

# Campus Center at Springfield Technical Community College



This project makes the preservation of our national history and architectural and engineering heritage a part of this broad and diverse College community's everyday life, and it visibly demonstrates to students, faculty, staff, and visitors how creative and thoughtful preservation can support development, innovation, and sustainability.

The story of this site begins with its use as an arsenal and military workshop site dating back to the Revolutionary War. Congress established a National Armory in 1794, and Springfield soon became the nation's first armory site, expanding into a significant armory complex during the 19th Century.

At the center of this historic site was Building 19, or the Long Storehouse, a 764' long structure that was constructed in phases, beginning in the Mexican-American War in 1846, expanded for the Civil War, and finishing construction in 1864.

After the Armory closed in 1968, Springfield Technical Community College inherited the site and buildings. The purpose of this adaptive re-use project was to use a never-before occupied historic building at the center of campus and National Historic Landmark site to fulfill the College's most urgent needs for student space and for accessible student services. The new Campus Center project transforms the Long Storehouse into a welcoming and lively hub for prospective, incoming, and current students and the entire college.

The character of the building is defined by its remarkable scale and dimensions, the repetitive pattern of windows and openings on the long facades, simple yet elegant brickwork on the exterior and exposed in the interior, and the exposed timber structure throughout the inside of the building. Largely a background building on the campus, it was the last remaining building on the former armory site to retain its original use, serving as a warehouse for more than 170 years.

The project preserves the building's historic character while introducing contemporary and complementary building systems and interventions. The ventilating louver systems at the ground level are replaced with new aluminum, thermally broken window systems with a dark brown frames, a fan light, and horizontal sun-control louvers that relate to the original wooden louver systems and colors. The segmented arched windows at the upper level are also replaced with thermally broken windows, and the original roof is carefully insulated to create a new high-performing building envelope.

This project demonstrates how preservation and adaptive re-use can support sustainability. One of the most sustainable strategies in the project is the preservation and repurposing of this historic building which reduces the energy and resource-intensive manufacturing of new materials. Enhanced building performance, optimized daylighting and 100% LED lighting, and high efficiency building systems together result in an energy use reduction of 28%.

Often seen as an impediment to development or innovation, historic preservation is embraced in this project to meet an essential need for student space at the Community College, and to re-imagine an extraordinary historic building. The Campus Center project makes this landmark building the new heart of the campus, to be used daily by the College and the greater community.