LOWELL CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION  719 Broadway (moved from 1708 Middlesex) MAP SHEET # 10

1) CURRENT OWNER  building: Jaycee Place Housing Corporation OWNER OCCUPIED  NA

2) HISTORIC NAME  Hadley House

3) CURRENT NAME  same

4) PROPERTY TYPE  single family residence

5) ZONING CLASSIFICATION  IA

6) TAXES: PAYMENTS  tax-exempt

7) WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF  LHPD

HISTORICAL ABSTRACT

1) CONSTRUCTION DATE  1822


2) ARCHITECT OR BUILDER

3) HISTORIC OWNER  Harvey Burnett

4) ORIGINAL USE: GF  residential (one room used as UF  residential law office)

5) PREVIOUS BLDGS ON PROPERTY  gatekeepers house DATE  ca.1850

SOURCE  atlases

DESCRIPTIVE DATA

1) ARCHITECTURAL STYLE  Federal

2) PRESENT USE:  

GF  vacant

UF  vacant

3) NO OF STORIES  2 1/2

4) PROP SQ FT  13,168

5) PLAN  L-shaped

6) ROOF  endwall gable

7) STRUCTURAL SYSTEM  wood frame

8) OUTBUILDINGS  none

9) MATERIALS:

FOUNDATION  granite slab(main block)

concrete blocks under ell

FAçADE  wood clapboards

TRIM  wood

10) NOTABLE SURFACE & LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS  adjacent to park
ADDRESS_719 Broadway

VISUAL ASSESSMENT
1) CONDITION OF BUILDING FABRIC needs minor repairs

2) IF DETERIORATED, CAUSES

3) INTEGRITY OF HISTORIC BLDG FABRIC: GF intact original fabric

UF intact original fabric

4) SURROUNDING LAND USES residential, light industrial

5) INTEGRITY OF PROPERTY’S HISTORIC SETTING (moved from another location)

6) IMPORTANCE OF PROPERTY TO HISTORIC SETTING (contributes significantly to new location)

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTION
The 1822 Hadley House is a well-preserved example of the Federal style moved to this location in 1990. The new location is adjacent to the Pawtucket Canal and the state historic park at Francis Gate. The simple wood-frame structure complements the three historic mid-19th century structures which are the focus of the park: a navigational lock, a wood-frame gatehouse to regulate the normal flow of water, and a guard gate to protect the city from floods. The Hadley House is close in size and configuration to the former gatekeepers house (now demolished), which stood about 100 feet behind where the Hadley House is now located.

The house has a symmetrical five-bay facade and a center entrance with an enclosed portico. A transom and partial sidelights flank the door. The windows are presently boarded up (Feb. 1993) but a previous description mentions 6/6 sash, perhaps original. The rear ell was added in 1828 and consists of a five-bay, two-story section and a two-bay, one-story section. Attached on the west side of the main block is a simple one-story porch.

ADDITIONAL HISTORICAL INFORMATION
The Hadley House was originally located in the Middlesex Village section of Lowell at 1708 Middlesex Street. It was built in 1822 by Mr. Harvey Burnett, who lived in the main portion until 1827. While Burnett lived in the house, Francis Brinley had a law office in the east room and his sign was placed on the outside of the house. In 1827 the new owner, Samuel P. Hadley, added the rear ell in 1828, and his family remained in the house for about 100 years. Hadley came to Middlesex Village in 1822 to take charge of the Middlesex Canal. He was also a selectman and treasurer of Chelmsford and, in 1852, a delegate to the Constitutional Convention. His son, Judge Samuel Page Hadley (1831-1919) married Fanny M. Walker in 1858 and moved into the house ca. 1865. Judge Hadley was clerk of the Lowell Police Court from 1857 to 1885 and its judge for another 27 years. He was also a local historian of some note.

The house was moved in 1990 by the City of Lowell with assistance from the LHPC and Block Grant funds. It has been vacant since then, and the latest proposal is to rehabilitate it for use as an emergency family center.

SOURCES

ARCHEOLOGICAL COMMENTS
The site of the former gatekeeper’s house could be evaluated for possible remains