

# Lowell



National Historical Park  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Heritage State Park  
Department of Environmental Management  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

● Lowell's history is the history of the Industrial Revolution in America. A century and a half ago Lowell's manufacturers first combined innovations in labor, capital, and technology to mass-produce cloth on a large scale. Early Lowell's work force of Yankee farm women—the famous "mill girls"—were drawn to Lowell by the promise of decent wages, supervised boardinghouses, and the attractions of city life.

Lowell's prosperity resulted in the establishment of other textile cities on rivers throughout New England. Soon, however, the increased competition led the owners to cut wages and speed up production, and the cycle of conflict between labor and management was born. As the "mill girls" became disillusioned with the system, they were replaced by a succession of immigrant groups eager to find work at any price. The city

itself also changed, as well regulated boardinghouses gradually gave way to dark, overcrowded tenements.

Profits of the city's textile manufacturers suffered increasingly from competition with more modern textile centers. Soon after World War I, most of the companies saw that it was unprofitable to compete with the growing Southern textile industry. They decided to move or close down their aging plants, abandoning thousands of dependent workers. Businesses shut down, real estate prices fell, and unemployment rose, as Lowell slid into decades of economic decline.

Today Lowell has begun a new chapter in its history. A resurgence of local pride has led to the establishment of two new parks commemorating the city's vital role in the nation's past. This new spirit has led to a remarkable revival in the local economy, as once again the city has

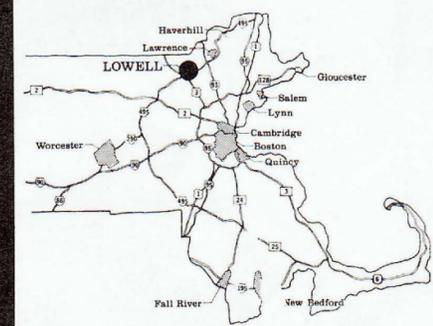
become a rapidly growing industrial center.

● Lowell National Historical Park and Lowell Heritage State Park preserve and interpret Lowell's pioneering role in the American Industrial Revolution. The Parks include over 5 miles of canals, operating gatehouses, mill complexes, mill worker housing, and 19th century commercial structures. The Park Visitor Center, open daily, includes a spectacular multi-image slide show and exhibits on labor, power, capital, machines, and the industrial city. The Lowell Heritage State Park Waterpower Exhibit, housed in the nearby Mack Building, uses working models, life-sized sculptures, and audio-visuals to recount the history of waterpower in Lowell. National and State Park Rangers conduct guided tours daily, and the Parks sponsor a variety of festivals and special events throughout the summer months. Major develop-

ment plans are now in progress that call for a major museum in a cotton textile mill and a restored 1835 boardinghouse that will house a variety of exhibits on labor, immigration, and life in an industrial city.

● Historic sites, exhibits, canal barges, historic trolleys and walking tours all have seasonal hours of operation. National and State Park Rangers are available at the Park Visitor Center seven days a week, year round to help you plan your visit.

● Whether you explore Lowell by foot, trolley, or canal barge, please make your visit a safe one. Observe all traffic signals and use crosswalks. Sensible footwear is a must. For further information contact: Lowell National Historical Park, 169 Merrimack Street, Lowell, MA 01852, 617/459-1000.



- Lawrence Mfg's Agent's House
- Hydroelectric Plant
- University of Lowell North Campus
- St. Jean Baptiste Church
- Pawtucket Gatehouse
- Pawtucket Dam
- Holy Trinity Hellenic Orthodox Church
- St. Patrick's Church
- Old City Hall
- University of Lowell South Campus
- Guard Locks Complex
- Whistler House
- Heritage State Park Waterpower Exhibit
- National and State Park Visitor Center
- Swamp Locks
- Lawrence Mill
- Suffolk Mill Turbine Exhibit
- Tremont Gatehouse
- City Hall and Public Library
- Moody Street Feeder Gatehouse
- St. Anne's Church
- Boott Mills
- Mogan Cultural Center
- Massachusetts Mill
- LRTA Bus Terminal
- Memorial Auditorium
- Wang Training Center
- Lower Locks Area
- Lowell Hilton
- Agents' House
- Hamilton & Appleton Mills
- Gallagher Transportation Terminal (train, bus, downtown shuttle)