

LOWELL CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

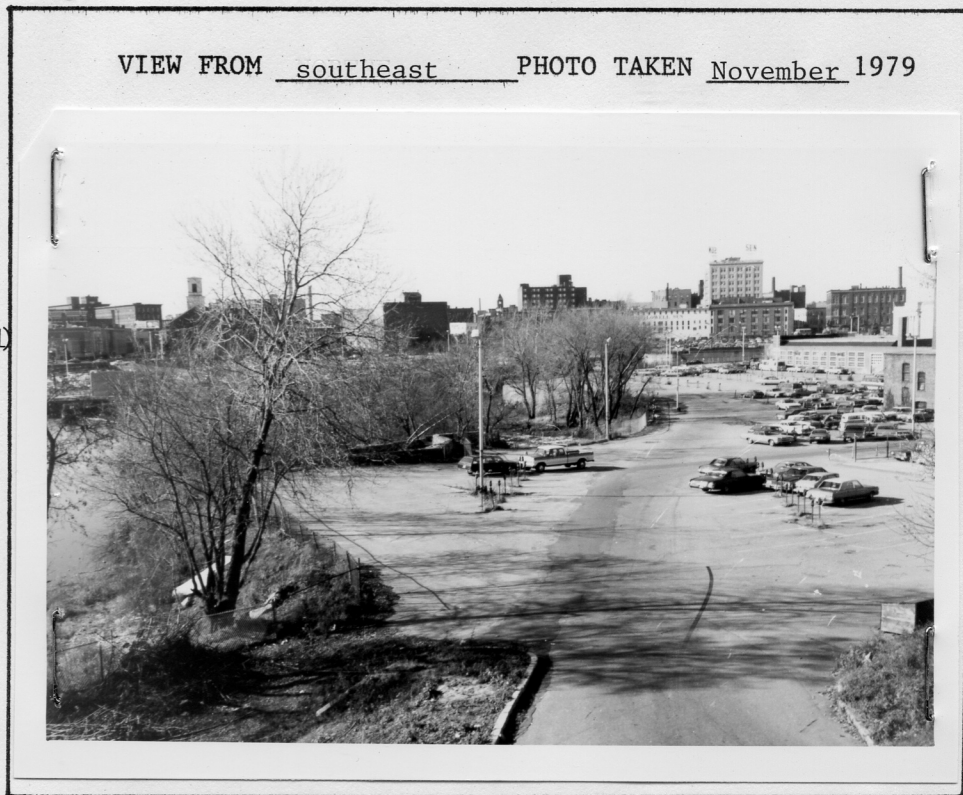
IDENTIFICATION Foot of HOWE STREET MAP SHEET # 12  
 1) CURRENT OWNER City of Lowell OWNER OCCUPIED no  
 2) HISTORIC NAME Site of Belvidere Woolen Manufacturing Co. Mill No. 1  
 3) CURRENT NAME same  
 4) PROPERTY TYPE archeological 5) ZONING CLASSIFICATION B-1  
 6) TAXES: PAYMENTS exempt STATUS clear  
 7) WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF LHPD (partial)

HISTORICAL ABSTRACT

1) CONSTRUCTION DATE n/a  
 SOURCE n/a  
 2) ARCHITECT OR BUILDER n/a  
 3) HISTORIC OWNER Belvidere Woolen Manufacturing Company  
 4) ORIGINAL USE: GF n/a UF n/a  
 5) PREVIOUS BLDGS ON PROPERTY yes DATE ca. 1818-ca. 1930s  
 SOURCE circumstantial: see Research Report

DESCRIPTIVE DATA

1) ARCHITECTURAL STYLE n/a  
 2) PRESENT USE:  
 GF parking lot  
 UF n/a  
 3) NO OF STORIES n/a  
 4) PROP SQ FT 93,154 (partial)  
 5) PLAN n/a  
 6) ROOF n/a  
 7) STRUCTURAL SYSTEM n/a  
 8) OUTBUILDINGS none  
 9) MATERIALS:  
 FOUNDATION n/a  
 FACADE n/a  
 TRIM n/a



10) NOTABLE SURFACE & LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS foundation, retaining wall, paved areas, mature trees, waterpower components

ADDRESS Foot of HOWE STREET: Site of BELVIDERE MILL NO. 1

VISUAL ASSESSMENT

- 1) CONDITION OF BUILDING FABRIC. n/a
- 2) IF DETERIORATED, CAUSES n/a
- 3) INTEGRITY OF HISTORIC BLDG FABRIC: GF n/a  
UF n/a
- 4) SURROUNDING LAND USES commercial, industrial, residential, river frontage
- 5) INTEGRITY OF PROP'S HIST SETTING severely disrupted historic setting
- 6) IMPORTANCE OF PROP TO HIST SETTING character so disrupted, question n/a

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTION

See Research Report.

The City of Lowell owns a sizable parcel of land (over 90,000 sq. ft.) on the east bank of the Concord River just south of East Merrimack Street. The LHPD boundary bisects this parcel, including somewhat less than half of it in the District.

The most notable features of this property are located in its southern half, along the riverbank. The concrete Middlesex Company dam crosses the Concord River in this area, ponding the river to the south.



View from the southeast of the Belvidere site, from the Church Street Bridge.

Photo taken in November, 1979.

The dam extends from the west bank to a small, tree-covered island near the

east bank. The island is separated from that shore by a narrow spillway between concrete abutments, spanned by I-beams.



View from the southeast of the spillway separating the Belvidere site (right) from the island at the east end of the Middlesex Company dam.

Photo taken in November, 1979.



View from the northwest of the spillway. The Belvidere site is to the left, island to the right.

Photo taken in November, 1979.

That island and the riverbank north and south of it contain numerous walls, footings, and abutments of granite, concrete, and rubble stone related to the mills which operated on this site and to their waterpower systems.



Two rubble stone abutments on the Concord riverbank at the Belvidere site.

View from the northwest.

Photo taken in November, 1979.

ADDITIONAL HISTORICAL INFORMATION

See Research Report, pp. 1-5, 7, 8, and Figures.

Thomas Hurd owned a sawmill on this site as early as 1818, and woolen mills operated on the property by 1821. Hurd built the first dam at this point in the Concord to power mills on both banks. After he sold off the main part of his east bank holdings in 1821, he retained ownership of the west bank millyard, and

the island at the east end of his dam. The individuals and corporations that succeeded Hurd in the western millyard, most notably the Middlesex Manufacturing Company, retained title to the east island into the twentieth century but sometimes leased it to Belvidere Woolen and other operators of the east bank millyard.

ARCHEOLOGICAL COMMENT

See Research Report, pp. 8 and 9.