National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Lowell National Historical Park

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Park Ranger Sarah Blake presenting a museum talk.

Front Page: Lowell NHP Weaver Francisca DeSousa tending warp on one of 88 power looms in the Boott Cotton Mills Museum.

WELCOME TO LOWELL

The rhythm of the river has been the driving force behind Lowell, MA for generations. Today a new rhythm continues to have a powerful impact in making Lowell an exciting place to visit, to live, and to work. I welcome you to join Lowell National Historical Park and the city in the many exciting events, programs, and festivals this year.

To explore all that Lowell has to offer be sure to stop at the park Visitor Center to plan your day. Travel via a guided boat and trolley tour in the city and on the historic canals. Investigate the newly opened River Transformed Exhibit where you can hear and feel the rumble of an operating 1897 waterpower turbine. Discover the Merrimack River by foot, bicycle or paddle through one of our many ranger-guided programs. This is just the beginning of what Lowell has available!

Don't miss this summer's unique opportunity to view *On the Road: Jack Kerouac's Original Scroll Manuscript and Exhibit* at the Boott Cotton Mills Museum Gallery. See Kerouac's original typewritten manuscript submitted for publication of his break-through novel *On the Road* and learn more about Kerouac's Lowell. In addition, numerous festivals and events throughout the year provide wonderful opportunities to learn and experience the rich ethnic diversity of Lowell. Several include the 21st Lowell Folk Festival, the Southeast Asian Water Festival, and the African Festival.

Whether it is history, recreation, culture or music you are looking for, we have it all. Come join us and experience Lowell!

Michael Creasey
Superintendent

LOWELL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK,

one of 390 units of the National Park Service, preserves and interprets the history of the American Industrial Revolution as experienced in Lowell, Massachusetts. The park includes historic cotton textile mills, 5.6 miles of power canals, operating gatehouses, and worker housing. Turn-of-the-century trolleys operate March through November.

ACCESSIBILITY

Wheelchair accessible buildings within the park include the Visitor Center, Mogan Cultural Center, Moody Street Feeder Gatehouse, Wannalancit Mill first floor, and Boott Cotton Mills Museum. Curb -side drop off and ramp available at the Visitor Center (Market Street at Shattuck). Printed narrations of audiovisual programs are available upon request. Park programs, including boat tours, are partially accessible to visitors with mobility impairments. Lowell National Historical Park's boats and trolleys are accessible to wheelchair users (one secure chair space per vehicle). When making reservations for programs including a boat or trolley component, please inform us if your party will include a wheelchair user so that we may reserve this space for you.

INFORMATION & RESERVATIONS

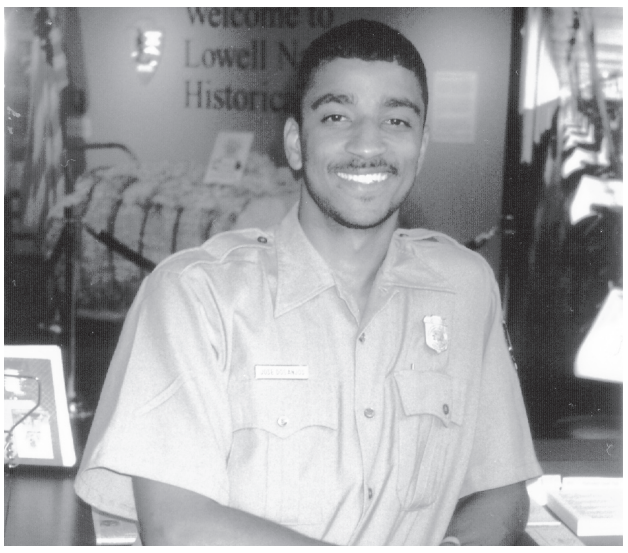
All tours begin at the Visitor Center unless otherwise noted. Please wear comfortable walking shoes and dress for the weather — tours take place rain or shine. *All canal tour reservations must be ticketed and paid for no later than thirty minutes before the start of the tour; at that time, unclaimed reservations will be released and sold to waiting visitors.*

For more information on park programs and reservations, contact Lowell National Historical Park, 67 Kirk Street, Lowell, MA 01852, or call 978-970-5000 ***(978-970-5002 TDD / Hearing impaired only please)*****. Groups: Please call for advance reservations.**

DIRECTIONS

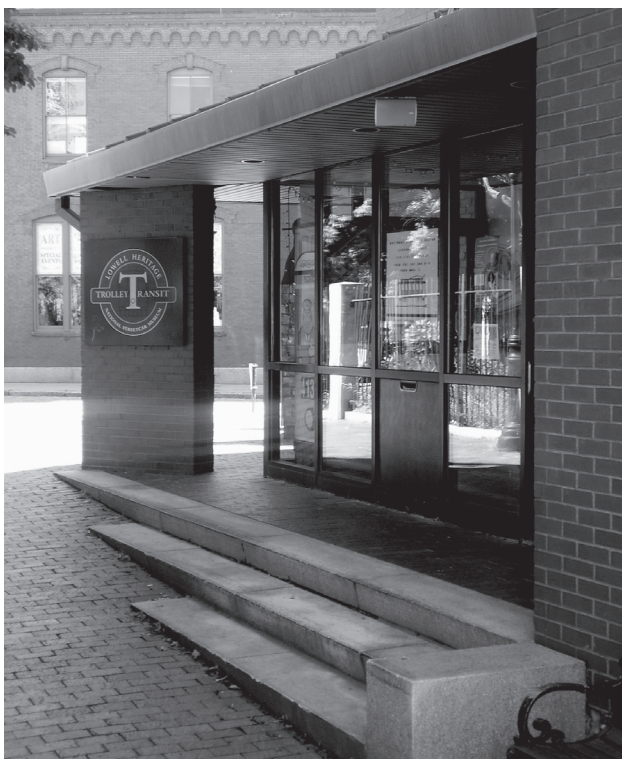
To drive to Lowell National Historical Park, take the Lowell Connector from either Route 495 (Exit 35C) or Route 3 (Exit 30A Southbound, Exit 30B Northbound) to Thorndike Street (Exit 5B). Follow the National Park Visitor Center signs. Free parking is available in the Visitor Parking Lot next to Market Mills. Commuter rail service is available from Boston's North Station to Lowell's Gallagher Terminal.

Exhibits


Park Ranger Jose DosAnjos staffing the orientation and information desk at the Visitor Center.

Weave Room Exhibit at the Boott Cotton Mills Museum.

Moody Street Feeder Gatehouse-Information Center on Merrimack Street.


National Streetcar Museum on Shattuck Street.

VISITOR CENTER
Begin your visit at Market Mills, the former Bigelow Carpet Company complex, one of the city's original textile mills. At the Visitor Center, you can plan your exploration of the major park sites and the city's rich industrial past.

Lowell: The Industrial Revelation, an award -winning multimedia presentation, introduces visitors to the story of how people, technology, and capital came together to revolutionize textile production—and a way of life—in Lowell and other American cities. Also shown is *Lowell Blues,* a film by Henry Ferrini about author Jack Kerouac and his native city. *(Due to special programs times may vary occasionally).*

Make reservations for park tours and other programs, visit the Children's Corner, sign up for the Junior Ranger Program, and shop in the Museum Store. Learn about Lowell's many cultural institutions and the diverse array of special events that celebrate the city's rich ethnic heritage. General information on area lodging and dining is also available. *See insert for seasonal hours. Free admission.*

BOOTT COTTON MILLS MUSEUM
Don't miss the roar of a 1920s weave room with operating power looms! The park's primary exhibit includes the weave room and interactive exhibits and video programs about the Industrial Revolution, labor, and the rise, fall, and rebirth of Lowell. *See insert for seasonal hours.* ***Fees: Adults, $6.00; Youths, 6 -16 & Students $3.00; Senior Discount; Children 5 and under, free****. Call to inquire about special group rates.*

MILL GIRLS & IMMIGRANTS EXHIBIT
Explore the history of "mill girls" and immigrants in a Boott Mills boardinghouse. The Mill Girls & Immigrants Exhibit, located in the Mogan Cultural Center, tells the human story of the Industrial Revolution by concentrating on the working people of Lowell. *See insert for seasonal hours. Free admission.*

MOGAN CULTURAL CENTER
The Patrick J. Mogan Cultural Center is a program of Lowell National Historical Park in partnership with University of Massachusetts Lowell. It features a series of temporary community exhibits.

History of Firefighting in Lowell
June 10 - September 28
Come enjoy an exhibit on the history of the Lowell Fire Department and its role in helping prevent major fires in the city over the years.
Exhibit opening Sunday, June 10, 12:00 p.m. at the Mogan Center. For more information: Jason Strunk at (978)458-8501. Free admission.

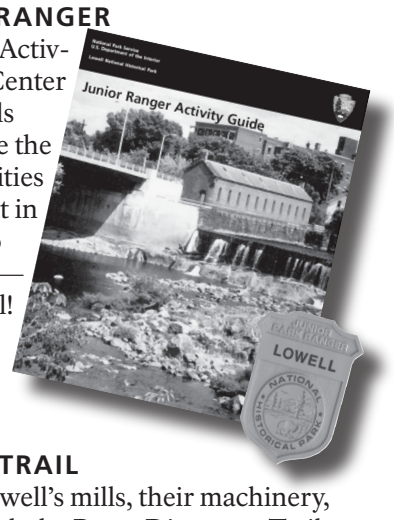
History of Boxing in Lowell
October 8, 2007 - March, 2008
This exhibit traces the history of Lowell's symbolic sport of choice, boxing, from its earliest days through the last half-century of Golden Gloves.
Exhibit opening October 7. For more information: Mehmed Ali at (978)275-1826. Patrick J. Mogan Cultural Center, 40 French Street, Lowell. Free admission.

Ierri e Oggi - Yesterday and Today: A Retrospective of the Italian Community of Lowell
Website launch October 8, 4:00 p.m. at Cafe Paradiso, 143 Middle St. Come celebrate with the launch of a new website on the history of the Italian community of Lowell with food, drink and music. *For more information: Judy Bessette at 978-957-2923.*

"THE RIVER TRANSFORMED" EXHIBIT at the Wannalancit Mills
In this historic mill with its original 19th - century turbines, learn how industrialists and engineers viewed and harnessed the power of the Merrimack River for Lowell's textile mills. Explore the history of the watershed, the human uses of the river system, and the impacts of industrialization on the river. *Site is open seasonally and by tour. See insert for seasonal hours. Free admission.*

MOODY STREET FEEDER GATEHOUSE – INFORMATION CENTER
Join a volunteer at the historic 1848 Moody Street Feeder Gatehouse for a glimpse of the historic gates and their unique function in the waterpower canal system of Lowell. Staffed by "Adopt -A -Gatehouse" park volunteers. *See insert for seasonal hours. Free admission.*

Children's Activities

BECOME A JUNIOR RANGER


Pick up a Junior Ranger Activity Guide at the Visitor Center or the Boott Cotton Mills Museum. As you explore the park, complete the activities in the booklet and turn it in to a ranger at the desk to become a Junior Ranger—badge, certificate, and all! Answers to the activities can be found throughout the park. *Free.*

BOOTT DISCOVERY TRAIL
Discover the story of Lowell's mills, their machinery, and their workers through the Boott Discovery Trail during your visit to the Boott Cotton Mills Museum. Children of all ages can pick up their work aprons and time cards at the museum entrance and through hands - on activities explore how cotton cloth was made from raw cotton to finished cloth. Experience the roar of a 1920s weave room and learn what working in a textile mill was like. *Available during regular museum hours. Free with admission to Boott Cotton Mills Museum.*

CHILDREN'S CORNER
Visit our Children's Corner in the park's Visitor Center. Participate in hands - on activities to explore Lowell's technology through gears and pulleys, read a book together to learn about immigration, machinery, and much more. *Self - guided during regular Visitor Center hours. Free.*

TROLLEY RIDES
Ride on a replica trolley of the early 1900s from site to site during your visit. The trolley provides transportation to the Visitor Center, Boott Cotton Mills Museum, Mill Girls & Immigrants Exhibit, "River Transformed" Exhibit at the Wannalancit Mills, and other attractions in Lowell. The trolley runs daily March through November. *Free.*

THE NATIONAL STREETCAR MUSEUM
A satellite of the Seashore Trolley Museum located in the Mack Building, 25 Shattuck Street. The museum presents the history of trolleys in Lowell and the nation. The second floor features activities for families with children. Also offered are rides on *Desire*, an electric streetcar from the Seashore Trolley Museum's premiere collection of historic trolleys. *Open Thursday - Sunday, 11:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m., May 26 - September 2. See ranger for Fall and Winter hours.*

BOSTON & MAINE RAILROAD EXHIBIT
Learn the history of the B & M Railroad, successor of the Boston and Lowell, New England's first steam railroad. Featuring B & M steam locomotive #410 and a B & M combine car. Exhibit managed by volunteers of the Boston & Maine Railroad Historical Society. *At the Visitor Center trolley stop, the exhibit is viewable at any time; additional exhibits in the combine car are open Saturdays, June 16, July 14 - August 25, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. During the Lowell Folk Festival® the exhibit is open Saturday, July 28 & Sunday, July 29, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Free admission.*

Lowell National Historical Park
Volunteer - in - Parks Program

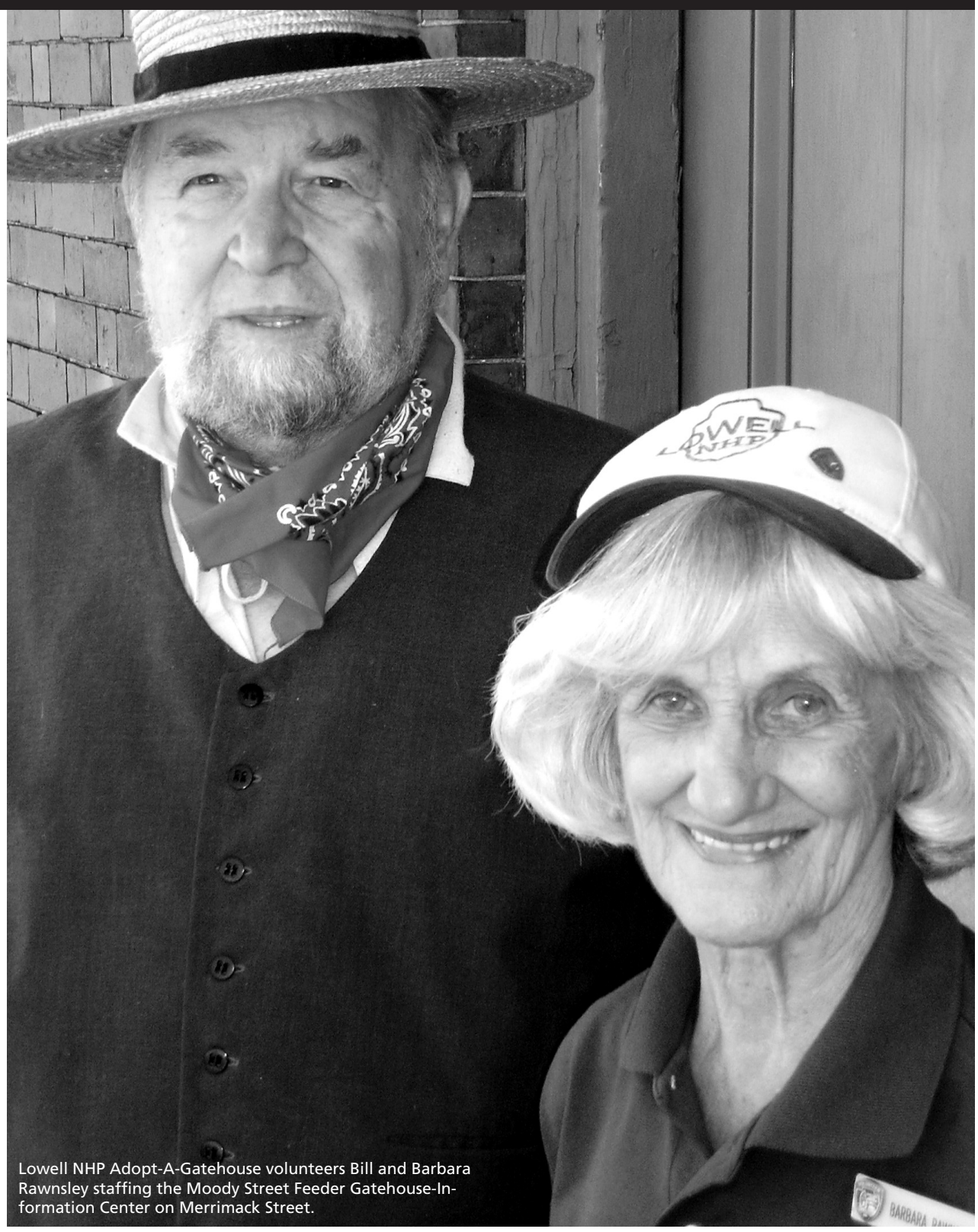
Volunteer Park Rangers Ronny Ead and Emily Levine staffing the Boott Cotton Mills Museum in 2006.

Lowell NHP has one of the most active volunteer programs in the National Park Service. In 2006, volunteers contributed over 88,000 hours to the park. Based on the number of hours contributed it ranks 8th out of 390 National Park sites across the country. Something sure to be proud of!

Our volunteers come from all walks of life and volunteer for many different reasons. They also do many different tasks. Some work behind the scenes assisting with administrative duties and the curatorial program, in the library, and the Mogan Cultural Center. Others are quite visible and work at the Park Visitor Center, Eastern National Museum Stores, the Boott Cotton Mills Museum, the trolley operations, and around the park performing maintenance and preservations tasks.

In addition some volunteers work with our partners, such as the Tsongas Industrial History Center, the Revolving Museum, the Lowell Community Gardeners, Keep Lowell Beautiful, the Lowell Canalwaters Cleaners, the Seashore Trolley Museum, and many others. There is so much variety in volunteering that it really is quite astonishing.

Although there are 300 volunteers who contribute regularly throughout the year, the other 2,500 or so work at special events like the Lowell Folk Festival®, Earth Day, Doors Open Lowell, the City of Lights Parade, the Great Canal Cleanup, and others. At the Lowell Folk Festival, thousands of volunteers work in jobs that include food preparation, sales, assistant stage manager, recording archivist, stage rover, and many more. The Lowell Folk Festival® is particularly outstanding, because it involves the whole community including individuals, non-profit organizations and church groups all pulling together to stage the largest free folk festival in the country.



Lowell NHP Adopt-A-Gatehouse volunteers Bill and Barbara Rawnsley staffing the Moody Street Feeder Gatehouse-Information Center on Merrimack Street.

VOLUNTEER WITH US!

Have you ever wanted to work on a trolley? Are you fascinated by the music at the Lowell Folk Festival® and the Lowell Summer Music Series and would like to help? Do you want to improve the community by working with us to clean up the canal system? Do you like the idea of working at one of the interesting old canal gatehouses? Then consider becoming a volunteer at Lowell National Historical Park. Volunteers do great things for the park and the community. Explore the many possibilities and learn what it is like to join the park and one of its many partners. Call the Volunteer Office at 978-275-1740, send an e-mail to Lowell_NHP_Volunteers@nps.gov, or check out our website at http://www.nps.gov/lowe.

Volunteer Trolley Conductor Henry Peront (right) with Lowell NHP Motorman Sharon Krawzcyk.

Lowell Canalwaters Cleaners received the National Park Service Northeast Region Volunteer Group of the Year Award in 2006 for their efforts in keeping Lowell's canals clean. A small contingent of the group is shown here with Lowell NHP Volunteer Coordinator Mike Wurm (far left), Lowell Canal Waters Cleaners Executive Director Bill Moreau (center) and Superintendent Michael Creasey (holding award).

Lowell Offering

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Department of the Interior

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The official newspaper of
Lowell National Historical Park
2007-2008

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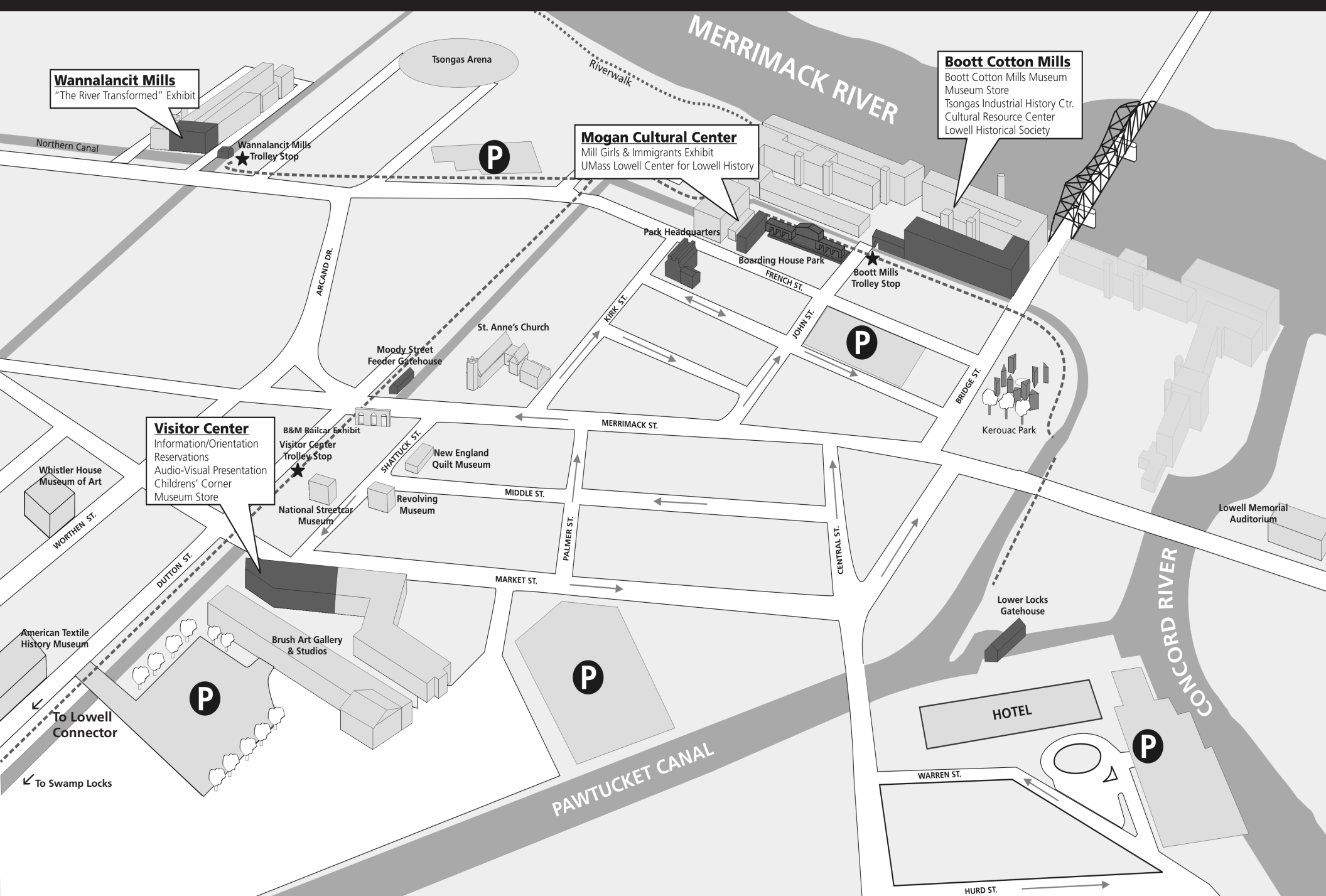
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