

LOWELL CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

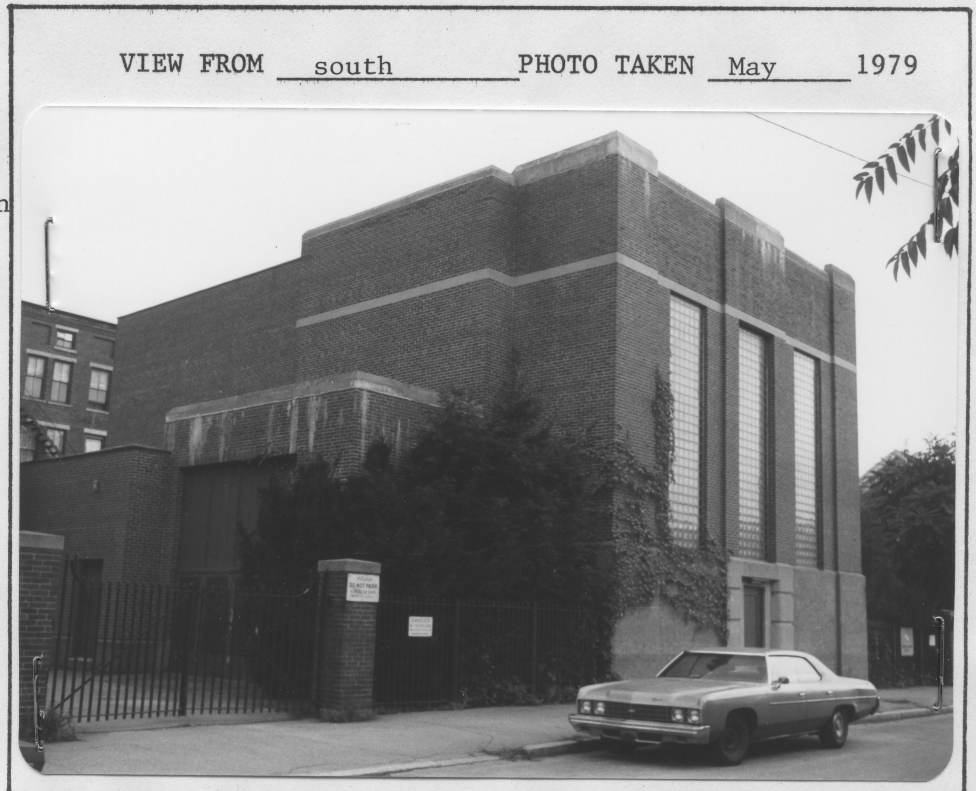
IDENTIFICATION 250 WORTHEN STREET MAP SHEET # 11
 1) CURRENT OWNER Massachusetts Electric Co. OWNER OCCUPIED yes
 2) HISTORIC NAME Site of the Worthen Street School (Primary #8)
 3) CURRENT NAME Massachusetts Electric Substation
 4) PROPERTY TYPE electrical substation 5) ZONING CLASSIFICATION B3
 6) TAXES: PAYMENTS current STATUS clear
 7) WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF City Hall HD -- LHPD

HISTORICAL ABSTRACT

1) CONSTRUCTION DATE 1961
 SOURCE documented: Lowell directories
 2) ARCHITECT OR BUILDER unknown
 3) HISTORIC OWNER Merrimack Essex Electric Co. (1961)
 4) ORIGINAL USE: GF substation UF same
 5) PREVIOUS BLDGS ON PROPERTY yes DATE 1861-1946
 SOURCE documented: Lowell directories

DESCRIPTIVE DATA

1) ARCHITECTURAL STYLE utilitarian
 2) PRESENT USE:
 GF electrical sub-station
 UF same
 3) NO OF STORIES 3
 4) PROP SQ FT 11,044
 5) PLAN rectangular
 6) ROOF flat
 7) STRUCTURAL SYSTEM
metal frame
 8) OUTBUILDINGS
none
 9) MATERIALS:
 FOUNDATION
not visible



FACADE all sides: red brick in stretcher veneer
 TRIM front: glass bricks --3 long windows

10) NOTABLE SURFACE & LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS none

ADDRESS 250 WORTHEN STREET

VISUAL ASSESSMENT

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

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTION

This is a brick, concrete, and glass structure, three stories high and of rectangular plan. The Worthen Street facade features a high concrete basement. The central entrance bay is enframed by a heavy, pseudo-Gibbsian surround. Above the first level, the facade is organized into three bays containing rectangular glass brick windows which rise up two floors. This building was erected in 1961 as the Merrimack Essex Electric Company substation. This structure provides a jarring contrast to the progression of Greek Revival structures which line the eastern side of Worthen Street between Market Street and Broadway.

ADDITIONAL HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A building has occupied this site since 1861. In that year Primary School #8 (Worthen Street School) was constructed. The school first appears as a large, square, brick structure labeled "Public School" on the 1879 Lowell atlas. The 1906 and 1924 Lowell atlases show the school with two small, square projections from the Worthen Street facade--probably dual entrances, one for boys and another for girls, a common feature of mid-nineteenth century schools. The school was torn down in 1946. The lot was then vacant until 1961, when the Merrimack Essex Electric Company built a substation on the site.

Sources

1841, 1850 maps.

1879, 1896, 1906, 1924 atlases.

Lowell City Directories.

ARCHEOLOGICAL COMMENT

The brick substation almost completely covers this property. Its construction in 1961 probably destroyed any remains of the school which stood on the site from 1861 to 1946.