

LOWELL CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

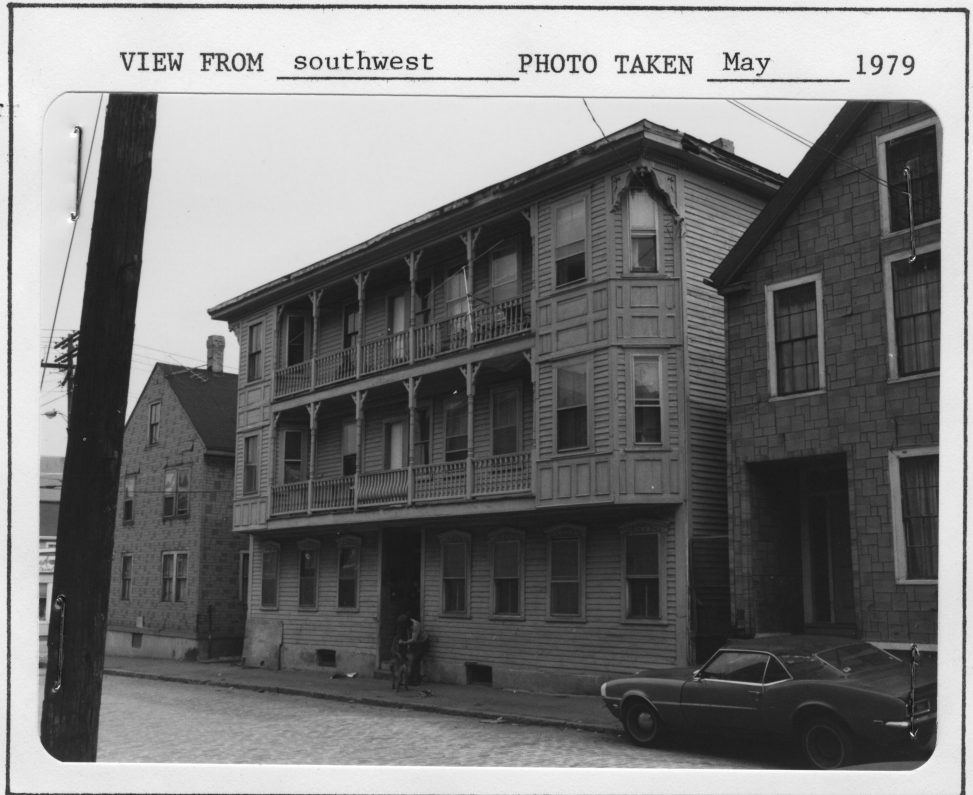
IDENTIFICATION 177 ADAMS STREET MAP SHEET # 11
1) CURRENT OWNER Christopher and Thelma Nacopoulos III OWNER OCCUPIED no
2) HISTORIC NAME Michael McCue Building
3) CURRENT NAME same
4) PROPERTY TYPE multiple dwelling 5) ZONING CLASSIFICATION B1
6) TAXES: PAYMENTS current STATUS clear
7) WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF LHPD

HISTORICAL ABSTRACT

1) CONSTRUCTION DATE ca. 1890-95
SOURCE circumstantial: 1896 atlas
2) ARCHITECT OR BUILDER unknown
3) HISTORIC OWNER Michael and Honora McCue (1896)
4) ORIGINAL USE: GF residential UF residential
5) PREVIOUS BLDGS ON PROPERTY yes DATE ca. 1855-1890s
SOURCE circumstantial: 1896 atlas

DESCRIPTIVE DATA

1) ARCHITECTURAL STYLE 19th c. res. vernacular
2) PRESENT USE:
GF residential
UF residential
3) NO OF STORIES 3
4) PROP SQ FT 1560
5) PLAN rectangular
6) ROOF flat
7) STRUCTURAL SYSTEM
wood frame
8) OUTBUILDINGS
none
9) MATERIALS:
FOUNDATION
rubble, concrete cov.
FACADE all sides: wood clapboard
TRIM wood
10) NOTABLE SURFACE & LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS none



VISUAL ASSESSMENT

- 1) CONDITION OF BUILDING FABRIC needs minor repair
- 2) IF DETERIORATED, CAUSES not applicable
- 3) INTEGRITY OF HISTORIC BLDG FABRIC: GF intact original fabric
UF intact original fabric
- 4) SURROUNDING LAND USES residential
- 5) INTEGRITY OF PROP'S HIST SETTING intact historic setting
- 6) IMPORTANCE OF PROP TO HIST SETTING integral to character (see Add. Info.)

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTION

This is an example of a building type which became exceedingly popular in the Acre and in Lowell at the turn of the century. The style, which derived from the Queen Anne mode, is characterized by bay windows or oriels linked by recessed porches, and a projecting flat cornice.

The first level of this multiple family dwelling is of simple design. Slightly pedimental window heads are the only decorative feature. Overhanging upper stories provide a sheltered entry.

The oriels and porches of the second and third stories which overhang the facade feature the chief forms of decorative embellishment on this building. The oriels are paneled below the windows, and there are turned posts along with shaped, sawn brackets and balusters on the gallery-like porches.

At the broad cornice there is an interesting dentil-like trim. Also a common corner treatment is featured in which the roof is extended on elaborate brackets over the outermost corner bays of the oriels.

ADDITIONAL HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Two wood frame houses occupied this site from ca. 1855 to the 1890s. They were very likely built shortly after 1850 when other surrounding lots on Adams Street were being developed. A typical house of that period which survives is at 173 Adams Street.

On May 14, 1881 Mary Kennedy, widow, sold this land "and the buildings there on" to Patrick McCue for \$400. (North Middlesex Registry 145:368)

The next deed for the property tells us something about the nature of the building and its use. On Nov. 16, 1891, Honora McCue deeded to Michael McCue "the two most southerly tenements, one upstairs the other downstairs on the easterly side of Adams Street formerly owned by my late husband, Patrick McCue of Lowell. The entrance is numbered 67." (Ibid. 228:181)

The reference to upstairs and downstairs indicates a two-story building which suggests that these buildings may indeed have been similar to the house at 173 Adams Street.

The use of the term tenement at this date implies a rental property. Because of this evidence we can probably assume that other properties were rented as well and that Adams Street then as now housed tenants rather than owners. (Shortly thereafter, the current building replaced the previous two.)

In 1906 the building was owned by Mr. Mack and Mr. Fay. It was owned in 1924 by Mr. Arsara.

Sources

1850 map.

1879, 1896, 1906, 1924, 1936 atlases.

See Research Report on the Acre for further information.

ARCHEOLOGICAL COMMENT

The current building covers most of the lot. Remains of the previous buildings dated ca. 1855-1890s would have been disturbed during the later construction. Therefore, potential for the recovery of archeological remains on this site is limited but any remains would be domestic, late nineteenth century in nature.