

LOWELL CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION 50 STACKPOLE STREET MAP SHEET # 8
 1) CURRENT OWNER Lowell Housing Authority OWNER OCCUPIED no
 2) HISTORIC NAME Whittier Cotton Mills
 3) CURRENT NAME same
 4) PROPERTY TYPE mill structure 5) ZONING CLASSIFICATION M-3
 6) TAXES: PAYMENTS exempt STATUS clear
 7) WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF LHPD

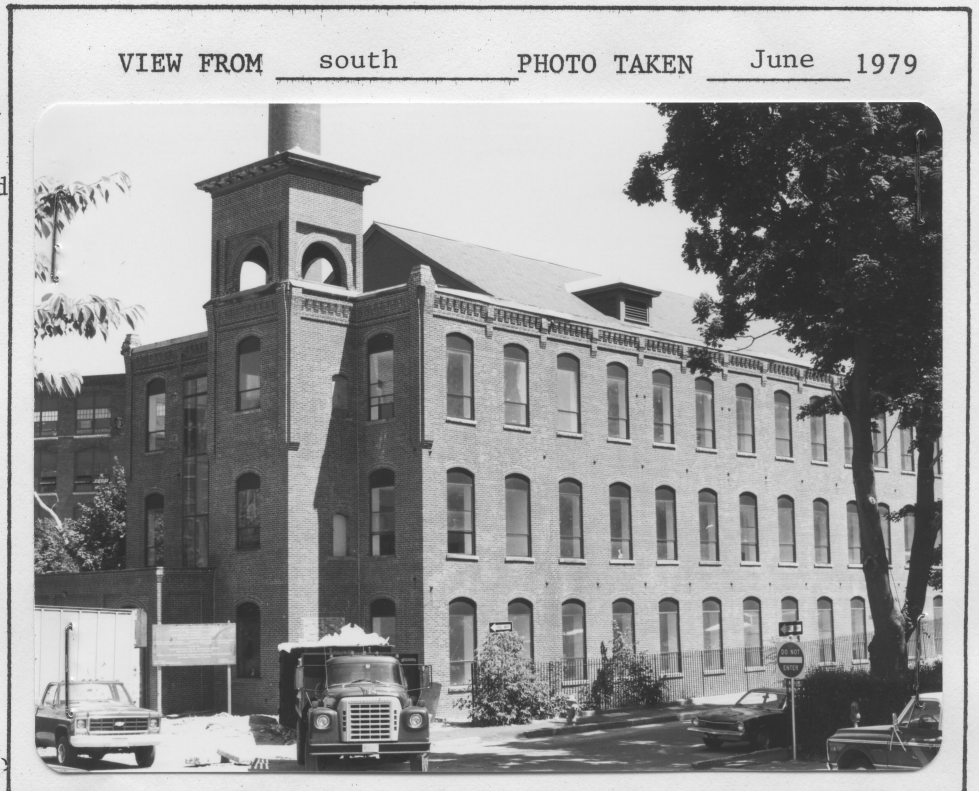
HISTORICAL ABSTRACT

1) CONSTRUCTION DATE ca. 1890
 SOURCE circumstantial: 1879, 1896 atlases
 2) ARCHITECT OR BUILDER unknown
 3) HISTORIC OWNER Whittier Cotton Mills (1896)
 4) ORIGINAL USE: GF industrial UF industrial
 5) PREVIOUS BLDGS ON PROPERTY no DATE _____
 SOURCE _____

DESCRIPTIVE DATA

1) ARCHITECTURAL STYLE industrial utilitarian
 2) PRESENT USE:
 GF being rehabilitated as residential
 UF being rehabilitated as residential
 3) NO OF STORIES 3
 4) PROP SQ FT 20,984
 5) PLAN rectangular
 6) ROOF end-wall gable
 7) STRUCTURAL SYSTEM load-bearing masonry
 8) OUTBUILDINGS none
 9) MATERIALS:
 FOUNDATION not visible

VIEW FROM south PHOTO TAKEN June 1979



FACADE all sides: red brick in common bond (7/1)
 TRIM rock-faced and hammered granite

10) NOTABLE SURFACE & LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS none

ADDRESS 50 STACKPOLE STREET

VISUAL ASSESSMENT

- 1) CONDITION OF BUILDING FABRIC. excellent/undergoing rehabilitation
- 2) IF DETERIORATED, CAUSES n/a
- 3) INTEGRITY OF HISTORIC BLDG FABRIC: GF intact with minor changes
UF intact with minor changes
- 4) SURROUNDING LAND USES industrial, institutional, river frontage
- 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 DESCRIPTION

Whittier Cotton Mills is a relatively small-scale industrial building that is presently being converted to housing for the elderly under the aegis of the Lowell Housing Authority. The main block of the building is three stories tall, with segmental-arched windows, a corbelled cornice, and a modest, four-story stairtower at the western end. Attached to the stairtower is a one-story office wing. At the east end is a larger one-story wing, with a tall, wide, rectangular entry cut into its Stackpole Street side. Atop the main block of the factory is a gable roof with clipped-gable dormers serving as ventilators. The gable roof appears to be an addition made in the course of the current conversion project.

ADDITIONAL HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The 1896 atlas is the first to show the Whittier Cotton Mills. The factory's location and date of construction indicate it must have originally been a steam-powered operation. From the start, the factory's basic configuration matched the current structure. The small western wing was labeled "Office." By 1906 the Wamesit Power Company owned the factory, and that organization retained ownership through the date of the 1924 atlas. It is not known who occupied the building during Wamesit Power's ownership.

Sources

1879, 1896, 1906, 1924 atlases.

ARCHEOLOGICAL COMMENT

This former factory building covers most of its site; therefore, the potential is low that this property contains significant subsurface archeological remains.



View from the east. Photo taken June, 1979.