

# MGM Springfield completes demolition and facade preservation of United Electric Light building on State Street (photos)



By **The Republican Photo Desk**  
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SPRINGFIELD - Site preparations for the \$950 million **MGM Springfield** casino are ongoing, although a significant milestone has been reached.

This week, construction crews demolished the entire former United Electric Light Co. building at 73 State St. minus the front facade, which will be incorporated into the entertainment complex's design.

MGM Springfield has taken care to preserve the front facade of the building it purchased in January 2015. Interior gutting began in May and braces were put in place to line and support the front wall.

The property at 73 State St. is slated for local and national food and beverage vendors, according to MGM Springfield. The building was designed in the Beaux Arts style by Thomas M. James, a Boston architect who designed many eastern Massachusetts structures, including the Shubert Theatre.

The building cost \$230,000 to build in 1910-11, or about \$5.3 million adjusted for inflation.

The building's previous owners, Century Investment Co., celebrated the 100th anniversary of 73 State St. with a reception in 2011, marking a century since construction was completed.

It was sold in 2015 to MGM Springfield for \$6.025 million.



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MGM Springfield President Mike Mathis, during a recent meeting with the Armoury Quadrangle Civic Association, said the casino project is on scheduled for opening in September of 2018.

Recent site work has included the **relocation of the historic First Spiritualist Church** a distance of 600 feet to a new Union Street foundation. The specific use of the church has not been finalized, but might include weddings, Mathis said.



### MGM Springfield has spent over \$31.9 million on construction and design

In addition, MGM Resorts International **recently announced** that it has hired Tishman Construction, based in New York with offices in Boston, in partnership with Springfield-based Fontaine Bros. Inc., for construction of a seven-level, 3,400-space parking garage at Union Street and East Columbus Avenue.

The public will start seeing that structure rise later this year, Mathis said.



### Photos: MGM Springfield demolishes rear of old state armory to make way for \$950M casino

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