

LOWELL CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION 50, 56, 60 CENTRAL STREET MAP SHEET # 12
 1) CURRENT OWNER Central Savings Bank OWNER OCCUPIED yes
 2) IF DETERIORATED, CAUSES n/a
 2) HISTORIC NAME Harrington Building
 3) CURRENT NAME Central Savings Bank
 4) PROPERTY TYPE commercial 5) ZONING CLASSIFICATION B-3
 6) TAXES: PAYMENTS current STATUS clear
 7) WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF LHPD, Middle-Merrimack Sts. HD.

HISTORICAL ABSTRACT

1) CONSTRUCTION DATE 1876/1973
 SOURCE circumstantial: date on building in hist. photo/documentated: City Building Dept. records
 2) ARCHITECT OR BUILDER unknown
 3) HISTORIC OWNER Horace B. Shattuck (1879)
 4) ORIGINAL USE: GF commercial UF commercial
 5) PREVIOUS BLDGS ON PROPERTY no DATE _____
 SOURCE _____

DESCRIPTIVE DATA

1) ARCHITECTURAL STYLE late 20th C. commercial
 2) PRESENT USE:
 GF commercial
 UF commercial
 3) NO OF STORIES 2
 4) PROP SQ FT 9,420
 5) PLAN trapezoidal
 6) ROOF flat
 7) STRUCTURAL SYSTEM
load-bearing masonry
 8) OUTBUILDINGS
none
 9) MATERIALS:
 FOUNDATION
granite
 FACADE f: granite facing; s,r: red brick in common bond w/Flemish variation (5/1)
 TRIM aluminum screen
 10) NOTABLE SURFACE & LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS none



ADDRESS 50, 56, 60 CENTRAL STREET

VISUAL ASSESSMENT

- 1) CONDITION OF BUILDING FABRIC excellent
- 2) IF DETERIORATED, CAUSES n/a
- 3) INTEGRITY OF HISTORIC BLDG FABRIC: GF major and irreversible changes
UF major and irreversible changes
- 4) SURROUNDING LAND USES commercial
- 5) INTEGRITY OF PROP'S HIST SETTING moderately disrupted historic setting
- 6) IMPORTANCE OF PROP TO HIST SETTING detracts from character

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTION

This structure, trapezoidal in plan, is twentieth century commercial in design and faced with granite, aluminum, and marble veneer.

It is fronted on the corner of Central and Prescott Streets by an attractive park which opens up the view to the handsome Southwick and Claflin Blocks on Prescott Street.

ADDITIONAL HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The 1841 map shows three rectangular structures occupying the site. By 1850, three buildings run along the street frontage of Central and Prescott, labeled as belonging to Reed, Kearney and Spaulding, and Reed and Prescott. None of these names appear in the 1851 directory on Central or Prescott Streets; however, the Lowell Advertiser had its office in Spaulding's building at 48 Central, the site of the park.

In 1879, except for one small portion at the rear of 30-32 Central, the entire block from 30-52 Central was brick and consisted of four buildings. 34-38 is labeled "Sheppard's Hall." Horace B. Shattuck Co., hardware, was also listed at 34 Central and 14 Shattuck. This building was erected in 1876 and is on the site of the present bank.

The 1896 atlas maintains essentially the same plan. 42-44 Central is labeled "Gerrish heirs." Thomas G. Gerrish, "architect and Expert Accountant," proprietor of Dr. Gerrish's Standard Bitters and Vegetable Canker Specific, is listed at this address. His first listing was in 1893 at 32 Central (prior to street number change). 48-52 Central is labeled "W. B. Shattuck," the hardware store still being maintained at that address. 56 Central is the First National Bank, and 60-70 Central is labeled "W. B. Spaulding." W. B. Spaulding had this office in the Spaulding Block as early as 1886.

In 1906, the status is essentially maintained; however, J. H. Harrington owns 48-52 Central. The 1906 atlas lists John H. Harrington as proprietor of the Lowell Sun.

By 1924, Harrington owns Nos. 42-52, and the Central Savings Bank occupies Nos. 54-58. The 1936 atlas is the same. The Harrington Building (the present site of the bank), and the Central Savings Bank at No. 58, along with the Spaulding Block (now the park site), are listed as such through 1957. In 1958, the Central Savings Bank moves to the Harrington Building, now No. 50, and No. 58 becomes vacant. The entire block is listed through 1973.

In 1973 the Central Savings Bank was granted a permit to raze two buildings at Nos. 56-58 and Nos. 60-70 Central Street. These were the old bank building and the Spaulding Block. Their demolition cleared the site of the present park. In 1974 the bank received a permit to apply "granite and aluminum" siding to the building at 50 Central Street, at a cost of \$20,000. The bank's building appears entirely new, even along the narrow rear alley, but it presumably contains at its core the old Harrington Building, reduced from four floors and completely refaced.

Sources

1841, 1850 maps.

1879, 1896, 1906, 1924, 1936 atlases.

1851, 1880, 1886, 1893, 1896, 1906, 1954, 1958, 1973, 1974 directories.

Lowell Building Department records.

ARCHEOLOGICAL COMMENT

A brick structure only partially covers the site; the park area, now paved, might yield foundation remains of the nineteenth century brick buildings.



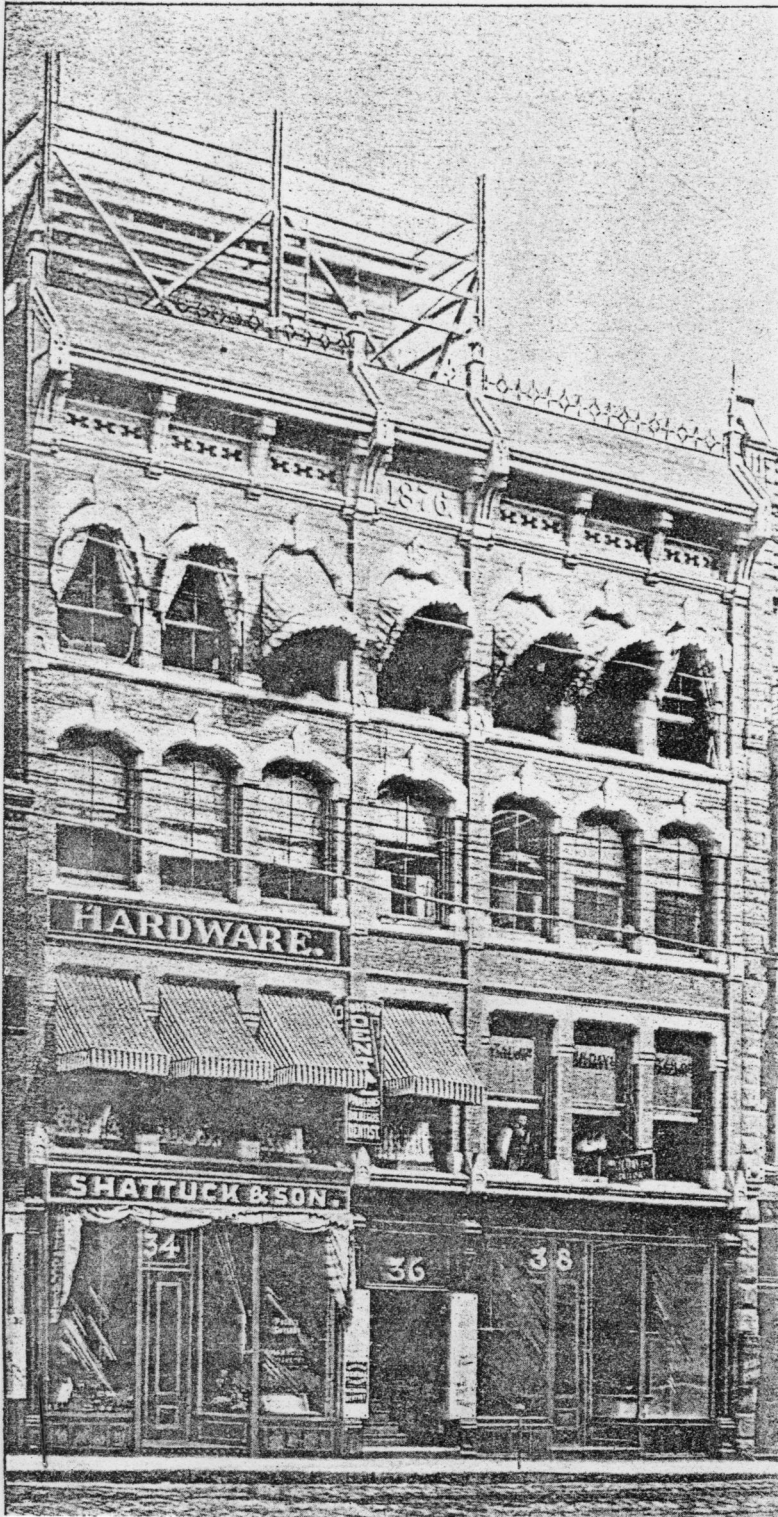
JUNCTION OF CENTRAL AND PRESCOTT STREETS, LOWELL, MASS.

Ca. 1920 postcard.

University of Lowell Library, Special Collections, photo file.

HORACE B. SHATTUCK & SON,

ESTABLISHED IN 1842.



Jobbers and Dealers in

Hardware and Mill Supplies.

ATHLETIC GOODS,
INDIAN CLUBS,
BELLS,
BOXING GLOVES,
ROWING MACHINES,
CHEST WEIGHTS,
FOILS,
BASE BALL GOODS.

TYPE WRITERS
For sale or to rent.
RAZORS.
PEN AND POCKET
KNIVES.
ELEGANT TABLE
CUTLERY.
SCALES.
SAFES.

Tools, Cutlery, House Trimmings.

34 CENTRAL ST., 10, 14, 16, 18 PRESCOTT ST.

Shattuck-Harrington Building, built 1876, reduced and refaced as Central Savings Bank, 1973. From Lowell and Vicinity Today, 1893, p. 81.