Chartered by the state in 1837, this former linen and cordage Mill is still vibrant as an art gallery and workshop to some 46 artists and artisans. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's grandfather, Warren Delano, was an original director of the Indian Orchard Canal Co. at this site. It was here that directors set-up and laid out plans for the Village of Indian Orchard, MA.

B. Indian Orchard Dam and Canal (1846)

34-40 Front Street

This 28-foot high and 275-foot long dam was constructed by Chicopee mason Charles McClallan to provide water power for the Mills and diverted water for the canal that was dug out by immigrants. The 1400-foot long I.O. Canal is the **only** example of a functioning canal in Springfield still providing 21st century hydroelectric power to the area.



C. Wight-Chapman Block

146-52 Main Street

Present day Orchard Variety and tenements located above give a late 19th century taste of Main Street in downtown Indian Orchard.

D. Bengle Block

154-56 Main Street

Another fine example of a combination of commercial and residential tenement blocks from the late 19th century.

E. The "La Riviere" (1908)

162-164 Main Street

This 1908 Classical Revival structure was built by Octave A. LaRiviere, City Councilor and Fire Commissioner. Architect William B. Reid designed this building as well as Myrtle Street School

F. National House (1877)

13 Oak Street

It is the only remaining hostel of four original Indian Orchard hostelrys. In 1877, many Orchard residents boarded here while their homes were built in the village. Today, the National House operates as a boarding house.

G. Indian Orchard Branch Library (1908-09)

44 Oak Street

On land donated by Henry Wight and John Heydt, the Andrew Carnegie Fund financed the construction of Springfield's **oldest** library, in Classical Revival style. It was designed by Springfield architect John Donohue. The mosaic tile floor and leaded glass dome rotunda were constructed by Italian immigrants. (**National Register of Historic Places 1999**)

H. Myrtle Street School (1868)

64 Myrtle Street

Springfield's **oldest** school was constructed in 1868 in the Second Empire Style (Mansard roof/arched window hoods), best seen from Worcester Street. In 1903 and 1914, school additions were completed in Classical Revival style. Springfield Public Schools' first woman principal, Rebecca Sheldon, began her career here. (**National Register of Historic Places 1985**)



Springfield's Milltown

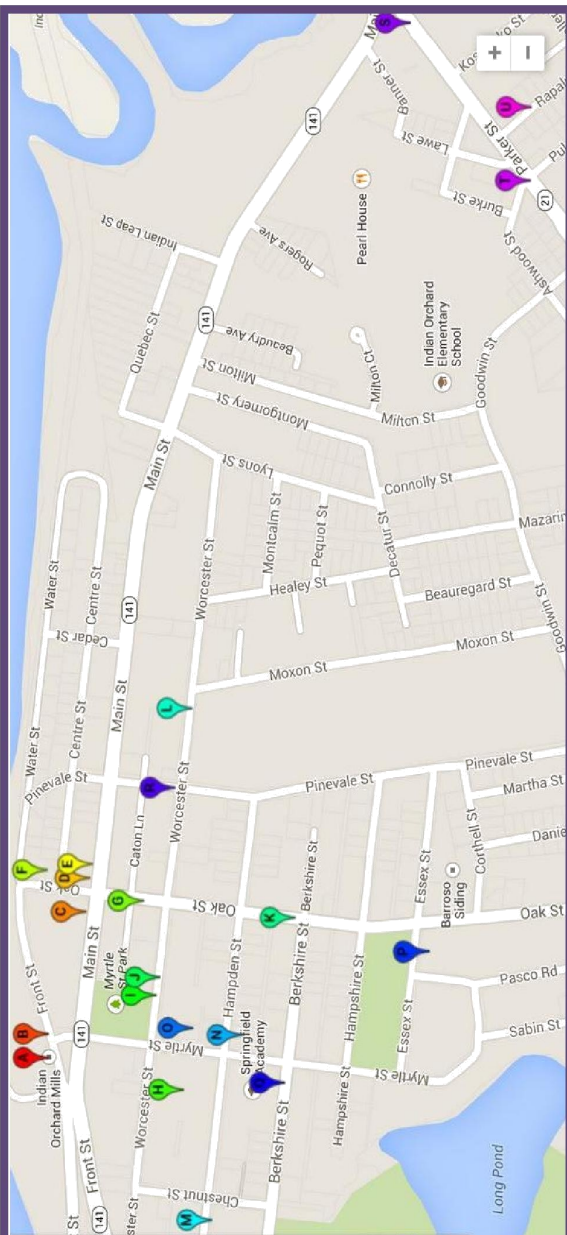
Those who pass through Indian Orchard (I.O.) perhaps wonder the particulars of its origin. Sadly, Native Americans were edged out of this locale as they were in many cities and towns. Cut off from Springfield "Center" in the 1900's, residents soon created their own village. Their visions established a major mill, a dam and canal. Other businesses and industries soon followed. As water was drawn from the Chicopee River, resident Charles McClallan built a dam. Construction of the dam yielded an island, complete with old stumps from the "the Indian's Plum Orchards"; hence the origin of its name. Main Street soon sprouted schools, homes, churches, a library, four hotels, a post office, planned streets and parks, a fresh water system and its own horse-drawn railroad. The natural mineral water attracted many as Indian Orchard evolved into a healthful spot to live or vacation. Residents, arriving from many countries across the Atlantic, gave of their talents. These talents strengthened the community. The 1892 electrification of the Springfield trolley line allowed residents to travel more easily to the Springfield Center to work and shop. A 1984 Springfield Planning Department survey recommended nineteen I.O. sites for inclusion in the "**National Registry of Historic Places**", of which two were given the designation. An additional two received "**Historic to Neighborhood**" designations. Six of the listed sites were demolished over the next 30 years. So take that short walk or drive and discover just a small part of a great village where many still choose to live, work or visit. Come see Springfield's only working canal, its earliest firehouse, earliest library and its oldest schoolhouse.

*Authored by Indian Orchard resident Gerry O'Brien
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Citizens Council*

A Guide to: Indian Orchard Heritage Sites



**A self-guided
driving or
walking tour
to 21 local
landmarks**



I. Indian Orchard Mills Company Hall
1184-86 Worcester Street

This is the **earliest** public building owned by the Mills. This wood framed structure was moved from the corner of Main and Myrtle Streets over 100 years ago and is now used for residential housing.

J. Firehouse No. 5 (1861)
1189 Worcester Street

The “Champion Fire Company” of the Springfield Fire Department was renamed Hose No.5 - having a horse drawn engine, a hose carriage, and 500 feet of hose. It was converted to Police Station No. 2 in 1897 when a new firehouse was built on Oak Street. Presently, it is a two story brick residential and remains Springfield’s **earliest** remaining firehouse.



K. Indian Orchard Fire Station No. 2 (1897)
97 Oak Street

Built in 1897 when Hose No. 5 house became too small. This 5-story tower sat atop Oak Street and had horse drawn fire engines. It was expanded in 1906 and served the community until the late 1960’s when the present Odessa Street station was constructed.

L. Saint Aloysius School (1895)
1323 Worcester Street

The **first** parochial school provided bilingual education and spiritual growth for French children. Four Sisters of the Assumption from Nicolet, Quebec arrived here to teach in 1895.

M. Indian Orchard Mills Tenement Block
40-50 Hampden Street

One of two remaining brick tenement blocks for Mill workers exhibits a flat roof with a wide overhang and brick corbel table.



N. Overseers Row

111-139 Hampden Street

These eight homes on the southern side of the street are Springfield’s **best** grouping of mid-nineteenth century cottages.

O. Rev. F.A. Barton House (1847)

65-67 Myrtle Street

This **oldest** standing home was originally built on Hampden Street then moved to Myrtle Street. Rev. Barton, a Mills engineer, was the **first** minister of the Congregational Church. **(Historic to Neighborhood)**

P. Chapman Valve Manufacturing Co. Agent’s House (1887)

140 Oak Street

This Chateausque home was built for the president of Chapman Valve Company. The original slate roof house has a carriage house and a cement pillar arbor in the garden.

Q. First Congregational Church of I.O. (1863)

91 Berkshire Street

Rev. Barton and 15 “Yankee” residents organized the church congregation on March 23, 1848. In 1863, the nineteenth-century wood frame church was erected.

R. St. Matthew Church (1864)
51 Pinevale Street

Fr. John D. Brady, **first** resident priest in WMass, and Irish immigrants pledged their money to build the **first** Catholic church in the present Diocese of Springfield. The Gothic Style church, designed by architect Patrick Charles Keely, is presently a Turkish-American mosque. **(Historic to Diocese and Neighborhood)**

S. Immaculate Conception Church (1904)

11 Parker Street

This Tudor Revival style church was built by Polish immigrants in 1904. **(Historic to Springfield District 2011)**



T. Pulaski Hall (1914)

91 Parker Street

This meeting hall, for local groups, was designed by Springfield architect Bruno Wozny in 1914.

U. Polish Home (1914)

28-30 Rapalus Avenue

This home is more architecturally elegant of the two local buildings designed by architect Bruno Wozny.

