

FORM A - AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA. 02108

Form numbers in this area	Area letter
141-147	Q

Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form

Photo number _____

Town Lowell

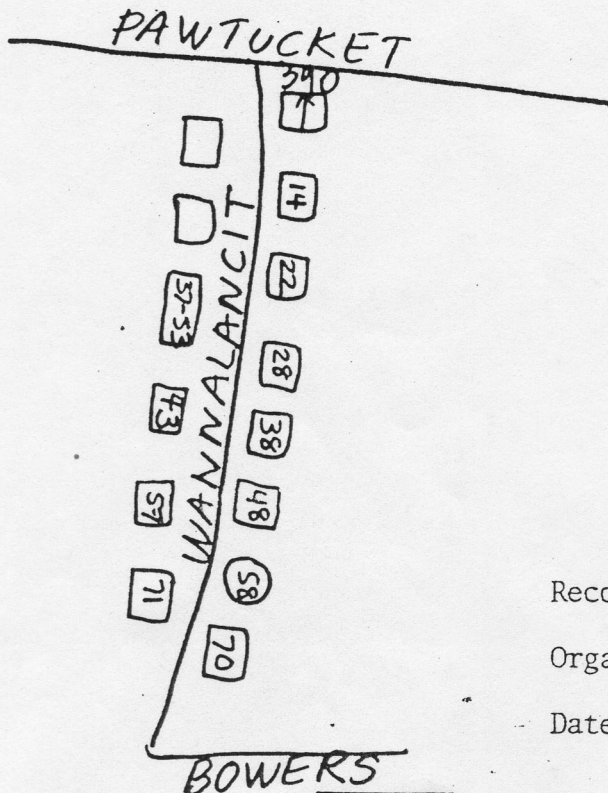
Name of area (if any) Wannalancit Street

Area _____

General date or period Mid-to Late

nineteenth century

Sketch map. Draw a general map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets (including route numbers, if any) and indicate north. (Attach a separate sheet if space here is not sufficient)



Recorded by Harriet White

Organization D.P.D. Archit. Survey

Date 11/80

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Describe physical setting, general character, and architecturally significant structures)..

The Wannalancit Street Area is notable for its concentration of well-preserved, representative examples of nineteenth century domestic architectural styles. Wannalancit Street is a visual catalogue of nineteenth century architectural history, including examples of the Greek Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles. These examples range from modest vernacular dwellings to pretentious, high style residences, some designed by leading local architects. Perhaps the most unusual building on Wannalancit Street is the Round House or "Castle" (1872) built for Jonathan Bowers, a local entrepreneur. The unique round form of the Round House is rare not only in Lowell, but throughout the United States there are few documented examples.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Explain development of area, what caused it, and how it affected community; be specific).

By the late nineteenth century tree-lined Wannalancit Street had become a fashionable residential neighborhood, desirable for its elevation and scenic vista of the Merrimack River and the Pawtucket Falls. Occupants of the Wannalancit Street Area have included prosperous local merchants and upper middle class businessmen, such as Oliver Cushing, an agent of the Lowell Gas Company for 25 years. Cushing resided at #48 Wannalancit Street in an exuberant Queen Anne house (1885) designed by Frederick Stickney, a prominent local architect.

The earliest and least pretentious house on Wannalancit Street is at #22 (c.1853); it is a Greek Revival side-hall cottage with some Gothic Revival trim. An early occupant of the house was William Swett, a Lowell carriage maker. Haven Perham, treasurer of the Kitson Machine Company (Lowell's 2nd largest manufacturer of cotton machinery) resided at #19, another Queen Anne style dwelling.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Map research