

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--#1 Mill
3) CURRENT NAME Boott Mills--Building #1
4) PROPERTY TYPE mill structure 5) ZONING CLASSIFICATION B3
6) TAXES: PAYMENTS current STATUS clear
7) WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF LNHP, Locks and Canals HD, LHPD

HISTORICAL ABSTRACT

1) CONSTRUCTION DATE 1835-36; top floor ca. 1880
SOURCE documented: 1911 Insurance Survey; 1836 directory; Views 1876 and 1884
2) ARCHITECT OR BUILDER Proprietors 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 maps

DESCRIPTIVE DATA

1) ARCHITECTURAL STYLE Federal Greek/Revival
2) PRESENT USE:
GF com, industrial
UF com, ind, office
3) NO OF STORIES 5
4) PROP SQ FT part of 246,563 lot
5) PLAN rectangular
6) ROOF very low pitched
7) STRUCTURAL SYSTEM
load-bearing masonry
8) OUTBUILDINGS
part of mill yard
9) MATERIALS:
FOUNDATION
not visible
FACADE all sides: red brick in common bond (7/1)
TRIM hammered granite stone (first four stories), rock-faced (fifth story)
10) NOTABLE SURFACE & LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS slope allows six stories at rear



ADDRESS BOOTT MILLS--foot of JOHN STREET: Mill #1

VISUAL ASSESSMENT

- 1) CONDITION OF BUILDING FABRIC needs minor repair
- 2) IF DETERIORATED, CAUSES n/a
- 3) INTEGRITY OF HISTORIC BLDG FABRIC: GF major but revers changes
UF intact with minor changes
- 4) SURROUNDING LAND USES commercial, industrial
- 5) INTEGRITY OF PROP'S HIST SETTING intact with minor intrusions and/or losses
- 6) IMPORTANCE OF PROP TO HIST SETTING integral to character

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE AND HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The #1 Mill, #2 Mill, and Connector between the #1 and 2 Mills consist of three structures which present a single, nearly symmetrical facade, 375' long. The buildings' oldest sections (#1 and 2 Mills) were originally freestanding four-story structures (150'X45', 19 bays deep); their original appearance is described in the Boott Mills--General History--Initial Development: 1835-1838 (see Figs. 4, 5 and 9). Around 1863-1865, the #1 and 2 Mills were linked by the present connector mill (75'X 94'-97'), originally four stories high with a wooden fifth story. Symmetrical except for the clock and belfry of its western stair tower, this connector mill is described in the Boott Mills--General History--Civil War Development [see Figs. 11 and 12B]. Around 1880, the roofs of all three structures were removed and an additional story added. This top story is of Italianate design with brick window hoods, a corbelled cornice, and a flat roof.

More recent alterations to the mill buildings consist mainly of the addition of one loading bay to the first story of the #1 Mill and of five loading bays to the first story of the #2 Mill, most (if not all) of which were added after 1947 (Fig. 22 of General History).

Alterations to the Connector Mill consist principally of the removal of original balustrades, the removal of some window trim, and the rebuilding of entries. The sheet metal siding, pressed in imitation of brick, may be an original feature, as early photographs do show the towers to be sheathed in a smooth material.

Unique and especially fine features of the Connector Mill are the belfry and clock of its west stair tower, both of which remain essentially intact and are described in Boott Mills--General History--Civil War Development.

Sash throughout the structures is an erratic mix of original, nineteenth century replacement, and modern replacement sash.

ARCHEOLOGICAL COMMENT

See Research Report.