

LOWELL CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION 145 DUTTON STREET MAP SHEET # 7
 1) CURRENT OWNER David and Elaine Levasseur OWNER OCCUPIED yes
 2) HISTORIC NAME Site of Music Hall
 3) CURRENT NAME Club Diner
 4) PROPERTY TYPE commercial 5) ZONING CLASSIFICATION B3
 6) TAXES: PAYMENTS delinquent since 1972 STATUS land court
 7) WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF City Hall HD, LHPD

HISTORICAL ABSTRACT

1) CONSTRUCTION DATE 1926
 SOURCE document: 1926-7 Directories
 2) ARCHITECT OR BUILDER unknown
 3) HISTORIC OWNER James H. Cudworth
 4) ORIGINAL USE: GF commercial UF not applicable
 5) PREVIOUS BLDGS ON PROPERTY yes DATE ca. 1849-1865; 1866-1924
 SOURCE 1850 map, 1924 fire

DESCRIPTIVE DATA

1) ARCHITECTURAL STYLE 20th C. Utilitarian
 2) PRESENT USE:
 GF commercial
 UF not applicable
 3) NO OF STORIES 1
 4) PROP SQ FT 2462
 5) PLAN rectangular
 6) ROOF flat
 7) STRUCTURAL SYSTEM
load-bearing masonry
 8) OUTBUILDINGS
none
 9) MATERIALS:
 FOUNDATION
not visible
 FACADE Front: aluminum /vinyl and red brick, Side & rear: red brick and concrete block
 TRIM none
 10) NOTABLE SURFACE & LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS none



with stretcher bond

ADDRESS 145 DUTTON STREET

VISUAL ASSESSMENT

- 1) CONDITION OF BUILDING FABRIC needs minor repairs
- 2) IF DETERIORATED, CAUSES lack of maintenance
- 3) INTEGRITY OF HISTORIC BLDG FABRIC: GF intact with evolutionary alterations
UF n/a
- 4) SURROUNDING LAND USES commercial, industrial, railroad, canal frontage
- 5) INTEGRITY OF PROP'S HIST SETTING severely disrupted historic setting
- 6) IMPORTANCE OF PROP TO HIST SETTING detracts from character

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTION

See photo.

ADDITIONAL HISTORICAL INFORMATION

This property is primarily of interest as the site of the Music Hall Building from 1866-1924. The rear of the Music Hall also spilled over onto the site of 322 Merrimack Street, but the Hall will be dealt with in its entirety here.

The 1850 map indicates that this site next to the Merrimack House was occupied by a "P. Union Store." The 1849 and 1851 directories list Workingmen's Protective Union Stores as purveyors of West India goods and groceries, although none are listed on this site. (See file on 160-170 Middlesex Street, an extant Workingmen's Protective Union Store.)

On August 6, 1866, "...the Music Hall was opened for theatrical performances, and the drama, after an interlude of twelve years, recovered a permanent habitation in Lowell" (Cowley, p. 207). Comedies, drama, and concerts were presented over the years, Bulwer's "Richelieu" being the first, and until about 1889 it was the most prominent playhouse in the city (O'Dwyer).

The 1879 atlas lists the Music Hall's owner as Henry Emery, who was owner and proprietor of the Merrimack House from 1845 to 1885. The 1896 atlas indicates ownership by Emery's estate. In 1906, it was owned by George B. Loring.

The 1902 directory lists the Music Hall for the first time as "New Music Hall, Charles F. Dempsy, manager." Dempsy was previously manager of the Savoy Theatre. In 1903, it is listed as the Academy of Music. In 1922, George and Maria Mongeau purchased the property along with the Merrimack House, and Mongeau was listed as manager of the Academy of Music.

"The most sensational and disastrous fire that ever visited (Lowell's) limits..." occurred on April 28, 1924, and the Music Hall was demolished, only a blackened shell remaining (Courier Citizen, 4-28-1924, p. 1).

James H. Cudworth's lunchcart was listed on the site by 1927. It probably comprises at least the core of the remodeled Club Diner now on the property.

Sources

1850 map.

1879, 1896, 1906, 1924 atlases.

Lowell city directories.

Cowley, Charles, History of Lowell, 1868.

Kenngott, George F., Record of a City, 1912, opp. page 10.

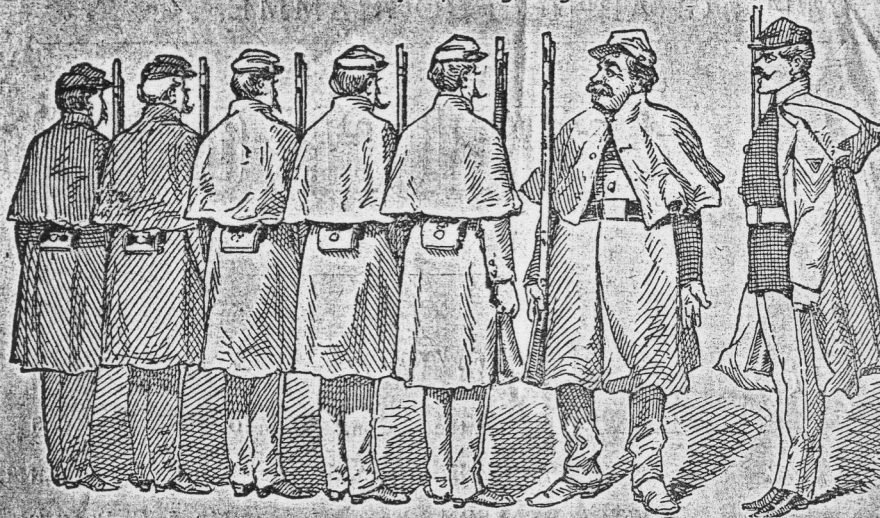
O'Dwyer, C. F., "History of the Merrimac House," mss. in University of Lowell Library.

University of Lowell Library, document file: "Entertainment: Music Hall," and "Concerts: Music Hall."

ARCHEOLOGICAL COMMENT

The Club Diner is a modest structure that does not cover the whole Music Hall site, and it may have caused little subsurface disturbance of the area on which it stands. While no surface evidence of the previous structure, the brick Music Hall, is apparent, it is likely that below-ground remains of that building still exist on the site.

Sale of Tickets, at RUGG'S MUSIC STORE, 75 and 77 Merrimack Street, will open Monday, April 29, at 9 A. M.



MUSIC HALL,

LOWELL.

ONE EVENING ONLY.

FRIDAY, MAY 3, 1878.

ENGAGEMENT OF

MISS MAGGIE MOORE

AND

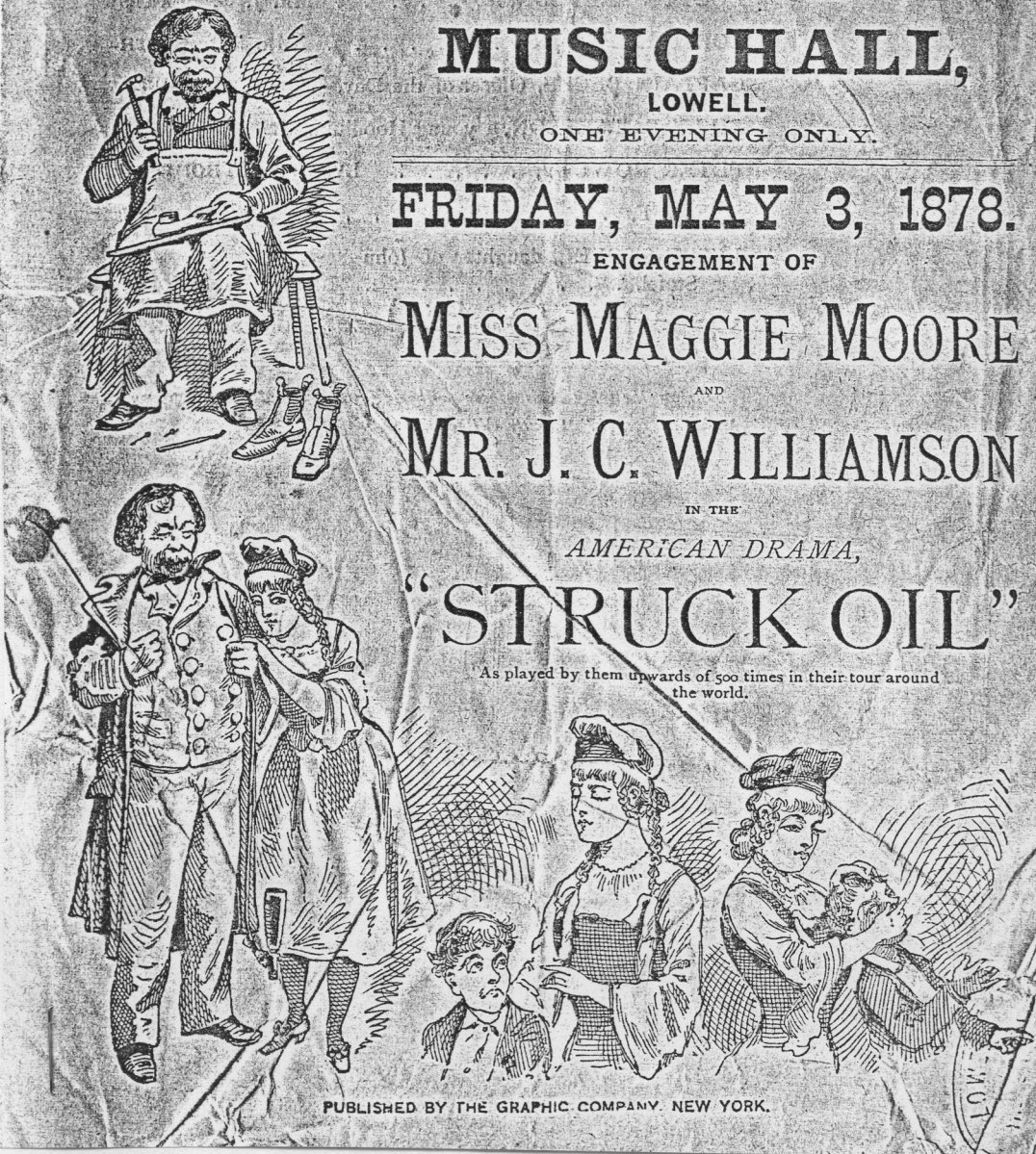
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