

LOWELL CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION BOOTT MILLS--foot of JOHN STREET MAP SHEET # 8
1) CURRENT OWNER Boott Mills OWNER OCCUPIED yes
2) HISTORIC NAME Boott Mills--#3
3) CURRENT NAME Boott Mills--Building #3
4) PROPERTY TYPE mill structure 5) ZONING CLASSIFICATION B3
6) TAXES: PAYMENTS current STATUS clear
7) WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF LNHP, LHPD, Locks and Canals HD

HISTORICAL ABSTRACT

1) CONSTRUCTION DATE 1836-38; top floor ca. 1880
SOURCE documented: 1836 and 1839 directories; 1876 and 1884 views
2) ARCHITECT OR BUILDER Proprietor of Locks and Canals
3) HISTORIC OWNER Boott Cotton Mills
4) ORIGINAL USE: GF industrial UF industrial
5) PREVIOUS BLDGS ON PROPERTY no DATE _____
SOURCE _____

DESCRIPTIVE DATA

1) ARCHITECTURAL STYLE Fed/ Greek Revival
2) PRESENT USE:
GF warehouse
UF warehouse
3) NO OF STORIES 5
4) PROP SQ FT part of 246,563
5) PLAN rectangular
6) ROOF very low pitched
7) STRUCTURAL SYSTEM load-bearing masonry
8) OUTBUILDINGS none not visible
9) MATERIALS:
FOUNDATION not visible



FACADE all sides: red brick in common bond (7/1)
TRIM hammered granite
10) NOTABLE SURFACE & LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS slope allows 6 stories at rear

ADDRESS BOOTT MILLS--foot of JOHN STREET (MILL #3)

VISUAL ASSESSMENT

- 1) CONDITION OF BUILDING FABRIC. needs minor repair
- 2) IF DETERIORATED, CAUSES lack of maintenance
- 3) INTEGRITY OF HISTORIC BLDG FABRIC: GF intact with minor changes
UF intact with evolutionary alterations
- 4) SURROUNDING LAND USES commercial, industrial
- 5) INTEGRITY OF PROP'S HIST SETTING intact with minor intrusions &/or losses
- 6) IMPORTANCE OF PROP TO HIST SETTING integral to character

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE AND HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The #3 Mill, #4 Mill, #4 Mill Addition and the Connector between the #3 and #4 Mills are four connected structures which present a single facade, approximately 363 feet long. The buildings' oldest sections (#3 and #4 Mills) were originally freestanding four-story structures, 150' X 45', (19 bays long by 4 bays deep); their original appearance is described in the Boott Mills-General History--Initial Development: 1835-1838 (see Fig. 4, 5 & 9). Around 1863-1865, the #3 and #4 Mills were linked by the present connector mill (76' X 77'--79'), originally four stories high with a wooden fifth story. Originally symmetrical, the facade of the Connector Mill is described in the Boott Mills--General History--Civil War Development (see Fig. 11 & 12C)

Prior to 1880, a one-story wheel house stood at the southwest corner of the #4 Mill (Boott Mills--General History--Motive Power 1862-1891 - See Fig. 13). In 1880, the wheel house was removed and the present five-story addition to the #4 Mill was built. The addition has an "L" plan consisting of a front section (52' X 68') at the west end of the #4 Mill and a rear section (90' X 28' - 31') which extends along a portion of the north wall of the #4 Mill. The addition has visible elevations facing the millyard (23') and along the Merrimack Wasteway (96' --six stories high), both of which are Italianate in style with brick window hoods, corbelled cornices and a flat roof. The south wall of the addition is connected to the #9 Mill Picker House by four wood-clad bridges; bridges of similar configuration are noted in this location as early as 1880 (Insurance Survey of 1878, updated). The addition retains its original 12/12 sash.

Around 1880, the roofs of the #3, #4 and Connector Mills were removed and an additional story added. This top floor is of Italianate design with details resembling those of the #4 Mill Addition.

Alterations consist of the addition of two new entries to the first story of the #3 Mill, the removal of the eastern stair tower of the Connector Mill (between 1928 and 1932), and the removal of the balustrade and decorative trim of the Connector Mill's western stair tower. Occupying the place of the Connector's eastern stair tower is a one-story loading platform. Sash throughout is mostly original, with limited nineteenth and twentieth-century replacements.

ARCHEOLOGICAL COMMENT

See Research Report.