



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

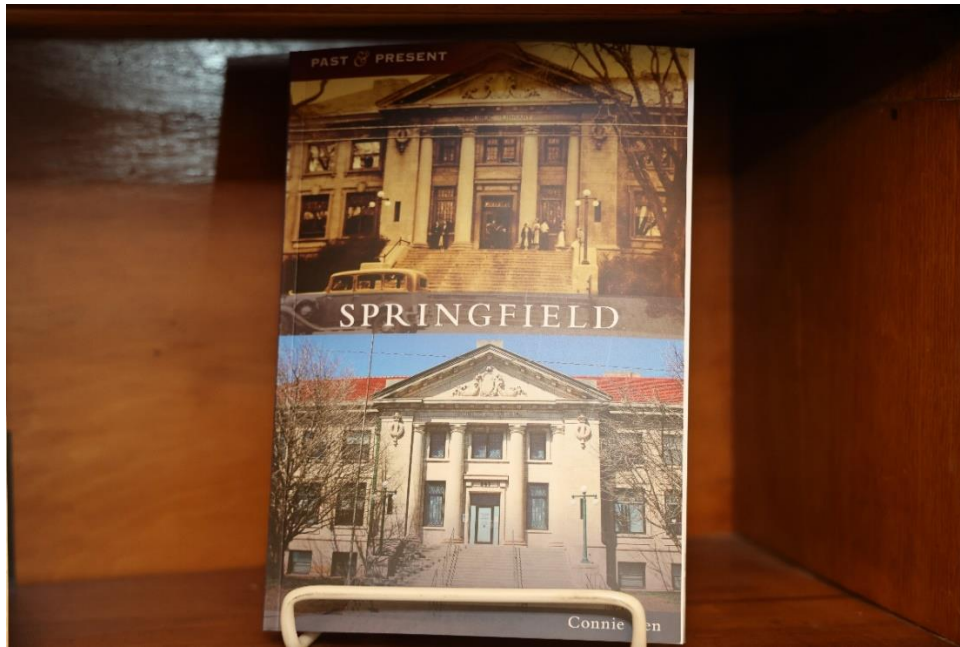
Dec. 14, 2022

Greene County Archives Director authors book on Springfield building history



SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Archives Coordinator, Connie Yen, published a new book on Oct. 31, 2022, covering the history of Springfield’s oldest and iconic architecture.

Titled, ‘Springfield: Past & Present’, shows the oldest known photo of a building at an address and what stands there now. The book’s cover page shows the historic midtown Carnegie Library on E. Central Street.



Some of the original structures still remain, some are now new buildings, and some are even parking lots.

The book features over 90 buildings in Springfield, mostly in the downtown area or on historic Commercial Street.

The oldest photo, shown below, displays what the downtown square was like post-Civil War. The estimated date is between 1865 and 1870.



The old Frisco Building on the northeast corner of Jefferson Ave. and Olive St., shown in the picture below, is where the original Springfield High School was located before moving to its current location on E. Central Street.



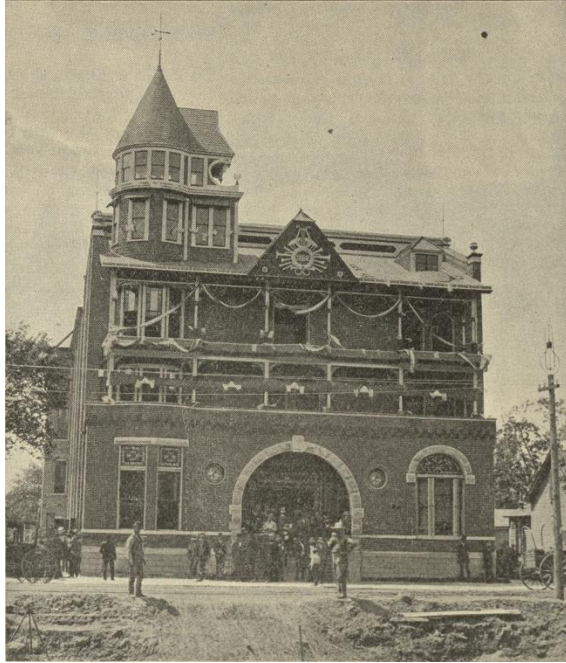
City Drug, a hotel, and opera house all stood on Boonville Ave. where several City of Springfield buildings and parking lots now stand.



City Drug



a Springfield hotel



a Springfield opera house

Soon to be in the history books is the Vecino Group's affordable housing apartment complex and small incubator named Sankofa on W. Commercial Street, which the Greene County Commission awarded \$4.5 million in federal ARPA funds to the project.

The area is currently a gravel parking lot across the street diagonally from Lindberg's Tavern, but it's the same location where the Studebaker building once stood. See the picture below.



Yen says her book is a research tool for readers who like local history. She recommends starting with buildings around the public square and historic Commercial Street.

“It’s a tourist draw. People love Commercial Street. Anytime I go to a city, I want to see the old city, the historical areas,” said Yen.

Photos in the 96-page book are from the Springfield Library Center and Greene County Archives, and their information was researched by using old newspapers and city directories.

Yen has a master’s degree in history from Missouri State University, and researched vigilantes in the Ozarks, including the Regulators from Greene County and the Sons of Honor in Stone County.

Preservation is the central message Yen wants readers to take away. “We need to care about old buildings before it’s too late. With the timing of the Galloway Village and University Heights development battles, we can’t wait until it’s too late,” said Yen. “Progress is inevitable, we have to have parking lots, but we don’t have to destroy everything along the way.”

Yen has been the director of the Greene County Archives since 2016. She’s previously written *Springfield: A Postcard History* and *Sinner and Savior: Emma Molloy and the Graham murder*. Future topics include a book about forgotten women of the Ozarks and WWI soldiers of Greene County. Readers can buy her latest architecture book at Barnes & Noble or at Pagination Bookshop in Springfield.

###

Greene County is the State of Missouri’s fourth most populous county, serving approximately 295,000 people. Its mission is to provide all citizens of Greene County, including those in its cities, a safe and thriving community through excellent customer service, unparalleled dedication, and the efficient use of taxpayer dollars. The Greene County Commission is the executive body of Greene County operating under guidelines established in the Revised Statutes of the State of Missouri. Within that authority the Commission enacts ordinances, resolutions and policies, supervises the activities of county departments, fixes salaries, adopts the annual budget, provides for construction and other services, and conducts hearings on planning and zoning matters.

For additional information, contact Robert Jehle, Public Information Officer, at 417-844-4311 or rjehle@greencountymo.gov.