

LOWELL CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION 222, 224 WORTHEN STREET MAP SHEET # 11  
 1) CURRENT OWNER Lowell Girls Club OWNER OCCUPIED no  
 2) HISTORIC NAME Stephen Ashton House  
 3) CURRENT NAME Greater Lowell Council for Children  
 4) PROPERTY TYPE two family dwelling 5) ZONING CLASSIFICATION B3  
 6) TAXES: PAYMENTS exempt STATUS clear  
 7) WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF LHPD, City Hall HD

HISTORICAL ABSTRACT

1) CONSTRUCTION DATE ca. 1850  
 SOURCE circumstantial: 1849, 1851 directories; 1850 map  
 2) ARCHITECT OR BUILDER unknown  
 3) HISTORIC OWNER Stephen Ashton (1850)  
 4) ORIGINAL USE: GF residential UF residential  
 5) PREVIOUS BLDGS ON PROPERTY no DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 SOURCE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTIVE DATA

1) ARCHITECTURAL STYLE Greek Revival  
 2) PRESENT USE:  
 GF offices  
 UF offices  
 3) NO OF STORIES 2½  
 4) PROP SQ FT 10,340(part)  
 5) PLAN T-shaped  
 6) ROOF facade gable  
 7) STRUCTURAL SYSTEM  
wood frame  
 8) OUTBUILDINGS  
none  
 9) MATERIALS:  
 FOUNDATION  
granite  
 FACADE front and sides: wood clapboard; rear: asbestos  
 TRIM wood



10) NOTABLE SURFACE & LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS steps, granite blocks

ADDRESS 222,224 WORTHEN STREET

VISUAL ASSESSMENT

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

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTION

See Research Report.

ADDITIONAL HISTORICAL INFORMATION

See Research Report.

ARCHEOLOGICAL COMMENT

The current building (ca. 1850) is the first known structure to occupy this site, although the street has been the scene of residential activity since the mid-1820s and of institutional use by the 1840s. The narrow, grassy front lawn and constricted rear yard may contain remains of prior uses of the site, and more likely do contain remains of the post-1850 residential activity on the lot.

608



Research Report  
222, 224 Worthen Street  
Stephen Ashton House (now the Greater Lowell Council for  
Children)  
ca. 1850

222, 224 Worthen Street represents a fine and simple manifestation of the Greek Revival style in Lowell domestic architecture. This freestanding two-family dwelling is two-and-a-half stories high and six bays wide, and is T-shaped in plan. This structure's horizontal massing, fenestration, and low pitched facade gable create an effect of bulk and stability.

Large granite slabs are used for the front steps and foundation, while rubble stone appears on the rear foundation.

Pairs of windows flank the double central entrance, and a simple frame of white-painted boards surrounds the recessed entry. The main facade's windows are similarly enframed. Within the recessed entryway are two doors flanked by side lights, and separated from each other by a wooden partition.

The fenestration of the main facade is rigidly symmetrical. The second floor windows correspond with the fenestration of the first floor. Within the facade gable are two windows situated immediately above the central bays below. The facade gable is extremely wide and fully enclosed by projecting eaves. Wooden corner boards define the edges of the facade below the gable.

This building is one of several fine Greek Revival structures on Worthen Street which reflect this area's initial development in the 1840s and early 1850s. 222, 224 Worthen Street echoes the wide temple-like form of its frame neighbor to the north--the former Worthen Methodist Episcopal Church (now the Lowell Girls Club, 200 Worthen Street). The double house first appears immediately south of the Worthen Methodist Episcopal Church on the 1850 map. The church had been built in 1842. An assumption that the house was built at the same time as a rectory is not borne out by the directories, as the pastors of the Worthen Methodist Episcopal church lived at 46 Kirk Street from the 1840s until the early twentieth century.

On the 1850 Lowell map Stephen Ashton, a contractor with the Lowell Machine Shop, occupied the northern portion of the house while a Mrs. Harvey (?) lived in the southern [1] half of the dwelling. The house was probably built about 1850, the year Ashton is first associated with the property, having lived on Dutton Street until 1849. On the 1879, 1896 and 1906 atlases the house appears under the ownership of the Worthen Methodist Episcopal Church next door. The church sponsored such organizations as a Sunday school, Home Mission Band, Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, etc., and may have used the building to house some of those activities [2]. In 1917 this building is listed as Mrs. Margaret Sullivan's boarding house [3]. By 1924 this structure had become the residence of Rev. Leslie C. Bockes, pastor of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (the Worthen Methodist Episcopal Church becomes the African Methodist Episcopal Church or Church of All Nations in 1921). Presently this building is occupied by the Greater Lowell Council of Children and owned by the Lowell Girls Club, which has occupied the adjacent former church since 1947.

#### Footnotes

- 1) This name is unclear on the map, but appears to be Mrs. Harvey.
- 2) Illustrated History of Lowell, 1897, p. 736.
- 3) Lowell City Directory, 1917.

#### Other Sources

1850 Lowell map.

1879, 1896, 1906, 1924 Lowell atlases.