Historic Wayside Signage for Greenway

ONCORD RIVER GREENWAY

"Who looks upon a river in a meditative bour, and is not reminded of the flux of all things?"

Ralph Waldo Emerson Nature (1836)



Concord River

Greenway Park

The Lowell Cemetery is one of the oldest "garden" cemeteries in the United States. Established in 1841, it was meant to be a burial ground for the dead and a park-like retreat for the living.



Community

Nature

With the growth of industry in the nineteenth century, Lowell attracted thousands of immigrants. The first large group of foreign-born came from England and Ireland, and waves of immigrants from other countries followed, often organizing their lives around a church.

Industry

Water-powered manufacturing started early on the lower Concord River. Here, eighteenthcentury settlers built numerous dams and mills to saw lumber. erind grain, and card wool. In 1818. Moses Hale crected several buildings at Warnesit Falls to make gunpowder.



Many Irish Catholics belonged to the Sacred Heart Parish and attended the church on Moore Street, built in 1894.



Bebridere Village, 1832

"The parish was the center of your life. . . . You went to school there. You went to church right across the street, and then you mixed in with the people up in that area."

Elinor Haines, former Cartor Street resident

Natureza

O Lowell Conservey Franchos mass antigen "jacilitat" conservina dos Tacados Osodos, fiscabelecido os: 1840, foi planepado para ast um constituiro para os descentsion, or loads glown provides property long to

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Comunidade

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Naturaleza

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MESIT FALLS OVERLOOK

Who looks upon a river in a meditative bour, and is not reminded of the flux of all things?"

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Ralph Walds Emerson, Nature (1836)



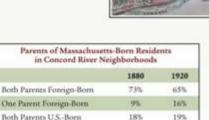




Nature

completed decades later.

Alastin City of Lowell, 1924



Industry

Starting as an overseer at Moses Hale's gunpowder factory, Oliver Whipple married Hale's youngest daughter and took over the business in 1821. That same year he also financed construction of the Warnesit Canal, which extended to its full reach by mid-century and powered other mills and factories drawn to the area.



On July 28, 1903, new peopler magazines exploded at the U.S. Cartridge Company, located at the north end of the Warnesit Canal. Twenty-fire workers died, guarationes at the crisetory were knocked over. and houses as far as a mile away were damaged.

Community

Even as late as the 1920s, most of the residents in the Lower Concord River corridor-the Sacred Heart, Back Central, and Lower Belvidere neighborhoods-were either foreign-born or the children of foreign-born parents.

Natureza

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ENTENNIAL ISLAND BRIDGE "Who looks upon a river in a meditative bour, and is not reminded of the flux of all things?"

Ralph Waldo Emerson



Concord River

Greenway Park

"There was an old footbridge that went over the river down there. right in back of the mills ... When I was a kid, you'd go up to Fort Hill Park and take that as a shortcut home.... Over the years the water had washed boards away. It was just the metal structure. You'd have to kind of balance your way to walk across it. That's what we called the 'holey' bridge."

Children growing up in Concord River neighborhoods

played in local parks, vacant lots, and even abandoned

mills. They also fished and swam in the river and

canals, in spite of certain hazards. Dye waste

turned swimmers' fingernails various colors.

and the water reeked of tannery waste.

Community

In the 1890s, immigrants began to come to Lowell from the Azores, Madeira, and Cape Verde islands, as well as continental Portugal. Many of them settled in Back Central and, in 1907, they built their own church, St. Anthony's of Lisbon, on Central Street.

Industry

The Lowell & Andover Railroad was completed in 1874, branching off from the Boston & Maine below Lawrence Street and traveling a short path on what is now the Concord River Greenway. With this rail access. Perry Street finally saw the arrival of business and trade.

> American Hide and Leather, located on the site now occupied. by Bradford Industries, war one of the largest tannerses in the United States. It cloud in 1956, and the buildings were destroyed by fire in the 2880a. (photo right)



finalized Industries of Lowell was chosen by NASA to develop the airbag material which subuned the shock of the Eathfinder's Landing on the rocky surface of Mars on July 4, 1997. This was the first man-made material ever to touch the surface of the planet. (photo left)

ATTEND

CONTRACTOR NO.

"The Portuguese always kept their homes very neat and clean. They had all different kinds of flowers, of course, but they also had grapevines, and they'd have the arches." - Mary Low Looney

former Fayetta Street resident

Natureza

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Comunidad

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Nature (1836)

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Martin Lantarna former Onseley Strint resident

ONCORD RIVER GREENWAY

Nature

Who looks upon a river in a meditative bour, and is not reminded of the flux of all things?"

Ralph Waldo Emerson Nature (1836)



Concord River

Greenway Park





Han of the City of Lowell Sewage System, r. 1880

Community

Smaller in number than other immigrant groups in the area, Back Central's Armenian population was still large enough to establish St. Vartanantz Armenian Apostolic Church in 1920, near Lawrence and Church Streets. Many of the immigrants' children attended the nearby Colburn School, built in 1879.

Industry

The first mill at Massic Falls was an iron works, built in 1791 by Nathan Ames on the west bank of the river. By the 1920s the site belonged to the Lowell Electric Light Company. which also opened a generating facility on the opposite bank, north of Rogers Street.

This 1824 shored is similar to tools made in the early nineteenth century by the Ames and Fahrer ron works.

"My uncle threw the trash right in the river, right off the [Rogers Street] bridge. And down there, there were washing machines. I mean sticking up out of the water. ... People used to just do it, and no one batted an eye. That's just what everybody used to do, throw [their trash] in the river." Richard Molmers.

former Hanks Street resident

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Natureza

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Comunidade

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Naturaleza

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Comunidad

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IDDLESEX FALLS

Nature

"Who looks upon a river in a meditative bour, and is not reminded of the flux of all things?"

> Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nature (1836)



Rend Terres ... of Beneficial States

Drawing on centuries of tradition, native inhabitants

beans, and squash together in the same field. Beans

and corn stalks provided a scaffold for beans. Plant

diversity also minimized the threat of insect pests.

restored soil fertility, squash leaves shaded the ground,

used the land along the Concord River to cultivate corn,

Community

Concord River Greenway Park &

With the onset of immigration from southern and eastern Europe at the turn of the twentieth century, a flood of Polish and Lithuanian immigrants came to Lower Behidere, Typically, the Poles attended Holy Trinity on High Street between Oak and Porter Streets, and the Lithuanians went to St. Joseph's Lithuanian Church on Rogers Street.

Industry

Middlesex Falls was first dammed in the eighteenth century to power a grist mill and saw mill on the west bank. Later, in 1818, entrepreneur Thomas Hurd oversaw construction of a new dam as well as a power canal for textile manufacturing there. The Middlesex Manufacturing Company produced woolen goods at the site until the early twentieth century but began renting its mill buildings in the 1920a as the textile industry declined. In 1956, the Warren Street property was converted into a parking garage.

A STRONG PROTEST Against Rebuilding of Tannery In Howe Street

On the case bank of Mallesex Folls, the White

On the car rack of statuserser pairs, the when Brothers opened a stamper, which they sold to American Hile and Leather in 1899. After a subrovery over rebuilding the callapted beaming basis, they moved all openations to Perey Street.

"I was born in the Fayette Street area, and right bohind the house where I lived was the river. . . On the left was a French family, the Poet. We were the Polish family, Rachel Saxowicz in the middle, and on the right I remember the Kelleys, the Irish family. And on the top of the incline we had a black family, the Edmundt."

Mary Los Looney, former Esyntic Street resident

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Industria

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Comunidad

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ONCORD RIVER GREENWAY

🗱 - Incolgrame in 1995

Nature

Who looks upon a river in a meditative bour, and is not reminded of the flux of all things?"

Ralph Waldo Emerson. Nature (1836) Until the mid-twentieth century, there was an island in the Concord River, downstream from Middlesex Falls, that provided two good fishing places at either end. Wamesir Indians and early white settlers caught shad, alewife, eel, and salmon there in great quantities, before dams and pollution decimated fish stocks.

> Immigrant Populations in Lowell's Concord River Neighborhoods

> (U.S. Census Manuscripts, 1880 and 1920)

Other countries of origin (Jener than 4 residents each): Albania, Belgium, Bahamas,

China, France, Germany, Grence, Ruly, Norneys, Russia, Sonden, and South Africa.

Streets represented in this survey. Lawrence, Church, Crudy, Agonem and Exyette



The 1933 photograph, looking opstreams from East Merrinauk Street, shows the removants of another rea The Dillon Dye Works, in the left, is more part of the Moldlecess Community College comput. The Moldlecess Manufacturing Company building, looning in the distance, one record in 1956 to make way for a parking gatage

Industry

Constructed in 1793 to facilitate the movement of people and goods around Pawtucket Falls, the Pawrucker Canal became part of an extensive power canal system used by Lowell's textile mills. This included the Massachusetts Mills, built at the Merrimack and Concord River confluence in 1841, as well as the adjacent Prescott Mills, incorporated in 1844.



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These two images of the Concord River show its confluence with the Merrinsack River. The coucke billowing from stacks along the "suile of suils," pictured in buth the sociated engraving and the 1908 photograph, once symbolized Lourd?) prosperity.

Community

During the end of the nineteenth century, an increasing number of immigrants came to live and work in Lowell. Irish, English, and Canadians made up the largest portion of foreign-born residents in the city's Concord River neighborhoods, but many other ethnic groups were also represented. sometimes by only one person from a particular country.

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Concord River

Greenway Park