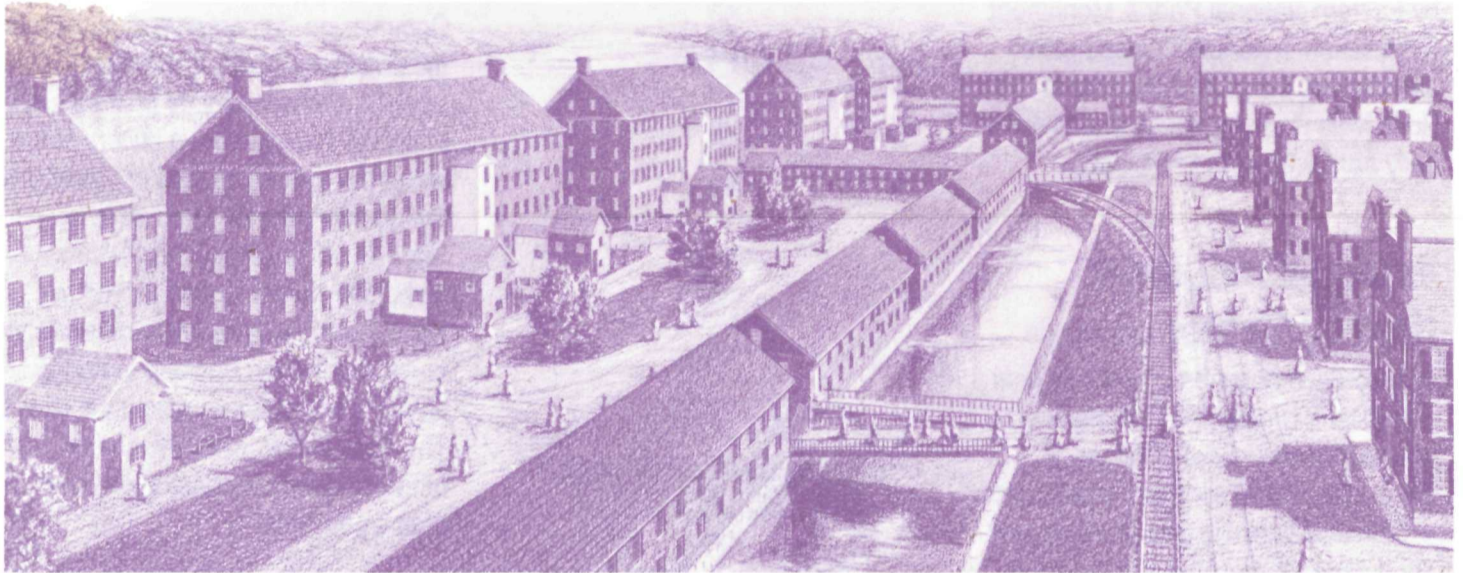


LOWELL

National Historical Park
National Park Service
Lowell, Massachusetts

Boott Cotton Mills Museum



Boott Cotton Mills area, circa 1850.
Illustrator: Kirk Doggett.

Boott Cotton Mills

In March 1835, Boott Cotton Mills were chartered "for the purpose of manufacturing cotton and woolen goods," becoming a part of Lowell, America's first major industrial city. The story of the Boott Mills, the most architecturally significant of the surviving mill complexes, parallels the city's rise, decline and rebirth.

Named for Kirk Boott, who oversaw the construction and operation of the multiplying canals and mills of early Lowell, the Boott Mills complex was built on land bordered by the Merrimack River and Eastern Canal. Waterpower needed for the mill was supplied by the 8-foot-deep, 2037-foot-long canal constructed in 1835-36. In its heyday in 1893, the Boott employed more than 2,200 workers, 76% of whom were female. In time, mills encountered aggressive Southern competition, outmoded physical plants, high taxes, and conflict between Lowell's workers and managers. The Boott Mills Company ceased textile production in 1954. Today Boott Mill #6 houses Lowell National Historical Park's newest facility, the Boott Cotton Mills Museum.

Boott Cotton Mills Museum

The museum features a dramatic 1920s weave room exhibit with 88 operating power looms. It dynamically portrays a typical mill workplace during the first part of the 20th century. However, in an original weave room, the noise, heat, and humidity would have been much greater. Also, more looms would have packed the floor and the air would have been filled with cotton dust. The second floor exhibit, "Lowell: Visions of Industrial America," details the impact of industrialization on rural New England and the young American nation, the growth and decline of Lowell's mills, textile production from bale to bolt, "Work in the 21st Century," and more. Multi-image, interactive, and oral history audio-visual programs, mill models, historic machines, and rare images from the past bring the story to life. Boott Cotton Mills Museum admission is \$3.00 for adults; \$2.00 for senior citizens; \$1.00 for youths 6 - 16 yrs; and children aged 5 and under are free.

While you're in the museum...visit the **Boott Gallery**, which will feature temporary exhibitions of paintings, artifacts and photography focusing on the themes of power, labor, capital, machines, and the industrial city, and the story of the National Parks; **Special Events Center**, a performing arts center, where community-sponsored dramatic programs, lectures, and multi-media presentations take place.

Lowell National Historical Park is a cooperative park and acts as the host to several historical and cultural organizations also in Boott Mill #6...

Boott Museum Store

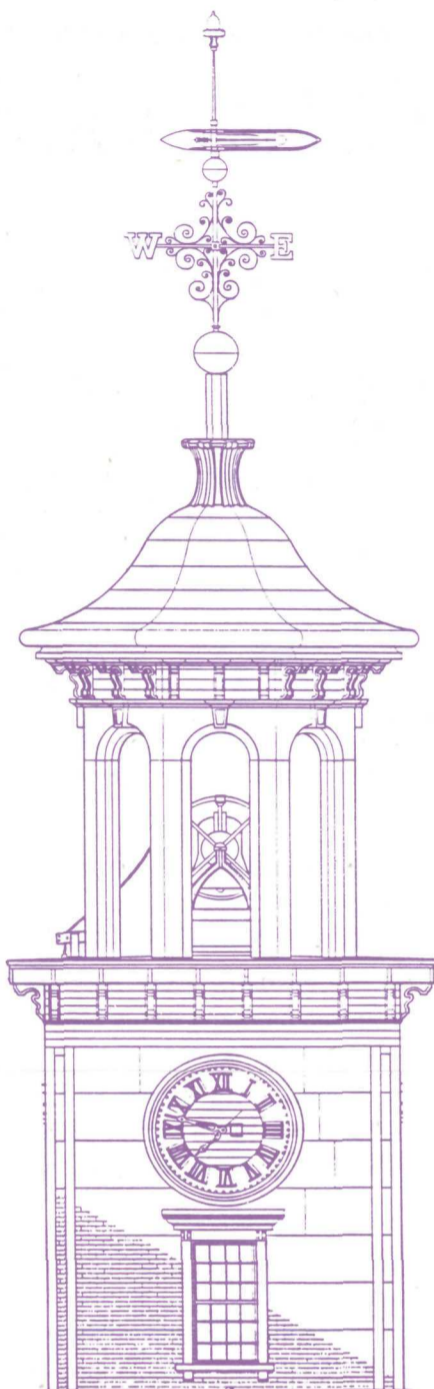
offers a large selection of books, posters, and gifts for museum visitors and customers of all ages. Operated by Eastern National Park & Monument Association, a nonprofit cooperative association, the store is located in the Boott Mills Countinghouse and is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Tsongas Industrial History Center

is a unique collaboration between Lowell National Historical Park and the University of Massachusetts Lowell, College of Education. The Tsongas Center offers experiential learning opportunities and encourages the teaching of industrial history through workshops and a 700 volume resource center.

Cultural Resources Center

operates as a branch of the National Park Service serving the 8-state North Atlantic Region. The 35-member staff--including architects, archeologists, conservators, and craftspeople--specializes in preservation treatments for historic structures, landscapes, monuments, documents, archeological resources, and more.



New England Folklife Center of Lowell

was established in 1989 as a branch of the Lowell Historic Preservation Commission "to preserve and interpret the nationally significant aspects of Lowell's heritage, and to present and preserve the expressive culture shared within the various groups in Lowell and the greater New England area." "Traditional New England: Old and New," the Center's main exhibit, will focus upon the varied cultural traditions found within New England featuring different artisans throughout the year. The Folklife Center will also offer ethnic cooking demonstrations and craft workshops.

Lowell Historical Society

was incorporated in 1902 as the successor to the Old Residents' Historical Society of Lowell, founded in 1868. The Lowell Historical Society's mission is "collecting and preserving books, manuscripts, records and objects of antiquarian and historical interest; encouraging the study of local history; maintaining a library, and publishing ... whatever may illustrate and perpetuate the history of Lowell." Historical tours, lectures, workshops, and exhibits will be offered.

Other Park Offerings

The Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center, 246 Market Street, Lowell, is open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Begin your visit here and view the award-winning multi-image slide presentation, "Lowell: the Industrial Revelation." Ranger-guided tours are offered daily, year-round; reservations can be made at the Visitor Center, or by calling (508) 459-1000(V/TDD).

Park exhibits include the *Waterpower Exhibit*, 25 Shattuck Street, and the *Working People Exhibit*, in the Mogan Cultural Center, 40 French Street. Check in at the Visitor Center for exhibit hours and special events.

Directions

To drive to Lowell National Historical Park take Route 495 or Route 3 (Exit 30N) to Thorndike Street (Exit 5N). Follow brown and white "Lowell National and State Park" signs. Free parking is available in the Visitor Parking lot.

