

LOWELL CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION 474 Merrimack Street MAP SHEET # 137,138

1) CURRENT OWNER David J. and Barbara A. Gouveia OWNER OCCUPIED no

2) HISTORIC NAME Crawford Building

3) CURRENT NAME _____

4) PROPERTY TYPE commercial, multiple dwelling 5) ZONING CLASSIFICATION B-1

6) TAXES: PAYMENTS current STATUS clear

7) WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF LHPD

HISTORICAL ABSTRACT

1) CONSTRUCTION DATE 1905

SOURCE 1896 and 1906 atlas, city directories

2) ARCHITECT OR BUILDER _____

3) HISTORIC OWNER _____

4) ORIGINAL USE: GF stores UF commercial/residential

5) PREVIOUS BLDGS ON PROPERTY 3-story frame bldg. DATE c.1832 - 1896

SOURCE 1832 map (building on site); 1896 atlas (vacant)

DESCRIPTIVE DATA

1) ARCHITECTURAL STYLE Colonial Revival

2) PRESENT USE:
GF store/restaurant

UF rooming house

3) NO OF STORIES 4

4) PROP SQ FT 5,995

5) PLAN rectangular

6) ROOF flat

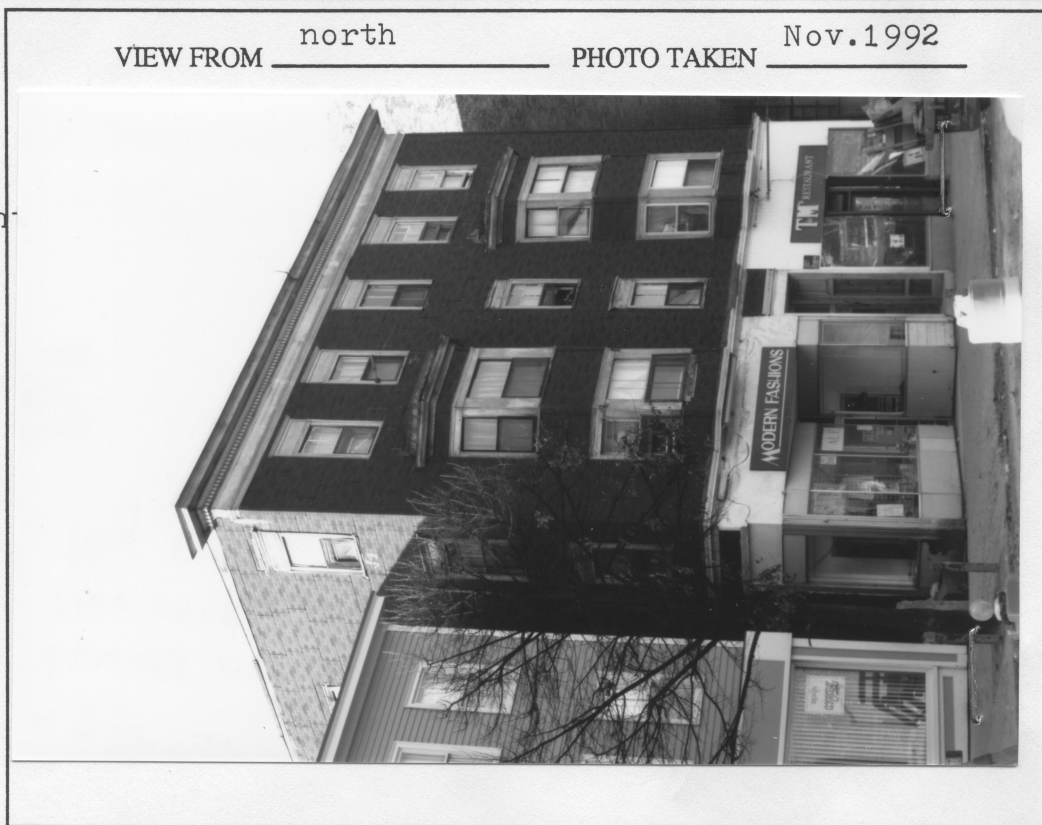
7) STRUCTURAL SYSTEM wood frame

8) OUTBUILDINGS none

9) MATERIALS:

FOUNDATION not visible

VIEW FROM north PHOTO TAKEN Nov.1992



FACADE "brick" asphalt siding over wood

TRIM wood

10) NOTABLE SURFACE & LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS none

ADDRESS 474 Merrimack Street

VISUAL ASSESSMENT

- 1) CONDITION OF BUILDING FABRIC needs major repair
- 2) IF DETERIORATED, CAUSES lack of maintenance
- 3) INTEGRITY OF HISTORIC BLDG FABRIC: GF major and (probably) irreversible changes
UF major but reversible changes
- 4) SURROUNDING LAND USES commercial, residential
- 5) INTEGRITY OF PROPERTY'S HISTORIC SETTING intact with minor intrusions and/or losses
- 6) IMPORTANCE OF PROPERTY TO HISTORIC SETTING integral to character

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTION

This 1905 four-story, three-bay frame commercial/residential building contains design elements, such as the dentil cornice and paneled lintels, derived from the Colonial Revival style popular at the turn of the century. The building is also notable for its two-story bay windows which echo the rhythm of the bays at #484 Merrimack, enlivening the streetscape. At ground level two storefronts, both "modernized," flank the center entrance door to the upper floor apartments. Levels two and three have two-story bay window units on either side of a center bay of 2/2 windows. The fourth story has a regular pattern of five 2/2 windows with wood-paneled lintels. The flat-roofed building terminates with a heavy wooden cornice with dentils. To the rear of the building is a three-story brick ell. This brick ell first appears on the 1906 atlas, and atlas evidence suggests that it was built at the same time as the front section.

The use of asphalt siding and the remodelling of the storefronts has obscured the original appearance of the building. Major maintenance work is needed to prevent further deterioration.

ADDITIONAL HISTORICAL INFORMATION

City directories can be used to date the opening of this building to 1905. This was the first year that Frederick P. Crawford and Austin A. Frye operated the Frye and Crawford Drug Company at that address (previously the company was located at 396 Merrimack Street). The drug store continued at this location through the 1940's. An advertisement in the 1913 city directory noted that the store had "expert truss fitters and deformity apparatus and foot specialists." The upper floors were used as a lodginghouse.

474 Merrimack Street appears on the 1906 atlas with the owner's name, Hiram Whitney. The 1917 directory lists this as the Crawford Building and the Crawford House lodginghouse. By 1924, the atlas shows the owner as F.P.Crawford and in 1936 the building was labeled Crawford Building and Cosmos apartments. The 1945 map shows a confectionery store and drug store located here.

Previously on this site, the 1879 and 1882 atlases show a row of two three-story frame buildings. This frame row may have dated back to the 1830's, since the 1832 map shows a building on the site. By 1896, only the rear outbuildings remained.

SOURCES

Atlases: 1896, 1906. City Directories
Maps: 1832, 1945 Nathan Nirenstein map

ARCHEOLOGICAL COMMENT

In the small unpaved rear yard, archeological remains which could be recovered would relate to commercial/domestic uses since the 1830's.

