

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

LOWELL HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Fiscal 1985 Budget Briefing Statement

SUBJECT: Lowell Historic Preservation Commission development funds

PROBLEM: No development funds are contained in the FY 1985 budget request. Additional funds are essential to complete three priority projects and to continue a highly successful matching grants program for buildings of national significance. The priority projects are at a critical juncture at this time, all in the construction phase. The requested funds would conclude the major development projects approved by the Secretary in the Commission's Preservation Plan (1980). These projects were designed to support and insure the success of the Lowell National Historical Park (LNHP) by providing incentives for private development related to the Park theme. This strategy has been extremely successful and has been recognized as a national model. Seven private dollars have been invested for every dollar spent by the Commission on these incentive programs (over \$16 million in direct private investment as of the end of this year). The Commission has just three full fiscal years of operation remaining prior to its termination. For projects to be completed and programs implemented, funds must be made available as soon as possible.

STATUS: All Commission projects are in the construction phase. Cultural Center exterior rehabilitation will be complete in August '84, planning is underway for the interior and exhibits. The adjacent lot must be acquired, at which time landscape planning can commence. Pawtucket Canal construction will commence in April '84, with planning complete for the final stage improvements requested herein. All existing FY 1984 grant funds will be obligated by April '84. Two open historic trolleys will be delivered May '84, overhead line work by April '84, with planning complete for final stage improvements requested herein.

INTEREST GROUP/PERSON: Senator Tsongas, Congressman Shannon, Lowell City Council and City Manager. The retirement of Senator Tsongas and announcement of Congressman Shannon's attempt to succeed him have added an intensity to the efforts of these officials to secure enough funds to guarantee completion of Commission and LNHP development.

ALTERNATIVES: The following monies will be required in FY 1985 (by priority):

1. Boott Mills Cultural Center area- acquisition, development performing arts park, exhibits, replacement parking:	\$2,600,000
2. Pawtucket Canal- complete north bank:	600,000
3. Grants- Boott Mill area and designated Park area nationally significant buildings:	1,500,000
4. Project planning- design, construction supervision	500,000
5. Trolley- open car, final extension, track upgrading	675,000
	<hr/> \$5,875,000

ACTION REQUIRED: Support funding package

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