

LOWELL CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION 15 Warren Street MAP SHEET # 179

1) CURRENT OWNER Louis M. Saab OWNER OCCUPIED no

2) HISTORIC NAME Elks Lodge

3) CURRENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

4) PROPERTY TYPE commercial 5) ZONING CLASSIFICATION B-3

6) TAXES: PAYMENTS current STATUS clear

7) WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF LHPD

HISTORICAL ABSTRACT

1) CONSTRUCTION DATE 1923

SOURCE plaque on building; permit #1052 (1923)

2) ARCHITECT OR BUILDER Harry Prescott Graves

3) HISTORIC OWNER B.P.O.E. Elks, Lodge #87

4) ORIGINAL USE: GF Elks clubhouse UF same

5) PREVIOUS BLDGS ON PROPERTY livery stable DATE c.1832 to 1923

SOURCE 1832 map; atlases through 1924

DESCRIPTIVE DATA

1) ARCHITECTURAL STYLE Classical Revival

2) PRESENT USE:  
GF offices

UF offices

3) NO OF STORIES 3

4) PROP SQ FT 5,655

5) PLAN square

6) ROOF flat

7) STRUCTURAL SYSTEM load bearing masonry

8) OUTBUILDINGS none

9) MATERIALS:  
FOUNDATION cast stone

VIEW FROM northwest PHOTO TAKEN Nov. 1992



FACADE Flemish bond brick (alternating red stretchers and dark red headers)

TRIM cast stone

10) NOTABLE SURFACE & LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS none

ADDRESS 15 Warren Street

VISUAL ASSESSMENT

- 1) CONDITION OF BUILDING FABRIC good
- 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 commercial, institutional
- 5) INTEGRITY OF PROPERTY'S HISTORIC SETTING disrupted historic setting
- 6) IMPORTANCE OF PROPERTY TO HISTORIC SETTING integral to character

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTION

The original use of this Classical Revival brick building as an Elks Lodge is clear from the ornamentation, which includes Elk symbols, inscriptions, a cornerstone and a date plaque inscribed "1923," and the initials B.P.O.E. On the principal five-bay Warren Street facade, the ground floor is unadorned and has entrances at bays one and four and replacement door and window frames. Above is a series of five arched window openings with single pane fixed sash windows and a decorative pattern in the tympanum with the initials B.P.O.E., one initial per window except at the fourth bay, where there is a triple window with the Elk symbol above. The five three-part windows at level three are regularly spaced and unadorned. Above the cornice is a pediment with a series of cast stone plaques inscribed CHARITY, JUSTICE, BROTHERLY LOVE, HONOR HOME COUNTRY, FIDELITY. The building has a secondary facade along an alley, and is cut at the corner to form a one-bay facade with windows at each level. The ELKS name is above the second floor window and the date 1923 above the third floor window. All windows in the building are replacement metal sash.

ADDITIONAL HISTORICAL INFORMATION

15 Warren Street was designed by Lowell architect Harry Prescott Graves and constructed in 1923 as a clubhouse for the Elks, Lowell Lodge #87. The Benevolent Protective Order of Elks (B.P.O.E.) was founded in 1888 "... for the social and convivial enjoyment of its members and for the aid of members when in sickness and distress." The Elks remained at this location until 1979, when the building was altered for use as physicians' offices.

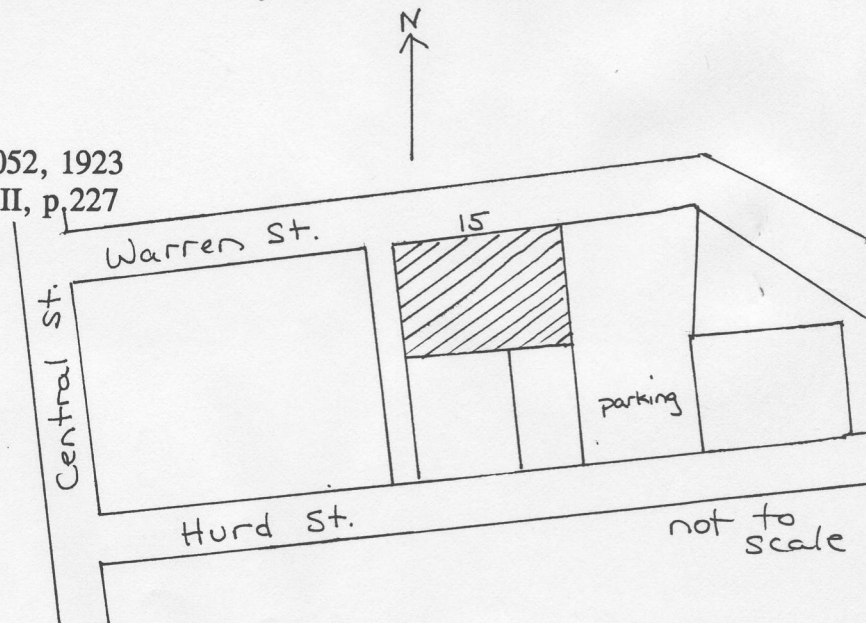
The Elks building stands on the site of a large brick and frame livery stable which was at this location on the 1850 map and perhaps as early as 1832.

SOURCES

City of Lowell Building Department, Permit #1052, 1923  
Hurd, History of Middlesex County, Ma., Vol. II, p.227  
Maps: 1850. Atlases: 1879 to 1977.

ARCHEOLOGICAL COMMENT

The Elks building fully occupies the site. Due to its size and construction, intact subsurface remains of previous structures are extremely unlikely.



# Application for Permit to Build

Lowell, Mass.,

Aug 29

1923

To the Inspector of Buildings

The undersigned hereby applies for a permit to build according to the following specifications:—

1. Name of Owner, Elks (Lodge) Address, Studdy St
2. Name of Architect, Harry Prescott Brown Address, 40 Middlesex St
3. Name of Builder, Frank T. Dwyer Address, Wynman's Endway
4. Location of Building No. Warren St
5. Purpose of Building, Club house
6. Material of Building, Brick - steel & wood
7. Distance from street line 4 lines
8. Number of stories, 3 height from street grade to highest point of roof, 53'
9. Size of lot, No. feet front, ..... feet rear, ..... feet deep,
10. Size of building, No. feet front, see plan on file feet rear, ..... feet deep, 80' x 72' feet deep, offset
11. Size of ell, No. feet wide, ..... No. feet deep, .....
12. Foundation:—material, stone & concrete
13. Thickness external walls, 1st story, 6 2nd, 6 3rd, 12 4th, ..... 5th, ..... 6th, ..... 7th, ..... 8th, ..... 9th ..... 10th
14. Walls solid or vaulted, solid material, ..... trimmings, ..... cornice, .....
15. Frame, .....
16. Roof—flat, pitch, mansard, hip, flat Roof covering, T&G  
Roof construction, metal Means of access, .....
- Skylights, penthouses, etc., number, material and size, .....
17. Means of egress, ..... elevators, ..... fire escapes, .....
18. Method of fire stopping,  
Protection of elevators, no  
Protection of stairways, as required by state & city codes
19. Means of extinguishing fire, .....
20. Method of heating, steam / thickness of shell of flue, 8"
21. Estimated cost, \$125,000

### IF THE BUILDING IS TO BE USED FOR APARTMENTS.

1. Number of apartments, ..... Stores, .....
2. Number of rooms to each apartment, .....
3. Height of stories; basement, ..... 1st, ..... 2nd, ..... 3rd, ..... 4th, ..... 5th, ..... 6th, .....
4. Distance from side lines of lot; front, ..... side, ..... side, ..... rear, .....
5. Building on front or rear of lot; height, ..... stories, ..... dimensions, .....
6. Egress and general memoranda, .....

I further agree that the proposed will be done in strict compliance with the description set forth in plans and specifications which this application is a part. I also declare that I have answered all the above questions truthfully to the best of my knowledge.