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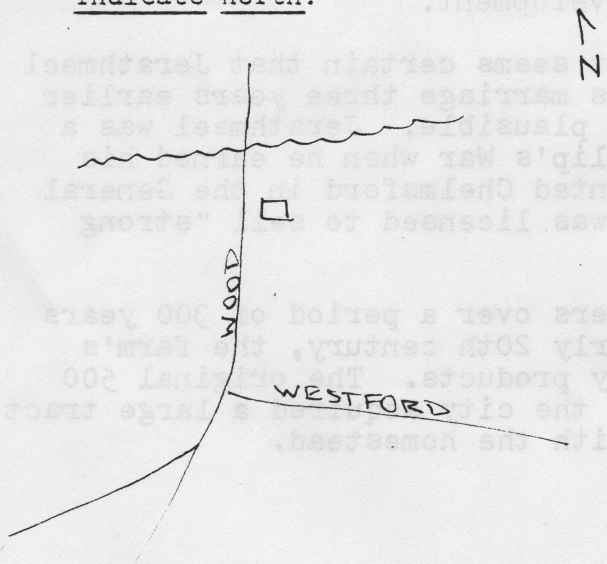
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

Roll 43-7 41



Lowell
 150 Wood Street
 Name Jerathmeel Bowers House
 Original residence
 Present residence
 Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization
 Public
 Original owner Jerathmeel Bowers

location in relation to nearest
 cross streets and other buildings
 or geographical features.
Indicate north.



DESCRIPTION:

Date ca. 1671/early 19th c.
 Source see reverse
 Style federalist
 Architect
 Exterior wall fabric clapboard
 Outbuildings
 Major alterations (with dates)
 west addition: 20th c.
 Moved Date
 Approx. acreage 3
 Setting residential; undeveloped
 land

Recorded by Elizabeth Durfee Hengen
 Organization DPD Architectural Survey
 Date 6/81

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

The Bowers House is a 1½ story, 3 bay house with vernacular federalist detailing. Portions of a First Period framing system might remain, but without removing plaster or corner post casings it cannot be documented with certainty.

As early as ca. 1671 a house was erected on this site by the Bowers family. Until Westford Street was extended in 1856 access was gained from Stedman Road to the east. 500 acres of farmland originally surrounded the property. Development pressures from Lowell brought the land to 150 acres in the early 20th c.; (cont.)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

The Bowers House is significant as the earliest surviving farmhouse in Lowell. Its origins date from ca. 1671 and the house has remained in single family ownership since then. Its surrounding 3 acres of land offer an aura of seclusion and isolation in direct contrast to Lowell's industrial development.

Though early history is sketchy, it seems certain that Jerathmeel Bowers was living here by 1674; his marriage three years earlier make the ca. 1671 construction date plausible. Jerathmeel was a farmer who also fought in King Philip's War when he earned his title of "Colonel" and who represented Chelmsford in the General Court for five years. In 1688 he was licensed to sell "strong waters".

Nine succeeding generations of Bowers over a period of 300 years have occupied the site. By the early 20th century, the farm's production focused on hay and dairy products. The original 500 acres was gradually reduced, until the city acquired a large tract to the southwest, leaving only 3 with the homestead.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Contributions, Vol. 5, pp. 62-

City of Spindles

Coburn, History of Lowell, Vol. III, p. 165-
Family papers

BOWERS HOUSE, 150 Wood St., Lowell

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Today only 3 remain. The potential for archeological data is high as they have never been disturbed.

The interior of the house is simple. Detail is federalist based on the kitchen fireplace, doors, cased corner posts (some are splayed). Saw marks, cut nails and bricks laid in mortar reinforce a major early 19th century remodeling.