

LOWELL CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION 154 Moody Street MAP SHEET # 137

1) CURRENT OWNER TRS Moody Street Realty Trust OWNER OCCUPIED no
c/o Bay State Ambulance

2) HISTORIC NAME _____

3) CURRENT NAME _____

4) PROPERTY TYPE commercial 5) ZONING CLASSIFICATION B-1

6) TAXES: PAYMENTS current STATUS clear

7) WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF LHPD

HISTORICAL ABSTRACT

1) CONSTRUCTION DATE 1919

SOURCE city directories

2) ARCHITECT OR BUILDER _____

3) HISTORIC OWNER _____

4) ORIGINAL USE: GF "service station, store and garage"UF/ (auto dealership)

5) PREVIOUS BLDGS ON PROPERTY large frame mansion DATE pre-1832 to c.1919

SOURCE 1832 map, 1906 atlas

DESCRIPTIVE DATA

1) ARCHITECTURAL STYLE Commercial Style

2) PRESENT USE:

GF vacant

UF vacant

3) NO OF STORIES 2

4) PROP SQ FT 7,857

5) PLAN square

6) ROOF flat

7) STRUCTURAL SYSTEM _____

8) OUTBUILDINGS none

9) MATERIALS:

FOUNDATION not visible

FACADE red brick, common bond

TRIM granite sills and lintels

10) NOTABLE SURFACE & LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS none

VIEW FROM southeast PHOTO TAKEN Nov.1992



ADDRESS 154 Moody Street

VISUAL ASSESSMENT

- 1) CONDITION OF BUILDING FABRIC good
- 2) IF DETERIORATED, CAUSES n/a
- 3) INTEGRITY OF HISTORIC BLDG FABRIC: GF intact with minor changes
UF intact original fabric
- 4) SURROUNDING LAND USES institutional, residential, commercial
- 5) INTEGRITY OF PROPERTY'S HISTORIC SETTING moderately disrupted historic setting
- 6) IMPORTANCE OF PROPERTY TO HISTORIC SETTING integral to character

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTION

154 Moody Street is a large, solidly-constructed c.1919 brick commercial building with notable brick detailing. The principal facade faces Colburn Street and forms part of the setting for the Memorial Library across the street. Brick pilasters divide the building into four bays on each of the three facades, which face Colburn, Moody, and what was formerly Tilden Street. Within these bays are wide display windows at ground level and window groupings above, generally pairs of triple windows with 2/2 sash. Wide granite sills and lintels create the effect of decorative horizontal banding. Brick banding and corbeling is used to create visual interest at the cornice level.

ADDITIONAL HISTORICAL INFORMATION

154 Moody Street is of historical interest as one of the city's first car dealerships. City directories can be used to date this building to 1919, when it opened as the Lowell Motor Mart, a "service station, store and garage" under S.L.Rochette, proprietor. The car dealership sold Maxwell, Chandler, and Dodge Brothers Cars and promised in their advertisement that repair parts would be always on hand, along with tires and all auto accessories. The Lowell Motor Mart first appears in the city directories in 1912, as "agents for the famous Ford car" and from then until their move to Moody Street they were located in the adjacent Majestic Building. In 1920 the company advertised Dodge Brothers and Paige Cars and Trucks. Rochette-O'Dea Company was also located here. The building continued to be used for auto sales (Lowell Motor Mart or Dan O'Dea Inc.) through 1958. In 1960 it was occupied by the U.S. government offices of the Army Reserve, in 1970 it was vacant, and in 1981, it housed the A-Medic Ambulance Service Inc. At present most of the building is vacant.

The Lowell Motor Mart was built on the site of a large frame dwelling which appears as early as the 1832 map. On the 1879 atlas the house belonged to C.B.Coburn, a commission merchant selling painters supplies. The 1882 Sanborn shows it as 2 1/2 story with 2 and 1 story ells and verandas around three sides. The house and large yard occupied the full block between Colburn, Moody, Tilden and Merrimack Streets. It was owned by the Lowell Institution for Savings on the 1906 atlas.

SOURCES

Atlases: 1879 to 1977
Lowell city directories, especially 1919, 1920

ARCHEOLOGICAL COMMENTS

The building occupies the entire lot, therefore the archeological potential is low.

