

LOWELL CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

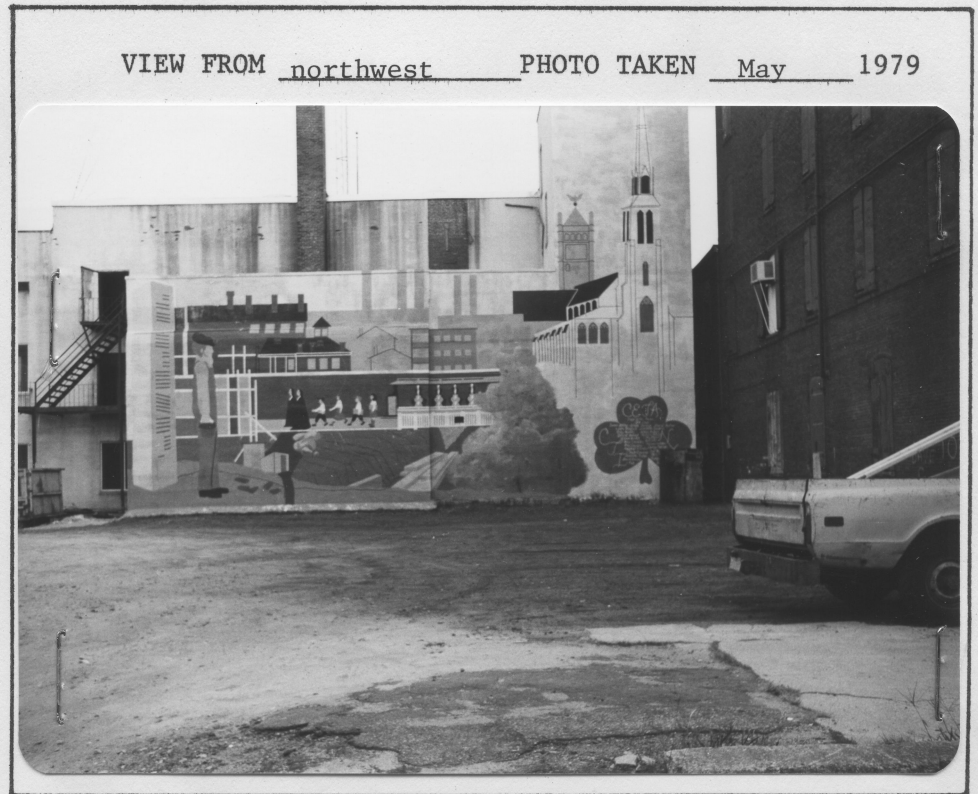
IDENTIFICATION 152 WORTHEN STREET MAP SHEET # 7
 1) CURRENT OWNER George W. Povey OWNER OCCUPIED no
 2) HISTORIC NAME Site of J. H. Sparks Stables
 3) CURRENT NAME same
 4) PROPERTY TYPE undeveloped 5) ZONING CLASSIFICATION B3
 6) TAXES: PAYMENTS current STATUS clear
 7) WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF LHPD, City Hall HD

HISTORICAL ABSTRACT

1) CONSTRUCTION DATE n/a
 SOURCE n/a
 2) ARCHITECT OR BUILDER n/a
 3) HISTORIC OWNER n/a
 4) ORIGINAL USE: GF vacant lot UF n/a
 5) PREVIOUS BLDGS ON PROPERTY yes DATE ca. 1840s-1979
 SOURCE circumstantial: Lowell maps and atlases; visual evidence

DESCRIPTIVE DATA

1) ARCHITECTURAL STYLE n/a
 2) PRESENT USE:
 GF vacant lot
 UF n/a
 3) NO OF STORIES n/a
 4) PROP SQ FT 9,012
 5) PLAN n/a
 6) ROOF n/a
 7) STRUCTURAL SYSTEM n/a
 8) OUTBUILDINGS none
 9) MATERIALS:
 FOUNDATION n/a
 FACADE n/a
 TRIM n/a



10) NOTABLE SURFACE & LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS foundation, paved areas

ADDRESS

152 WORTHEN STREET

VISUAL ASSESSMENT

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

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTION

See photograph.

ADDITIONAL HISTORICAL INFORMATION

An L-shaped building labeled D. R. Kimball and a rectangular building labeled Hadley appear on this site on the 1850 Lowell map. John Hadley's Stables, later located across the street at the corner of Worthen and Market Streets, were originally located on this site.

By 1879 a large L-shaped frame stable complex occupied this site. A smaller L-shaped frame structure occupied the southwestern corner of the property. These buildings were owned by the D. C. Ayer estate. By 1896 the smaller L-shaped building had been expanded to form a large, rectangular frame structure. The L-shaped stable, which also appears as frame on the 1879 atlas, is shown as built of brick on the 1896 atlas.

James H. Sparks leased these structures from the Ayer family for his livery stables. Both the 1906 and 1924 atlases repeat the 1896 configuration of buildings on this site. Sparks continued to lease these buildings from the Ayer estate through 1924. On April 27 of that year, the adjacent (northeast) Associate Building burned, and both the L-shaped brick structure and part of the rectangular frame structure were destroyed as well. The illustrations show that Sparks had switched from horses to automobiles, selling gasoline and auto parts, and perhaps operating a garage. The frame structure on the southwest part of the property stood until March 1979, when it was razed (Lowell Buildings Department, Worthen Street file). At that time a cast iron "lazy susan" about twelve feet in diameter, used to turn around wagons or automobiles, was removed from the floor of the structure. The vacant lot is now dominated by a mural wall of the old Knights of Columbus Building at the southeast end of the property.

1985

Sources

1850 Lowell map.

1879, 1896, 1906, 1924 Lowell atlases.

U. of Lowell photo file.

ARCHEOLOGICAL COMMENT

Structures have occupied this site since the 1840s, mostly used as stables. From the 1870s through the 1920s, a one-and-a-half story brick structure covered most of the property, before it was destroyed by fire. The wood frame and iron structure on the other portion of the lot was removed in March, 1979. At present the lot is level and bare, with little vegetation on the sandy, pale soil. At the northwest corner, a fragment of concrete foundation is exposed, probably related to the brick structure which burned in 1924.

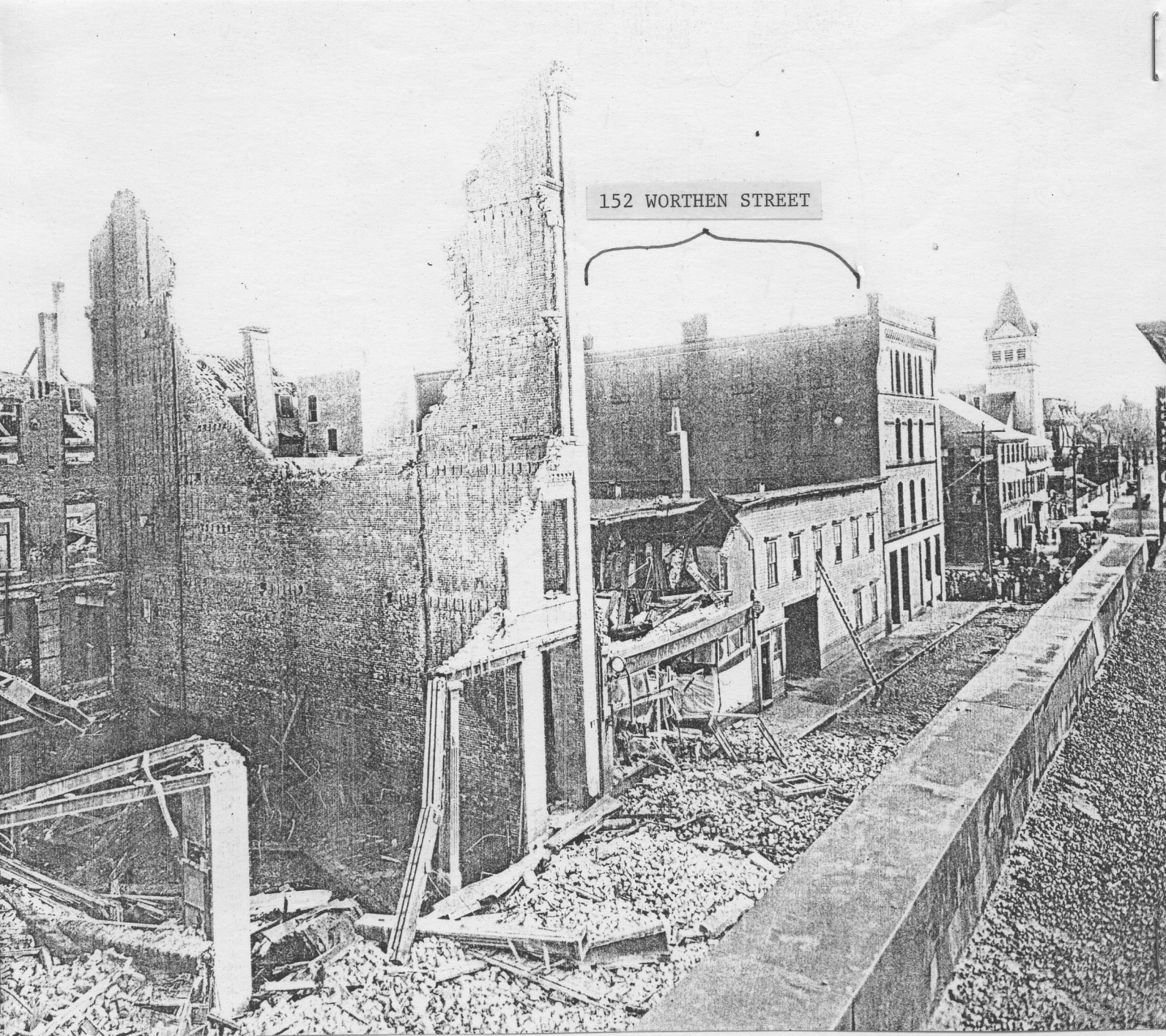


Figure 1

View southwest along Worthen Street, following the Associate Building fire of April 27, 1924. At center are the J. H. Sparks buildings, on the now vacant 152 Worthen Street lot. The shorter building was demolished following the fire, while the two-story structure stood until 1979.

U. of Lowell Library, Special Collections, photo file.

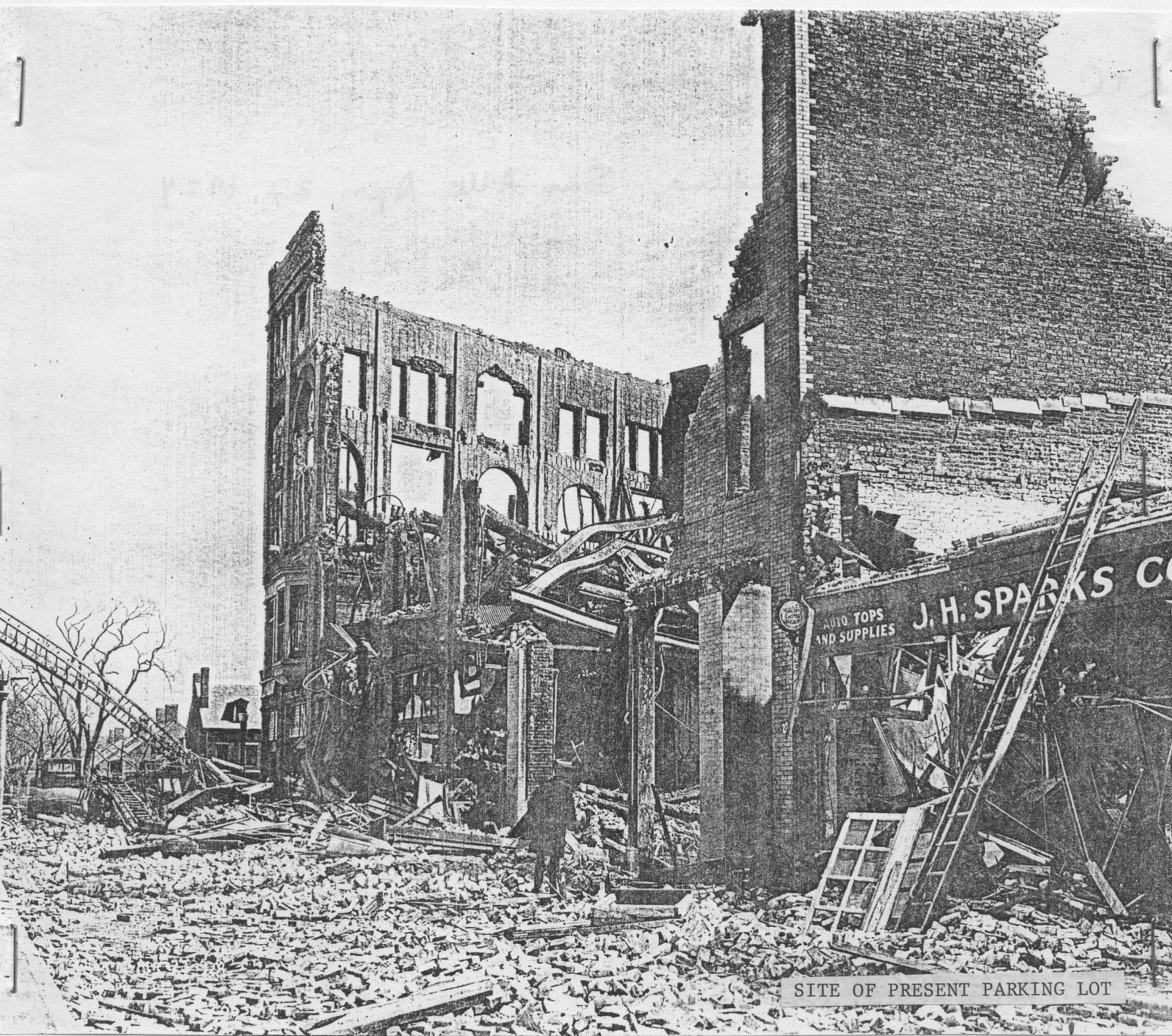


Figure 2

View from the west along Worthen Street, following a fire of April 27, 1924. Note the J. H. Sparks Company sign at right.

U. of Lowell Library, Special Collections, Locks and Canals photo #2065.