

# LOWELL CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

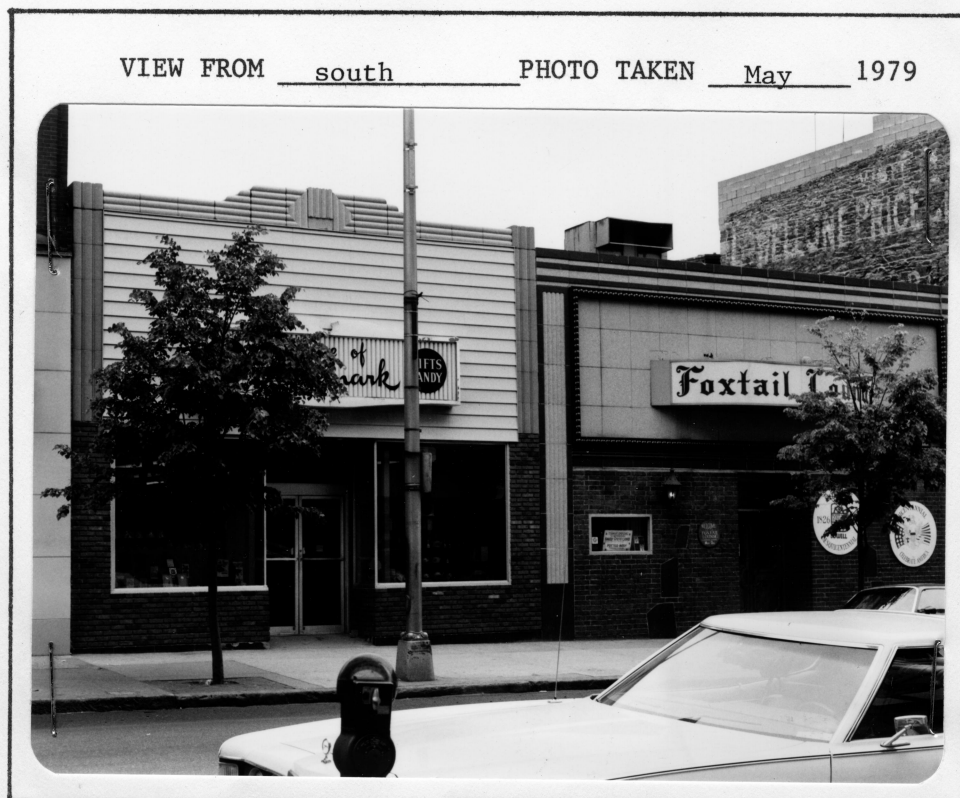
IDENTIFICATION 19, 25 MERRIMACK STREET, 129 PAIGE STREET MAP SHEET # 8  
1) CURRENT OWNER J & G Realty Trust OWNER OCCUPIED no  
2) HISTORIC NAME none  
3) CURRENT NAME Foxtail Lounge/House of Hallmark  
4) PROPERTY TYPE commercial 5) ZONING CLASSIFICATION B-3  
6) TAXES: PAYMENTS current STATUS clear  
7) WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF LHPD, Merrimack-Middle Streets

## HISTORICAL ABSTRACT

1) CONSTRUCTION DATE ca. 1935-1940  
SOURCE estimated: stylistic  
2) ARCHITECT OR BUILDER unknown  
3) HISTORIC OWNER unknown  
4) ORIGINAL USE: GF commercial UF n/a  
5) PREVIOUS BLDGS ON PROPERTY yes DATE ca. 1841-1935  
SOURCE document: city maps; atlases; directories

## DESCRIPTIVE DATA

1) ARCHITECTURAL STYLE 20th C. Commercial  
2) PRESENT USE:  
GF commercial  
UF n/a  
3) NO OF STORIES 1  
4) PROP SQ FT 6692  
5) PLAN rectangular  
6) ROOF flat  
7) STRUCTURAL SYSTEM  
metal frame  
8) OUTBUILDINGS  
none  
9) MATERIALS:  
FOUNDATION  
granite and brick  
rubblestone



FACADE all sides: red brick in common and stretcher bond  
TRIM terra cotta  
10) NOTABLE SURFACE & LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS none

ADDRESS 19, 25 MERRIMACK STREET, 129 PAIGE STREET

VISUAL ASSESSMENT

- 1) CONDITION OF BUILDING FABRIC good
- 2) IF DETERIORATED, CAUSES n/a
- 3) INTEGRITY OF HISTORIC BLDG FABRIC: GF major and irreversible changes  
UF n/a
- 4) SURROUNDING LAND USES commercial, industrial
- 5) INTEGRITY OF PROP'S HIST SETTING moderately disrupted historic setting
- 6) IMPORTANCE OF PROP TO HIST SETTING detracts from character

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTION

These two small, one-story twentieth century commercial buildings each have a remodeled terra cotta modern front. Each is a rectangular box with a flat roof. The Foxtail Lounge has its east and rear wall surfaces in red brick, and it may have the remnants of an earlier rubblestone foundation. The House of Hallmark has a shallow rear wing along its width with a brick and stucco facade and a mansard roof. The wing faces a parking lot on Paige Street.

ADDITIONAL HISTORICAL INFORMATION

These appear to be the third or fourth generation of buildings on this site. The first recorded structures were wood frame, built between 1841 and 1850. From at least 1879 to 1924 the property belonged to the Ladd family. By 1896 there were brick buildings here, according to the city atlas. A photograph published in 1900 (see illustration) reveals little, except for store awnings and a billboard over a one-story building known as "a ten-footer." Judging by their style, the current buildings probably date from ca. 1935-1940.

The use of this site has always been commercial, at least on Merrimack. In the nineteenth century, occupants included shoe stores, a machinist, a liquor store, a clothing store, and a tailor. Since 1900 there have been various food shops and restaurants on Merrimack. On Paige, occupants have included a barber, tailor, a tire and auto supplies store, and as late as 1935, a lodging house. There was a building listed at 133 Page as late as 1970.

These buildings appear to be in sound structural condition. Located between the Hildreth and Kearney Square buildings, they constitute a break in the nineteenth century, multi-story architecture of the Merrimack block face.

Sources

Lowell city maps and atlases.

Lowell city directories (1851-1976).

Lowell, A City of Spindles, 1900, p. 23, photograph.



ARCHEOLOGICAL COMMENT

Subsurface materials from previous structures on the site may include a rubble-stone foundation at 19 Merrimack. It also is possible that there may be intact historical remains below the paved surface of the parking lot on Paige.

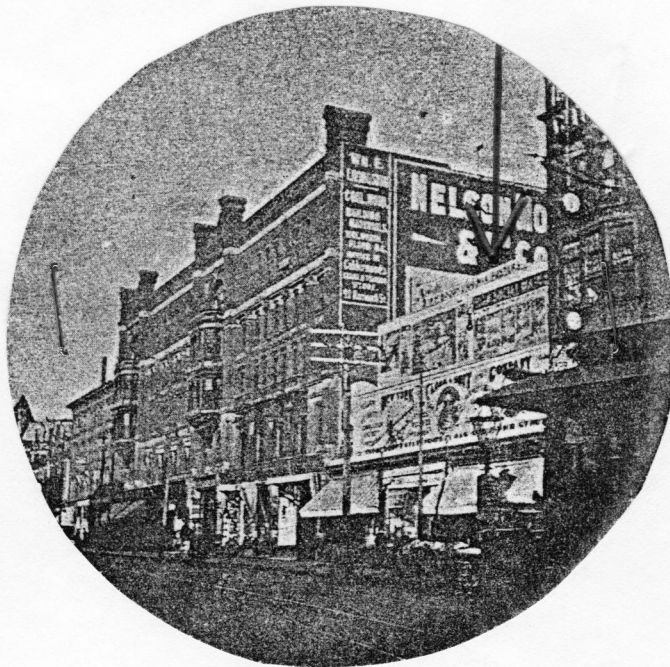


Figure 1

View of north side of Merrimack Street. Arrow indicates buildings and billboards on 19-25 Merrimack Street site, ca. 1900.

Lowell, A City of Spindles, 1900, p. 23.