

2-2267

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

LOWELL HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Fiscal 1984 Budget Briefing Statement

February 11, 1983

SUBJECT: Lowell Historic Preservation Commission Development Funds.

ISSUE: No development funds are contained in the FY 1984 budget. This would have the following impacts:

- The Boott Mill Boarding House interior rehabilitation would not occur. This would leave an unoccupied building despite the expenditure of \$1.3 million (FY 83) for exterior restoration. This would also place in danger the last remaining "mill girl" boarding house in Lowell built in 1836.
- No additional track work could be accomplished on the historic trolley visitor transportation system. This would result in a potentially dangerous situation, since an engineering consultant has recommended track stabilization and two track bypass connections.
- A revolving loan pool for owners of nationally significant buildings would be terminated, despite a record producing \$18 in private sector investment for every Commission dollar loaned in the past three years.

The Commission possesses unique authorities to stimulate private investment in historic properties in and around the national park. It also protects important buildings and resources. With a 15-member local, state and federal board, the Commission encourages cooperation among various levels of government. It works closely with the national park and has minimized federal land ownership. To maintain support among investment partners and complete its mandated work within four additional fiscal years, the funds requested in FY 1984 are essential.

STATUS: Boott Mill Cultural Center planning complete, exterior restoration to begin in July, 1983, completion December, 1983; two historic trolleys and overhead power line under construction; all existing loan funds obligated (\$314,000). In FY 1983, the Commission received \$1.85 million in development funds, all of which will be obligated by September, 1983.

INTEREST GROUP/PERSON: The Lowell congressional delegation (Senator Tsongas), Congressman Shannon), city government. Commission development plans, particularly the Boott Mill project, have drawn a great deal of attention and enjoy broad public support.

ALTERNATIVES: The following monies will be required in FY 84 (by priority):

1. Boott Mill Cultural Center, phase 3 of 3	\$1,100,000
2. Historic Trolley, phase 4 of 5	574,000
3. Revolving Loan Fund, installment 2 of 2	436,000
	<u>\$2,110,000</u>

ACTION REQUIRED: Support funding package

CONTACT: Fred Faust, Executive Director, Lowell Historic Preservation Commission
Telephone: (617) 458-7654, house 452-1972.