

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH005 8165

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAR 6 1975
DATE ENTERED APR 21 1975

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

City Hall Historic District

2 LOCATION includes sections of Cardinal O'Connell and Lucy Larcom Parkways, STREET & NUMBER Arcand Drive, and Dummer, Worthen, Dutton, Shattuck, Kirk, Paige, Lee, Merrimack, Middle, Market, and French Streets.

CITY, TOWN

Lowell

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5th

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE
025

COUNTY
Middlesex

CODE
017

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Multiple

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Northern Middlesex County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Gorham Street

CITY, TOWN

Lowell

STATE
Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1973

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE
Massachusetts

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#6 — Historic Districts Study Committee, 1973, deposited with
Lowell Historical Commission, J.F.K. Civic Center, Arcand Drive,
Lowell, Massachusetts

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The City Hall Historic District contains 71 structures, including 20 which are architecturally significant, 30 which, although they are not very significant in themselves, complement the district as a whole, and 21 which detract from the district. 20 of the buildings in the area are modern, including 5 which are compatible with the area and 15 which intrude in the district. The 71 buildings are at present used for commercial, residential, governmental, educational, industrial, religious, entertainment and park purposes.

In the numerical order shown on the attached sketch map, the first architecturally significant building is the Commercial/Residential building (#9) at 163-169 Worthen Street. This 3 story Italianate brick building (c.1875) has a bracketed cornice, brick stringcourses, arched lintels, and cast iron columns across the ground floor facade. The Worthen Street Methodist-Episcopal Church, also significant architecturally, (#11) is a large clapboard Greek Revival church, gable end to the street, with wooden pilasters at each corner. Constructed in 1842, the building is now used as a Girl's Club. The double-frame house (#12) next door is also a Greek Revival (c.1840) structure, 2½ stories high with clapboards. The Worthen Street Baptist Church (#13) across the street is a brick Romanesque Revival church, built in 1890. It has granite stringcourses and lintels, arched windows, and some elaborate brickwork and sandstone carving, but was gutted by fire in 1972. It is out of scale with the other residential buildings on Worthen Street, but is still a fine structure. The Whistler House (#16) is an 1823 Federal style 2½ story clapboard residence with a granite foundation. The bracketed porch hood was added later, and the house fits in well with the neighborhood.

On Dutton Street, the district includes the York Club (#20), a large 3 story brick Italianate structure built c. 1825. The building has a flat roof, an elaborate bracketed cornice and an arched lintel over each window.

The Old Lowell Gas Light Company Office (#30) is another important building in the district. The most significant building on Shattuck Street, it is a 2½ story brick commercial building, with tall first floor windows topped by arched lintels and oversized keystones. The arched lintels and keystones are repeated in the second floor windows and in the hood dormers, and the cornice is supported by a Romanesque corbel table.

St. Anne's Rectory (#33) on Kirk Street, an asset to the area, is a 2½ story Greek Revival residence built from stone taken from the Merrimack Canal excavations in 1825. Two doric columns support a porch with full entablature. The Linus Childs House (#43) farther down Kirk Street is a 2½ story brick Greek Revival row house, with two fine restrained classical entrances and dormer windows on one-half of the building.

Lee Street Church (#46) is a simple stone and brick Gothic Revival building, constructed in 1850, backing onto the Bon Marche (#47) which is a large 5 story white painted brick commercial structure in the high Victorian/Italianate style (c.1831-1870). Actually two buildings, the high arched windows, pilasters and a heavy cornice tie the whole composition together. The Wells Block (#48) next door to the Bon Marche,

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is a simple, handsome 4-story brick commercial building, extending around the corner of Merrimack and Kirk Streets. The window treatments are simple, the cornice restrained and the roof curves to follow the line of the facade. The Old City Hall (#49), farther along Merrimack Street, was built in 1830 as Lowell's first Town Hall. Designed by Kirk Boott, this brick building has been altered to suit its changing functions. In the 1890's a third floor was added to accommodate commercial uses and various decorative pediments and panels were applied to the facades.

St. Anne's Episcopal Church (#50), across the street from the Old City Hall, was built in 1824-25 of stone in the Gothic Revival style. The pointed arches and crenellated tower make it a good early example of this style. The Wentworth Block (#51) next to the Old City Hall is a good example of the type of commercial structures in the district. Built in the 1840's, this plain brick building has a fourth floor mansard roof, added late in the century.

Across the street from the Wentworth Block is the Merrimack Canal Gate House, a one story brick structure which houses the water ducts that allow water to flow under Moody Street and connect the Western and Merrimack Canals. The windows on the long facade are arched; an elaborate brick cornice supports the shingle roof.

The focal point of the district is the Lowell City Hall and nearby Memorial Hall on Merrimack Street. Lowell City Hall (#57) is a large rusticated granite Richardsonian Romanesque building, constructed in 1893. Romanesque arches, dormer windows, carved granite decoration, bowed windows and steep shingled roof, set off by a tower 180 feet high, make this a striking building. Memorial Hall (#59), built the same year as the City Hall, is also a monumental Richardsonian Romanesque granite building. The massive roof, bays, arches and dormers of Memorial Hall echo the features of the City Hall.

Other structures which are important to the district but which are not significant enough by themselves to describe individually include 14 commercial buildings, 1 restaurant, 11 residential structures, 1 school and 3 clubs. The commercial and residential structures are the backbone of the district, typifying the style, mass, and function of buildings in one of the important industrial towns of 19th century America. Most of these buildings are less important examples of the building styles which are architecturally significant in the district.

21 of the buildings in the district are incompatible with the rest of the buildings in the district. These include six 19th century buildings (#23, 35, 38, 39, 52, 64) which have been greatly altered or are out of scale with the other structures, and 15 modern buildings which are of incompatible design or mass.

Many of the buildings in the district need restoration and regular maintenance, but the buildings in general exhibit a notable cohesiveness. Hopefully the area can be revitalized and restored to the prosperous condition the town once knew.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The City Hall District, containing examples of all eras of the city's development, is the commercial and governmental center of the city considered among the leaders of the mid-19th century Industrial Revolution in the United States. At the time of the founding of the mill community, a social, economical and political structure based upon the factory system and corporation housing, the City Hall District was the center of city development. In essence the majority of the buildings were built during the early and most important years of Lowell's history and are examples of early commercial, governmental, residential, educational and religious structures. Lowell prospered with its mills and the workers depended upon the district for their needs other than those for which the mill owners were responsible. The district is made up of two elements: those buildings directly responsible to the mills such as housing, and those dependent upon the mills such as the governmental, commercial and religious structures.

Town Hall (#49) was the first local governmental structure. Built in 1830 and later altered, it was designed by Kirk Boott, one of the city's founders. The land it is upon was purchased from the Locks and Canals Corporation for the expressed purpose of building a governmental structure. In 1893 its political purpose ended with the completion of Lowell City Hall (#57). Prior to construction, an international architectural competition was held in order to obtain the best possible design for the building. Designed by Merrill and Cutler, the building is constructed of Conway granite and decorated with a tower 180 feet high. The total construction cost was \$350,000. In 1971 an addition to City Hall was completed with the construction of the J.F.K. Civic Center (#26).

3/29/77
NESBITT

Commercial structures vary in dates from the mid-1820's to the present. One of the earliest, the Bank Block (#56) served as both a commercial and residential structure and dates back to 1826. (In 1840, the Old Worthen Tavern (#6) was added to the area and has remained unchanged for 135 years.) A few years later the Lowell Institution for Savings (#28) was built, served as the area's first savings bank, and remains so presently. When gas lighting became popular, the Old Lowell Gas Light Company Offices (#30) came into existence. About the same time the J.C. Ayer building (#61) was built. Probably the largest commercial structure was the oldest section of the Bon Marche building (#47) constructed in the 1830's. Two other commercial blocks were built in the 1840's similar to each other and to building #30. These are the Wells Block (#48) and the Wentworth Block (#51). Around 1850 the Kimball Sign Company building was constructed (#62). In the late 1870's and throughout the 1880's began a commercial and residential brick building boom in Lowell. Some of these structures include the Gates Block (#8) 1881, the Mack Building (#31) 1886, the Mathias Hart Building (#29) in the late nineteenth century, and the Mitchell Block (#35) in the 1880's.

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3/21/75
NESB

Lowell's oldest church, St. Anne's Episcopal (#50) was built in 1824-1825 by the Merrimack Manufacturing Company to provide religious services for the mill operatives. The structure was designed by Kirk Boott in the Gothic style ~~similar to his home parish in Derby, England~~ and named after his wife. The rectory (#33) was built in 1825 of stone from the Merrimack Canal excavations. Another mill workers' church was the Worthen Street Methodist Episcopal (#11) constructed in 1842. The Lee Street Church (#46) was built in 1850 to serve Kirk, Lee and Paige Street residents along with those from Anne Street (now Lucy Larcom Parkway). The Worthen Street Baptist Church (#13) was constructed in 1888-1889 on the site of the first Baptist Church built in 1838 and destroyed by fire in 1887. In the twentieth century the Greek community obtained the building and renamed it St. George's Orthodox Church; it served as the districts' community Greek church, along with Holy Trinity, until being gutted by fire in 1972.

3/21/75
NESB

Many buildings in the district are directly related to the mills as either private or boarding type residences for mill owners, agents and workers. The most famous residence in Lowell is the Whistler or Moody House (#16) on Worthen Street. Built in 1823 from designs by Kirk Boott, the home was originally that of Paul Moody, the agent for the Locks and Canals Machine Shop. Major George Whistler followed Moody as the agent and it was here that his son, James Abbott McNeil Whistler, the internationally known artist, was born. Around 1863 the Merrimack Manufacturing Company built a brick structure used as an ~~agents~~ ^{AGENTS} house for visiting dignitaries and stockholders. Now the Yorick Club (#20), it is the last remaining residential structure of the first manufacturing company of Lowell, and is an example of the exclusive type of residence local mill owners used to illustrate their success. At 19 Paige Street is a brick rooming house (#44) built in the 1830's that is typical of the housing often used for mill workers. Another example of such housing, also built in the 1830's is the rooming house (#19) on Worthen Street. Three examples of the 1840's are buildings #40, #41, and #42 on Kirk Street still used as residences. The Linus Child House (#43) is a typical mill agents' residence of the 1840's constructed for agents of the Boott and Massachusetts Companies.

A different type of workers' house is the double frame house (#12) on Worthen Street. This 1840 building is an outstanding example of the wooden houses used by the mill workers in the 1840's and 1850's. It is representative of the housing that once lined Worthen Street and other streets in the district, especially on Anne Street. Later residences, typified by structure #3 (on Cardinal O'Connell Parkway) are four or five story tenements usually occupied by semi-skilled or unskilled laborers.

Another structure somewhat related to the mills but more directly to the canal system is the gate house (#53). Built in 1848, it has been acclaimed as being a perfectly proportioned building. It was constructed to control the flow of water through

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the Moody Street feeder (underground), to the Merrimack Canal to provide additional power to the Merrimack Manufacturing Company. At present, it remains as it was in 1848,

Three educational buildings in the district are significant. The Green School (#60) built in 1890 replaced the original school built for the operatives of the manufacturing companies. The 1880 structure was the elementary school for the middle class in the Moody-Worthen-Anne-Kirk Street area. Frederick V. Stickney designed the other two buildings. In 1892, constructed of yellow brick, the high school (#38) opened upon the original site of the first co-educational high school in the United States. Stickney's greatest achievement was Memorial Hall (#59) completed in 1893. Designed and constructed in the Richardsonian Romanesque style, it is compatible with the City Hall (#57) as both are of the same material, but offers some contrast in window and elaboration design. Costing \$175,000, it honors Lowell soldiers and sailors who served in the Civil War.

The City Hall District is rich in its buildings that represent city development since 1823. However, its main importance is that it is a total community within a seventy-one building district and represents city planning, experimentation, and the model of the way of life in one of the most important nineteenth century cities in the United States.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Courier-Citizen Co., Illustrated History of Lowell, Lowell, 1897
2. Coolidge, John, Mill and Mansion: A Study of Architecture and Society in Lowell, Mass. 1820-1865. N.Y. Columbia University Press, 1942
3. Kenngott, George F., Record of a City: A Social Survey of Lowell, Mass. N.Y.: the MacMillan Co., 1912

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 27 acres

UTM REFERENCES

UTM OK CD
REVERSE CD

A	1,9	31,056,0	4,712,411,6,0	B	1,9	31,086,0	4,712,399,9
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
c	1,9	31,099,4,0	4,712,399,4,0	D	1,9	31,013,0	4,712,358,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

see sketch map for legal boundaries

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Christine Boulding, Assistant Survey Director and Bob Malavich, Lowell

ORGANIZATION

Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

Development Authority

February 24, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

40 Beacon Street.

TELEPHONE

617-727-8470

CITY OR TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts 02108

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Elizabeth R. Amador

TITLE Mass. State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE *Mar. 3, 1975*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

A.P. Martenson

DATE *4/21/75*

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *Charles Adams*

DATE *4.18.75*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Adams

- + - architecturally significant
- 0 - significant to district
- - detriment to district

CORRECTED AS PER TELEPHONE
 CONVERSATION W/ J. ORFANT NATIONAL
 REGISTER EDITOR 5/29/77
 G.R. NESBITT

Buildings in the District

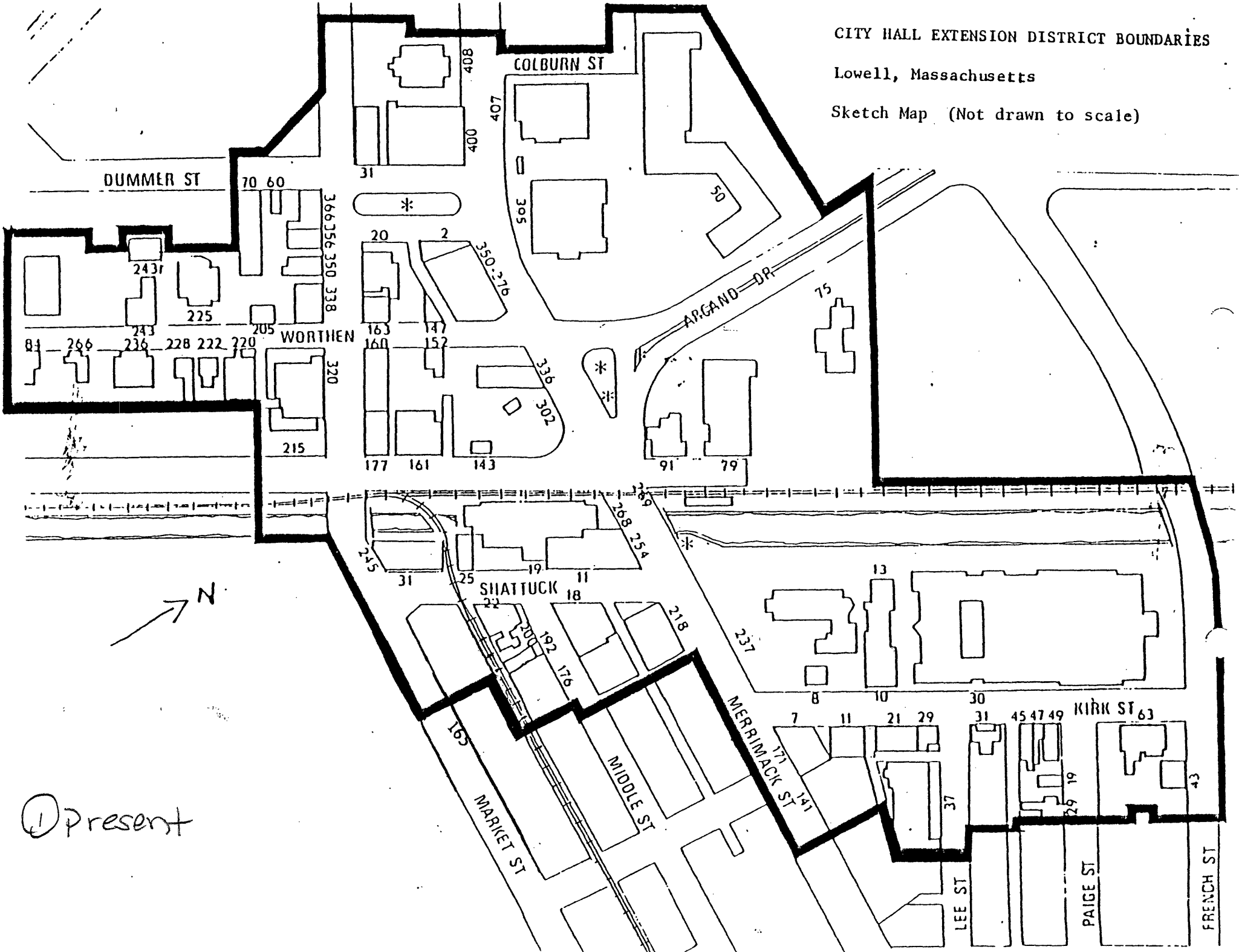
Significance	Bldg. No.	Date	Name	Street No.	Street
0	1	1915-1850	Bank Block Addition	2-10	Cardinal O'Connell Pkwy.
0	2	1880	Glavis Market	20-28	Cardinal O'Connell Pkwy.
0	3	1875	Residential/Commercial	31-33	Cardinal O'Connell Pkwy.
-	4	mod	Marie's Oyster House	60-64	Dummer Street
-	5	mod	Dummer Street Garage	70	Dummer Street
0	6	1852 ^{1st floor} 1879 ^{2nd floor}	The Old Worthen	141-147	Worthen St.
-	7	mod	Povey's Auto Service and Supply	152	Worthen St.
0	8	1881	Gates Block	160	Worthen Street
+	9	1870-80	Commercial/Residential	163-169	Worthen St.
0	10	1850	Rooming House	205	Worthen St.
+	11	1842	Worthen Street Methodist- Episcopal Church NO LONGER EXISTANT	220	Worthen St.
+	12	1840	Double Frame House	222-224	Worthen Street
+	13	1890	Worthen St. Baptist Church	225	Worthen St.
0	14	1850	Residence	228	Worthen St.
-	15	mod	Massachusetts Electric Company Power Station	236	Worthen St.
+	16	1823	Whistler House	243	Worthen St.
-	17	mod 1950	Parker Gallery	243 (rear)	Worthen St.
0	18	1850	Greek Youth Club	266	Worthen St.
0	19	1830's	Brick Rooming House	284-286	Worthen St.
+	20	C. 1865-1825	Yorick Club	31	Dutton St.
+	21	1825 1920's	Masonic Temple REMOVED	79	Dutton St. - GILBERT & DAVIS
-	22	mod	Club Ciner	143	Dutton St.
-	23	1823 1880's	Former Knights of Columbus ^{REMODELED 1920's}	161-175	Dutton St.
-	24	mod	Merrimack Rug and Linoleum Company	177-183	Dutton St.
0	25	mod	Haffner's Gas Station	215	Dutton St.
0	26	mod	John F. Kennedy Civic Center	50	Arcand Drive
0	27	mod	Professional Park	75	Arcand Drive
0	28	1844	Lowell Institution for Savings	18	Shattuck St.
0	29	1860-80	Mathias Hart	11-13	Shattuck St.
+	30	1860	Old Lowell Gas Light Company Offices	22-26	Shattuck St.
0	31	1886	The Mack Building	25	Shattuck St.
0	32	1830	St. Anne's Sexton's Quarters	13	Lucy Larcom Pkwy.
+	33	1825	St. Anne's Rectory	8	Kirk Street
0	34	c. 1950	St. Anne's Parish Hall	10	Kirk Street
-	35	1880	Mitchell Block	11-17	Kirk Street
-	36	mod Ma	Bon Marche Addition	21-27	Kirk Street
0	37	1840	Rooming House	29	Kirk Street
-	38	1892/1922	Lowell High School	30	Kirk Street F. STICKNEY/area
-	39	1880's	AHEPA	31	Kirk Street E.A. ABBOTT
0	40	1840's	Corporation House	45	Kirk Street

Significance	Bldg. No.	Date	Name	Street No.	Street
0	41	1840's	Rooming House	47	Kirk Street
0	42	1840's	Corporation Housing	49	Kirk Street
+	43	1840's	The Linus Child House	63-67	Kirk St.
0	44	1840's	Rooming House ^{1861 REMODELING}	19	Paige St.
0	45	1840's	Corporation Housing ^{PRIVATE DOUBLE}	29-31	Paige St.
+	46	1850	Lee Street Church	37-39	Lee St.
+	47	1841/70	Bon Marche	37-39	Merrimack St.
+	48	1840's	Wells Block	171-179	Merrimack St.
+	49	1844	Old City Hall	218-236	Merrimack St. - K. BOOTT
+	50	1829	St. Anne's Episcopal Church	237	Merrimack St. - " "
+	51	1840's	Wentworth Block	254-262	Merrimack St.
-	52	1912 1890	YMCA	268-272	Merrimack Street
+	53	1848	Merrimack Canal Gate House		Corner of Merrimack and Dutton Streets
-	54	mod.	Merit Gas	302	Merrimack St.
-	55	mod.	Goodyear Tire Co.	336	Merrimack St.
0	56	1826	Bank Block	350-376	Merrimack Street
+	57	1893	Lowell City Hall	395	Merrimack Street
+	58	1884	First Congregational Church	400	Merrimack St. = ^{MERRILL} _{CUTLER}
+	59	1893	City Library/Memorial Hall	407-415	Merrimack St. F. SICKNEY
0	60	1880	Green School	408	Merrimack St.
0	61	1860	J.C. Ayer Building	176-190	Middle St. - FLOYD
0	62	1850	Kimball Sign Company	192-194	Middle St.
0	63	mod.	Residence	200	Middle St.
-	64	1911 ^{mod.} c.	Lowell Medical Instrument Company	245-249	Market St.
-	65	1950	Lowell Council on Aging	32-	Market St.
0	66	1840	Residential/Commercial	338-344	Market St.
-	67	mod.	Parkway Lounge	350-352	Market St.
+	68	c.1850	Residential/Commercial	338-344	Market St.
-	69	mod.	Independent Cash Market	366-374	Market Street
-	70	mod.	Hellenic American School of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church	41-61	Broadway St.
-	71	mod.	Lowell High School Power House	43	French St.

CITY HALL EXTENSION DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

Lowell, Massachusetts

Sketch Map (Not drawn to scale)



(1) present

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CONTINUATION SHEET City Hall District ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

Old City Hall

Built in 1829-30 from plans by the Boston architect Isaiah Rogers¹, Lowell's Old City Hall is situated at the northeast corner of Merrimack and Shattuck Streets. It is three-and-one-half stories tall and is of a rectangular plan. Its northern and western walls are formally finished in red pressed brick laid in stretcher bond. The bricks of the eastern and southern walls are laid in common bond. A "date stone" of pressed sheet metal in the center of the Merrimack facade proclaims "Old City Hall Building 1830-1896." The ridge roof is covered in slate shingles. Visible atop the roof are the lower portions of paired chimneys.

During the 1896 renovation, the Merrimack facade's upper floor gained narrow windows at each end and flanking the central window, and a pediment-like central gable set with an ornate fan light.

Notable interior features date primarily from 1896 and include pressed metal ceilings, varnished trim, hardwood flooring, and plaster walls.

The mix of structural systems and periodic alterations have caused deflections in floor framing and brick walls.

Although its northern and western walls were adorned in 1896 with a plethora of Georgian Revival panels and pediments, the building's Greek Revival origins are still evident in its massing. Originally Old City Hall (then called the Town House) had granite piers and the lintels on the ground floor. Presently the store fronts have large display windows enframed with enameled metal panels. A few elements of late nineteenth-century cast iron store fronts are still visible beneath the current treatment. A one-story addition was added to the southern facade in 1896. A similar addition projecting from the western facade post dates 1896.

¹Penelope Batcheler, Historical Structures Report, Architectural Data, Old City Hall Lowell National Historical Park, Lowell, Massachusetts, prepared for Denver Service Center, National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior, Denver, Colorado, 1979, p.16.

The Agents' House Bldg. #43

Built 1845-46, the Agents' House at the northeastern corner of Kirk and Paige Streets is a brick block approximately 91' x 38'. Each half of this Greek Revival double house has two stories plus garret and basement. To the rear of each half is a rectangular two-story-plus-basement brick tower approximately 7' by 27'. To the rear of the southern brick tower is a late-nineteenth-century two-story-plus-basement wood frame addition approximately 31' x 26'.

The Agents' House is set on a high granite basement. The main (Kirk Street) facade's fenestration is highly symmetrical. Sills, lintels, and trabeated doorways are composed of brownstone. The cornice, with its unornamented, projecting frieze

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and brick dentils adds a decorative touch to an otherwise severe building. This building culminates in parapet-linked double chimneys at the end walls and at the center of the roof.

The exterior has been altered by the disappearance of dormer windows and slate shingles from the northern portion of the roof.¹ The exterior brick work is in fair condition. The brownstone trim has greatly deteriorated.

Post 1920 nonresidential needs resulted in extensive interior alterations. Originally two rooms, rather than a single large room, flanked the central halls on the first and second floors. Third floor partitions are in place on the southern half only; the northern half has been gutted by fire.² The most significant change to the original interior design occurred when the party wall was broken through on three of the four levels.

The southern unit has the most nineteenth-century interior detail, e.g., white and black marble fireplaces, shutters, and ceiling medallions ornamented with plaster acanthus leaves.

A boiler plant adjacent stack was built on the eastern portion of the original site around 1922.

¹ John Robbins, Boott Cotton Mills and Massachusetts Cotton Mills Agents' Houses 67 and 63 Kirk Street, Lowell National Historical Park, Lowell, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, prepared for the Denver Service Center, National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior, Denver, Colorado, October, 1979. n.p.

² *ibid.* n.p. The fire occurred after 1931.

³ (Draft) Archeological Resource Study, Lowell National Historical Park, N.P.S., 1979, p. 80

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Old City Hall

Though much changed in 150 years, Old City Hall is a major landmark in Lowell and provides a significant contrast to the "new" City Hall of 1893, just two blocks away. The sharp differences between the two in size, scale, siting, materials, decoration and style speaks eloquently of the growth of Lowell in its first century. Much altered over the years, the various phases of this government/commercial building's stylistic and structural evolution are easily "read" from an examination of its current exterior appearance. The original facade of the structure was the first in Lowell to show, however simply, the growing influence of Greek Revivalism¹.

Isaiah Rogers, architect of America's first "modern hotel," Boston's Tremont House (1830), provided the plans for the Old City Hall². Kirk Boott, the colorful agent of the Merrimack Manufacturing Company, played an important role in the selection of this building's site³. Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, Edgar Allan Poe, John Quincy Adams, and Abraham Lincoln delivered speeches in this building's Town Meeting Hall⁴.

The Old City Hall is significant as the birthplace of Lowell's patent medicine industry. The nationally known Father John's Medicine was initially produced (1855) in Carlton and Hovey's Drug Store which occupied the northwestern corner of this building from 1830 - 1848 and 1854 - 1913⁵.

¹Robert Weible, Old City Hall, Lowell, Massachusetts, and Its Surrounding Properties, p.4.

²Penelope H. Batcheler, Historical Structures Report, Architectural Data Old City Hall, Lowell National Historical Park, Lowell, Massachusetts, prepared for Denver Service Center, National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior, 1977 p. 16.

³Robert Weible, Old City Hall, Lowell, Massachusetts, and Its Surrounding Properties, p.3.

⁴ibid. p. 6.

⁵Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson and Abbott, Lowell National Historical Park and Preservation District Cultural Resource Inventory. Lee Street through Merrill Street Volume, listed under 73-91 Market Street. 1979.

Agents House

From 1845 until 1901 the Agents' House at 63 and 67 Kirk Street was a prestigious corporate address in Lowell. This double house is significant because it reflects the close corporate association shared by two major Lowell textile manufacturing companies during the later half of the nineteenth century. The Boott Cotton Mills and the Massachusetts Cotton Mills erected this building (1845-46) to provide living quarters for their agents.¹ A mill agent "was responsible for everything concerned with output, including, of course, the housing and the relationship of the corporation to the town."²

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The Boott Mills' agent, Linus Child, was the first resident of 67 Kirk Street³. Homer Bartlett, the Massachusetts Cotton Mills' agent (1839-1849) and treasurer (1849-1872) supervised construction of the Agents' House⁴. He resided at 63 Kirk Street from 1846-1860⁵.

Abraham Lincoln spent the night of September 16, 1848, as the guest of either Child or Bartlett. The Illinois congressman had appeared at the nearby City Hall as the guest speaker at a Whig rally for Zachary Taylor⁶.

The Boott Mill Agent Alexander Cumnock resided at 67 Kirk Street from 1872 until 1885⁷. Cumnock was a prominent Lowell business and civic leader during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. While in his seventies and eighties he directed the successful effort to rebuild the Appleton Company (1898-1919) and was a founder of Lowell Textile School, later Lowell University⁸.

James H. Rand, a local architect, designed the Agents' House⁹. Rand attained notoriety as the architect of Lowell's "remarkable and controversial" granite Romanesque/Italianate county jail (1856).¹⁰ The architectural significance of the Agents' House lies in the unusually early employment of brownstone for sills, lintels, and trabeated doorways. Brownstone did not become a fashionable, widely used American building material until the 1850's.

Significant interior finishes are located in the southern portion of the duplex.

Archeological deposits around the structure, particularly in the rear, are likely to contain information to our understanding of historic period modifications to the structure. In addition, deposits of trash and other materials probably contain important information about the social and economic life in Lowell during the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries.¹¹

¹ Robbins, John, Historical Structure Report, Architectural Data, Boott Cotton Mills and Massachusetts Mills Agents' Houses 67 and 63 Kirk Street, n.p.

² Coolidge, John Phillips, Mill and Mansion, A Study of Architecture and Society in Lowell Massachusetts, 1820-1865. Columbia University Press, New York. Reissued: Russell and Russell, New York, 1967, p. 167

³ Robbins, John, Historical Structure Report, Architectural Data, Boott Cotton Mills and Massachusetts Mills Agents' Houses 67 and 63 Kirk Street, prepared for Denver Service Center, National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior, Denver, Colorado, October 1979, n.p.

⁴ *ibid*, n.p.

⁵ *ibid*, n.p.

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- ⁶ Eno, Arthur L., Jr. Cotton Was King, A History of Lowell, Massachusetts, New Hampshire Publishing Company, Manchester, New Hampshire, 1976, p. 244.
- ⁷ Robbins, John Historical Structures Report, etc. n.p.
- ⁸ Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson and Abbott, Report, Lowell National Historical Park and Preservation District Cultural Resource Inventory, prepared for Division of Cultural Resources, North Atlantic Regional Office, National Park Service, p. 112.
- ⁹ Robbins, John, Historical Structure Report, etc., n.p.
- ¹⁰ Eno, Arthur L., Jr., Cotton Was King, A History of Lowell, Massachusetts, New Hampshire Publishing Company, Manchester, New Hampshire 1976, p. 167.
- ¹¹ Fiero, Kathleen and Ken LaCoste