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UNITED STATES WAR DEPARTMENT
PAWTUCKETVILLE BRIDGE FILES

1871 - 1916

Summer 1991
Updated March 2008

Catalog Number - LOWE-3321

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Copyright Restriction:

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted materials.

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SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

UNITED STATES WAR DEPARTMENT: PAWTUCKETVILLE BRIDGE FILES. RECORDS 1871 - 1916, Bulk date 1916. Catalog number LOWE-3321. 1 AC letter-sized box. 0.42 linear feet, 447 items. Location: LOWE Merrimack St. Storage RA2 SE1 SH2.

The Records of the United States War Department are represented by a variety of materials that concern the 1916 reconstruction of the Pawtucketville Bridge over the Merrimac River. This bridge had been damaged during extensive flooding in 1896. Materials such as case files, proceedings, photos, and blueprints appear to have been generated or collected by the War Department Corps of Engineers during the year of 1916. These records represent a dialogue between War Department officials and Lowell city officials and other local interests. Of the former, notable officials include Colonel W.E. Craighill, Brigadier General Dan C. Kingman, the Department's Chief Engineer, and Newton D. Baker, the Secretary of War. Interestingly, Colonel Craighill died near the end of these proceedings and was replaced by Thos Jansen as the Department's main contact person. At some point in time these records were transferred to the U.S. Coast Guard, which held them until 1984. This collection has a high degree of original order, which was preserved during processing.

These records are organized into one series:

- I. Pawtucketville Bridge Files: Records concerning the rebuilding of the Pawtucketville Bridge. The bulk of this material is represented by case files, 1916, which include correspondence, memoranda, a map of the Merrimac River, photographs, a copy of Congressional Bill H.R. 11628, an application, a license, blueprints, petitions, newspaper clippings, and a statement of materials. Also included are proceedings of a public hearing regarding the reconstruction. Several photos are present which document the damage that the bridge and the Lower Pacific Mills suffered during flooding in March of 1896.

Collection processed by Joseph Galloy and Steven Ourada of the National Park Service, Summer - 1991.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box 1:

I. PAWTUCKETVILLE BRIDGE FILES

Folder:

1. Case file, originals and acid free photocopies, 1916. 159 items.
2. Case file, originals separated from Folder 1, 1916. 12 items.
3. Case file, original, 1916. 80 items.
4. Case file, acid-free photocopy, 1916. 80 items.
5. Proceedings, *Public Hearing in the Matter of the Petition by the City of Lowell for Approval of Plans for Reconstruction of Pawtucketville Bridge Across Merrimack River*, 1916. 94 items.
6. Blueprints, 1916. 9 items.
7. Photoprints, 1871 - 1916. 13 items.
 - A. Pawtucket Bridge showing damage from 1896 flood.
 - B. Pawtucket Falls March 2, 1896 – in flood – 2 copies.
 - C. View from Lower Pacific Mill No. 4, Lawrence, MA. - March 3, 1896.
 - D. View from Sulphur Bleaching House, Lower Pacific Mill, Merrimack River, Lawrence, MA. March 2, 1896.
 - E. Lower Pacific Dye House and rear of Mill at races, Lawrence, MA. March 3, 1896.
 - F. Boston & Maine RR bridge from S. Broadway, Lawrence, MA. March 2, 1896.
 - G. View from Lower Pacific No. 4 Mill, looking west at Merrimack River, Lawrence. March 3, 1896.
 - H. Lower Pacific Mill – card room, Lawrence, MA. March 3, 1896.
 - I. Lower Pacific Combing Room, Lawrence, MA. March 3, 1896.
 - J. Rear of Lower Pacific Mills, Merrimack River, Lawrence, MA. March 2, 1896.
 - K. School St. Bridge (Pawrucketville Bridge) over Merrimack River, Lowelll, MA. June 29, 1915. 2 photos pasted together.
 - L. Pawtucket Bridge, Lowell, MA. March 28, 1916.

APPENDIX A

CORRESPONDENT, SUBJECT AND NAME LISTING

CORRESPONDENTS, 1916

[NOTE:All Correspondence is located in Folder 1, except where indicated. Number in parentheses denotes number of letters.]

Baker, Newton D. (Secretary of War) to James O'Donnell
Bartlett, W.T.S. to W.E. Craighill, (4). [Folders 3 and 4]
Bartlett, W.T.S. to W.E. Craighill, (5)
Bartlett, W.T.S. to District Engineer Officer
Bartlett, W.T.S. to War Department
Craighill, W.E. to W.T.S. Bartlett, (3)
Craighill, W.E. to Chief of Engineers, U.S.A., (2)
Craighill, W.E. to Stephen Kearney, (3)
Craighill, W.E. to Hiram F. Mills, (2)
Craighill, W.E. to James E. O'Donnell, (8)
Craighill, W.E. to Jackson Palmer
Craighill, W.E. to Arthur G. Safford
Craighill, W.E. to Charles Stickney
Denman, Walter M. to Sen. John M. Weeks
Jansen, Thos to W.T.S. Bartlett
Jansen, Thos to Jackson Palmer
Jansen, Thos to Arthur G. Safford (2)
Jansen, Thos to Charles Stickney
Kearney, Stephen to W.E. Craighill
Kearney, Stephen to District Engineer, U.S. Engineer Office
Kearney, Stephen to Division Engineer, U.S. War Department
Lewis, Fred to W.E. Craighill
Mills, Hiram F. to W.E. Craighill, (3)
Mills, Hiram F. to George F. Swain
O'Donnell, James E. to W.E. Craighill, (2)
Palmer, Jackson to W.E. Craighill
Proprietors of Locks and Canals to Stephen Kearney
Safford, Arthur F. to W.E. Craighill, (4)
Safford, Arthur F. to District Engineer Officer, (2)
Stickney, Charles to W.E. Craighill
Taylor, Col. H., Corps. of Engineers to Sen. John W. Weeks
Weeks, Sen. John W. to Brig. Gen. Dan C. Kingman, Chief Engineer, War Department

SUBJECTS AND NAMES

[Associated Names, Subjects, and Manuscripts within the collection.]

Bartlett, W.T.S. Dealer in Hardware, Paints, and Mill Supplies, 1916. [Folders 1, 3, 4, 5]

Craighill, Colonel W.E., Corps of Engineers, War Department, 1916. [Folders 1 - 5]

Jansen, Thos, 1916. [Folder 1]

Kearney, Stephen. City Engineer, Lowell, Mass., 1916. [Folders 1, 3, 4, and 5]

Kingman, Brig. Gen. Dan C., Chief Engineer, War Department, 1916. [Folder 1]

Lower Pacific Mills, 1896. [Folder 7]

Mills, Hiram F. Engineer, Proprietors of Locks and Canals, 1916. [Folders 1 and 5]

O'Donnell, James E. Mayor of Lowell, 1916. [Folders 1, 3, 4, and 5]

Pawtucketville Bridge, damage to, 1871 - 1896. [Folder 7]

*Public Hearing in the Matter of the Petition by the City of Lowell for Approval of Plans for
Reconstruction of Pawtucketville Bridge Across Merrimac River*, 1916. [Folder 5]

Safford, Arthur G. Assistant Engineer, Proprietors of Locks and Canals, 1916. [Folders 1, 5]

United States Engineer Office, War Department, 1916. [Folders 1, 3, and 4]