

LOWELL CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

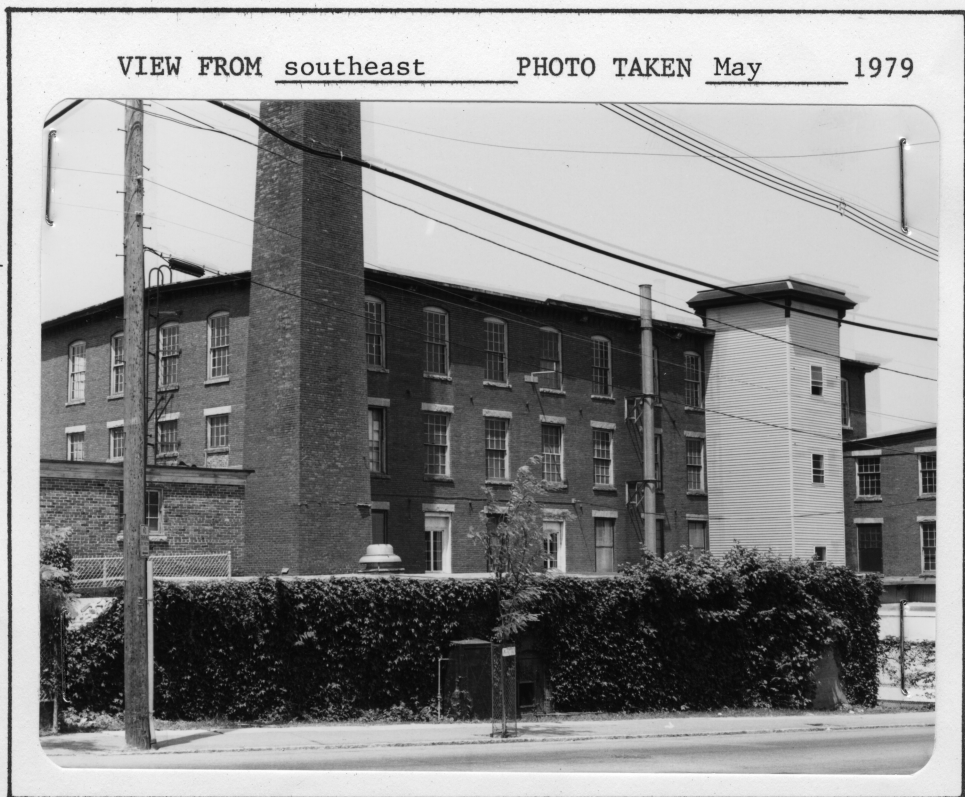
IDENTIFICATION 645 LAWRENCE STREET MAP SHEET # 15
 1) CURRENT OWNER Commodore Realty Co. OWNER OCCUPIED yes
 2) HISTORIC NAME Mill No. 2, Belvidere Woolen Manufacturing Co.
 3) CURRENT NAME Commodore Foods, Incorporated
 4) PROPERTY TYPE mill structure 5) ZONING CLASSIFICATION 1-A
 6) TAXES: PAYMENTS current STATUS clear
 7) WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF LHPD (partial)

HISTORICAL ABSTRACT

1) CONSTRUCTION DATE 1862
 SOURCE documented: Peter Molloy, The Lower Merrimack River Valley, p. 53
 2) ARCHITECT OR BUILDER unknown
 3) HISTORIC OWNER Belvidere Woolen Manufacturing Company
 4) ORIGINAL USE: GF industrial UF industrial
 5) PREVIOUS BLDGS ON PROPERTY no DATE _____
 SOURCE _____

DESCRIPTIVE DATA

1) ARCHITECTURAL STYLE Federal/ Greek Revival
 2) PRESENT USE:
 GF industrial
 UF offices, industrial
 3) NO OF STORIES 4
 4) PROP SQ FT part of 58,466
 5) PLAN rectangular
 6) ROOF low-pitched
 7) STRUCTURAL SYSTEM
load-bearing masonry
 8) OUTBUILDINGS
part of mill complex
 9) MATERIALS:
 FOUNDATION
not visible
 FACADE all sides: red brick in common bond (7/1)
 TRIM rock-faced granite sills and lintels
 10) NOTABLE SURFACE & LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS none



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 evolutionary alterations
- 4) SURROUNDING LAND USES commercial, industrial, residential, canal frontage, ^{frontage}river
- 5) INTEGRITY OF PROP'S HIST SETTING intact with minor intrusions and/or losses
- 6) IMPORTANCE OF PROP TO HIST SETTING focal point in area

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTION

See Research Report, pp. 6-7.

The main mill building of Belvidere's Mill No. 2 complex is a four-story brick structure. Off-center to the right (north) on the main facade is a wooden stair tower, now sheathed in aluminum or vinyl siding. The three story storehouse attached to the northern corner of the mill, the boiler house to the south, and various rear buildings are recorded on separate inventory forms.

The windows on the lower stories of the mill have rock-faced granite sills and lintels, while the top floor has segmental-arched windows. The low-pitched roof has overhanging eaves, supported by the projecting ends of the wooden rafters.

The LHPD boundary map shows the district line extending along the front (east) wall of the main mill building, excluding that structure from the district. On the other hand, the storehouse, stair tower, and smokestack are all within the LHPD.

ADDITIONAL HISTORICAL INFORMATION

See Research report, pp. 6-7.

Figures 10 and 10A in the Research Report illustrate and describe in detail the Belvidere Mill No. 2 complex. Of particular interest are the conservative form of the mill and storehouse, with their plain brick walls and rectangular granite lintels. Except for the rock-faced treatment of the sills and lintels, the walls differed little from Lowell industrial architecture of the 1820s and 1830s.

The original roof treatment of the mill seems idiosyncratic, rather than anachronistic. Figure 10 shows a roof that is basically a gambrel with a clerestory monitor, an unusual combination in Lowell. Above the clerestory, a trapdoor monitor provided additional light to the attic.

An 1895 insurance survey [Fig. 11] shows that the mill's fourth story and low-pitched roof had been added by that date. The storehouse retains its original height and roof treatment.

ARCHEOLOGICAL COMMENT

See Research Report, pp. 8-9.