

LAWRENCE RECONNAISSANCE REPORT

ESSEX COUNTY LANDSCAPE INVENTORY

MASSACHUSETTS HERITAGE LANDSCAPE INVENTORY PROGRAM



Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

Essex National Heritage Commission

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INTRODUCTION

Essex County is known for its unusually rich and varied landscapes, which are represented in each of its 34 municipalities. Heritage landscapes are places that are created by human interaction with the natural environment. They are dynamic and evolving; they reflect the history of the community and provide a sense of place; they show the natural ecology that influenced land use patterns; and they often have scenic qualities. This wealth of landscapes is central to each community's character; yet heritage landscapes are vulnerable and ever changing. For this reason it is important to take the first steps towards their preservation by identifying those landscapes that are particularly valued by the community – a favorite local farm, a distinctive neighborhood or mill village, a unique natural feature, an inland river corridor or the rocky coast. To this end, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Essex National Heritage Commission (ENHC) have collaborated to bring the Heritage Landscape Inventory program (HLI) to communities in Essex County. The primary goal of the program is to help communities identify a wide range of landscape resources, particularly those that are significant and unprotected. The focus is on landscapes that have not been identified in previous survey efforts in a given community. Another important goal of the program is to provide communities with strategies for preserving heritage landscapes.

The methodology for the Heritage Landscape Inventory program was developed in a Pilot Project conducted in southeast Massachusetts. It is outlined in the DCR publication *Reading the Land* which has provided guidance for the program in Essex County. In short, each participating community appoints a Local Project Coordinator (LPC) to assist the DCR-ENHC consulting team. The LPC organizes a heritage landscape identification meeting at which interested residents and city officials offer community input by identifying potential heritage landscapes. This meeting is followed by a fieldwork session including the consulting team and the LPC, usually accompanied by other community members. This group visits the priority landscapes identified in the meeting and gathers information about the community. The final product is the Reconnaissance Report, prepared for each participating community. It outlines the history of the community; identifies the resources and documentation that provide background information; provides a short description of the priority heritage landscapes visited; discusses planning issues identified by the community; and concludes with a brief discussion of survey and planning recommendations. A list of all of the heritage landscapes identified by the community is included in the Appendix.

LAWRENCE HISTORY

Lawrence's distinctive landscape features — especially its rivers and hills — were instrumental in shaping the history of the community from the earliest use of the land to the present day. Native American transportation routes probably existed along the Merrimack, Spicket and Shawsheen Rivers prior to European

settlement. English settlers arrived by the mid-1600s, but the area was sparsely settled and remained largely agricultural until the mid-19th century.

Lawrence, which is located on both sides of the Merrimack River, was originally part of Methuen and Andover. It was incorporated as a town in 1847 and as a city in 1853. Between 1845 and 1855 the formerly rural community was transformed into a vast textile manufacturing center driven by the waterpower of the Merrimack River. After the Civil War, Lawrence's economy diversified to include paper manufacturing, machinery and other industries. The earliest mills do not survive but much of Lawrence's infrastructure was laid out during this period. Lawrence remained a major textile center until the depression of the 1930s, when the city's economy went into decline.

Lawrence is still an industrial center with mill buildings concentrated along the Merrimack River. Over the past 50 years the economy has gradually shifted to a more diversified commercial and industrial base that also includes high technology firms. Lawrence became a city of immigrants in the 19th century and continues as such today. The diverse population of approximately 72,000 includes immigrants from around the world, with a particularly large Hispanic population. The multi-cultural nature of the community contributes to the strong sense of neighborhood identity in Lawrence, with many neighborhoods associated with a distinct ethnic group or nationality.

The Merrimack, Spicket and Shawsheen Rivers are the most highly valued natural resources in the community. There are also a number of hills that contribute to community character. There is little undeveloped land in the city other than Den Rock Park and sections of the riverbanks.

RESOURCES AND DOCUMENTATION

This section of the Reconnaissance Report identifies planning documents and tools that provide information relevant to the Heritage Landscape Inventory program.

Inventory of Historic Assets

The Massachusetts Historical Commission's (MHC) Inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets is a statewide list that identifies significant historic resources throughout the Commonwealth. In order to be included in the inventory, a property must be documented on an MHC inventory form, which is then entered into the MHC database. This searchable database, known as MACRIS, is now available on line at <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc>.

According to the MHC, Lawrence's inventory documents 799 historic properties that date from 1720 to 1999. The inventory was initially done in the 1970s, with major updates in 1999 and the early 2000s. The vast majority of the resources documented are residential and industrial buildings from the late 19th and early 20th century. Archaeological sites, landscapes and other non-traditional resources are under-represented in the survey.

State and National Registers of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places is the official federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects that have been determined significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture. All of the National Register properties in Lawrence are also listed in the State Register. Lawrence has eight National Register districts, which include industrial areas, residential neighborhoods and Bellevue Cemetery. There are 10 properties individually listed in the National Register. Four Lawrence properties are also protected through preservation restrictions in accordance with MGL: the Orange-Wheeler House, the High Service Water Tower, the Lawrence Old Public Library and the Essex Company Office and Yard. The Historical Commission has established a historic plaque program to give recognition to properties listed on the National Register.

Local Historic Districts

Local historic districts, which are administered at the municipal level, are special areas within a community where the distinctive characteristics of buildings and places are preserved and protected by a local historic district commission. Lawrence has four local historic districts, all of which are also National Register Districts: Jackson Terrace LHD (established 2001, 10 properties), Mechanics Block LHD (established 2002, 48 properties), North Common LHD (established 2001, 43 properties) and Prospect Hill LHD (established 2003, 198 properties).

Planning Documents

Lawrence's Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) was last updated in 1997. It identifies distinctive landscape features such as rivers, flood plains, wetlands, hills and cliffs. The plan places particular emphasis on the importance of the Merrimack River to the economic and open space needs of the community and identifies Storrow Park, City Reservoir, Den Rock Park, Campagnone Common and lands along the three rivers as being particularly scenic. It also includes an inventory of lands that are of conservation and recreation interest. Many of the heritage landscapes identified in this Reconnaissance Report are also included in the OSRP inventory.

While Lawrence does not have a recent master plan, it has undertaken several successful community visioning projects through the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs Urban River Visions program that have helped to clarify goals for the community. The Lawrence Gateway Charrette focused on visions for the canals as well as the banks of the Spicket and Merrimack Rivers. The Lawrence Arlington District Charrette focused on use of land adjacent to the Spicket River. In both charrettes and at the Heritage Landscape meeting, community members expressed specific concerns about the changing character of the community, particularly its neighborhoods.

Planning Ordinances and Other Tools

In 2003 Lawrence adopted a nine-month demolition delay ordinance. It applies to buildings and structures over 75 years old; listed in the National or State Register of Historic Places; located in a local historic district; listed in the Massachusetts Historical Commission inventory; or having architectural or historical significance as determined by the Lawrence Historical Commission.

PRIORITY HERITAGE LANDSCAPES

Lawrence's Heritage Landscape Identification meeting, attended by approximately a dozen residents, some representing city boards and local non-profit organizations, was held on June 16, 2004. During the meeting residents compiled a lengthy list of the city's heritage landscapes, which is included in the Appendix. Once the comprehensive list was created, attendees were asked to articulate the value of each landscape and to identify issues relating to its preservation. Based on the information gathered, community members identified a group of priority heritage landscapes to be visited by the consulting team during the fieldwork. Each of the priority landscapes is highly valued, contributes to community character and is not permanently protected or preserved.

This section describes the priority landscapes that are the focus of the reconnaissance work in Lawrence. In most instances intensive survey work will be needed to fully document the physical characteristics and the historical development of the landscape. These heritage landscapes, which are listed alphabetically, represent a range of scales and types of resources.

Bellevue and Other Cemeteries

Bellevue Cemetery, located on May and Reservoir Streets, was established in 1847 on land purchased from the Essex Company. Most of the cemetery is in Lawrence, a small portion is in Methuen. The cemetery is in two distinct sections. The Old Yard's original 1847 layout, with terraced hills, retaining walls, wall crypts, and curvilinear roads, embodies the distinctive character of a 19th century rural cemetery. The New Yard, begun in 1891 across Reservoir Street and uphill from the Old Yard, reflects the city's expansion as well as the creation of new landscapes and different sizes and styles of monuments and mausoleums. The cemetery's hillside location above the city's original mill sites along the Spicket River makes it a dramatic landmark within the community.

The cemetery is important in the history of Lawrence as the city's first and only municipal burying ground. A host of prominent industrialists, politicians, educators and civic leaders are buried here, many of whom were instrumental in the establishment and growth of Lawrence. In addition, the work of area artisans is represented in the gravestones, monuments, fencing and buildings that contribute to the cemetery's significance. Bellevue Cemetery was recently listed in the National Register of Historic Places, a critical step in documenting the cemetery and gaining recognition for its historical significance. The board of

Bellevue Cemetery has commissioned a "roads and ways" study to lay the groundwork for restoring the roads, paths and drainage systems in both the old and new yards. Efforts are also underway to stabilize the red brick stable at Bellevue. Friends of the Bellevue, a volunteer group working in cooperation with the cemetery's management, meets regularly to address voluntary growth and maintenance of stone markers. Marker restoration is in the early planning stage, and documentation for the replacement of missing military markers is ongoing.

St. Mary's/Immaculate Conception Cemeteries, which lie adjacent to Bellevue, were established in 1847 to serve a growing Catholic community. Today these two adjacent cemeteries cover 250 acres in Lawrence and Methuen. The Immaculate Conception site includes a substantial mausoleum erected in the late 20th century. It is privately owned and has not been documented on an MHC inventory form. The Jewish cemeteries on Beacon Street have not been documented either.

Central Island (including Washington and Pacific Mills) and North Canal

Central Island, located between the Merrimack River and the North Canal, contains one of Lawrence's most important concentrations of mill buildings including the Washington and Pacific Mills. Associated resources include the stone-lined North Canal that runs along the northern edge of the island and the three bridges that cross the canal. Some land along the southern section of the island has recently been acquired by the city as public open space. All of Central Island is part of the North Canal National Register District.

Clover Hill Neighborhood

Clover Hill is a residential neighborhood located in the northwest part of Lawrence adjacent to Methuen's "Daddy Frye" Hill. When it was developed in the late 19th century, it was occupied primarily by merchants. Today it is characterized by late Victorian style homes (Queen Anne, Italianate, Second Empire style) which are typically larger and more ornately styled than homes elsewhere in the city. It faces the same challenges as many urban neighborhoods — preserving neighborhood character, institutions and historic housing stock.

Essex County Correctional Alternative Center

The Essex County Correctional Alternative Center is located at the far eastern edge of Lawrence on a narrow strip of land between Route 495 and the Merrimack River. The site was established by the City of Lawrence as a reform school for recalcitrant boys in 1869 and is currently being used by Essex County as a pre-release center for offenders with drug and alcohol addiction. The 13-acre site includes seven acres that are used to grow fresh produce for inmates at local correctional facilities — the only remaining agriculture in the City of Lawrence. There are two large brick Georgian Revival buildings with Arts and Crafts detailing, as well as several mid-to-late 20th century buildings including the boot camp building constructed in 1972. There is also a small park-like area adjacent to the river, which is used primarily by staff at the facility.

Jaques Pond

Jaques Pond is a small water body located just west of Adams Street in the Mount Vernon neighborhood in South Lawrence. The pond used to be better known but is now largely surrounded by private property with no public access. There is evidence of some dumping adjacent to Adams Street. Jaques Pond is a forgotten landscape that does not appear on most maps and is not listed in the 1997 Open Space and Recreation Plan. There is currently a proposal to develop the South Boylston Street side of the pond, including filling of wetlands.

Merrimack River

The Merrimack River runs through the center of Lawrence, dividing it into two distinct parts. Much of the river edge has traditionally been undeveloped woodland with informal points of access. More recently as development along the river has increased, there has been a concerted effort to establish public access, particularly in undeserved portions of the city. The Lawrence Riverfront State Park, which includes the Abe Bashana Community Boathouse, provides a heavily used waterfront sailing and kayaking program for local children.

Lawrence recently hosted several workshops to create new visions for the use of the river. Key recommendations included: creating a mix of riverfront uses to draw residents and workers to the area; creating open vistas, walkways and parks along the banks of the river; and exploring opportunities for creative new uses and events that celebrate the history of the community.

South Common/Greenfield Neighborhood

South Common, now called O'Connell Field, was established in 1895 to provide a central open space for the Lawrence neighborhoods south of the Merrimack River. Originally proposed by the Olmsted firm as a passive park, it now includes a bandstand, a comfort station and various recreational facilities including a basketball court and an open-air hockey rink. The surrounding South Common neighborhood is roughly bounded by Parker Street on the west, Andover Street on the south, the Shawsheen River on the east and Market Street on the north. It contains a mix of single family bungalows as well as Dutch colonial and Arts and Crafts residences, and larger two and three family triple-decker houses. The portion of the South Common neighborhood that lies east of the common is sometimes called the Greenfield neighborhood. It is an unusually cohesive area with primarily single family homes on larger and more heavily planted lots than are found in many Lawrence neighborhoods.

Tower Hill Neighborhood

The focal point of the Tower Hill neighborhood in the northwestern part of Lawrence is the High Service Water Tower and Reservoir (both listed in the National Register) located at the northern end of Ames Street adjacent to Bellevue Cemetery, which is also a priority landscape. The surrounding residential neighborhood includes a range of architectural styles from mid-19th century Greek Revivals and Italianate farm houses with barns to Second Empires,

triple deckers and newer neighborhoods of colloquial four squares, bungalows, craftsman style and even post World War II veterans ranches. One of several architecturally unique houses, the Murphy Mansion at 611 Lowell Street sits at the highest elevation in the city. There are clusters of custom late Victorian/Edwardian Colonial revival homes including and least two named developments, Bodwell Park and Kiersage Heights, representing Lawrence's effort to meet the needs of its rapidly expanding middle class at the turn of the 20th century.

Whitman Street Neighborhood

The Whitman Street neighborhood is a small residential neighborhood located in the northwestern portion of Lawrence adjacent to Methuen and just east of the Arlington Mills Historic District. Portions of the neighborhood lying in higher elevations are primarily single family residences while residences at lower elevations, closer to the mills, tend to be multi-family.

PLANNING

Preservation Strategies

Lawrence's varied natural features — particularly its rivers — played a critical role in the settlement and historical development of the city and remain among the community's most important assets. Lawrence is also fortunate to have a rich collection of historic resources, especially those related to its industrial history. The city has already taken important steps to preserve these assets, with special emphasis on neighborhood preservation. It is now working to preserve the other natural and cultural features that define the overall fabric of the city. Like most Essex County communities, Lawrence is facing many changes. Special places like neighborhoods, parks and waterfront areas that were once taken for granted are now more vulnerable than ever to change.

Planning Issues

In addition to the priority landscapes listed in the previous section, residents identified general issues related to heritage landscapes and community character. Each of the critical planning issues affects at least one of the priority landscapes. These issues are listed in alphabetical order. Community members also expressed interest in learning about preservation tools and strategies that have been effective in other Massachusetts communities and in identifying sources for preservation funding.

Agriculture

Many Lawrence residents come from places with strong agricultural traditions and would like more community gardens and better access to fresh produce. There is currently no large-scale agriculture in Lawrence other than that which occurs at the Essex County Correctional Alternative Center.

Alleys

There are 36 historic alleys throughout the city that were built by the Essex Company in the 19th century to provide worker access to the mills. The company no longer maintains the alleys and would like the city to take them over. The city is reluctant to take responsibility as the alleys have become dumping grounds and problem areas for adjacent neighborhoods. The alleys are currently being inventoried by Lawrence Community Works Inc., a neighborhood housing corporation.

Mill Buildings

Lawrence's downtown is characterized to a great extent by its industrial heritage, which includes mill buildings, canals and other industrial structures. While Lawrence's identity is closely tied to its industrial character, many of the mills are vacant and are difficult to adapt to today's needs. The emphasis is on saving those that are historically and architecturally significant and can be adapted to today's market. Mill buildings on North and South Canal are considered the most historically and visually important.

Neighborhoods

Loss of neighborhood character was a major theme of the Heritage Landscape meeting. Lawrence has 14 residential neighborhoods, which are rich in historic resources and essential to community vitality. Some of these neighborhoods have already been listed in the National Register and several have been designated local historic districts. Church and school closings have a significant impact on the community. The Clover Hill, South Common, Tower Hill and Whitman Street neighborhoods were identified as being of particular concern. For the most part, they have not been documented on MHC inventory forms.



Rivers

Lawrence's three rivers, the Merrimack, the Shawsheen and the Spicket are all central to municipal identity, yet each has a very different character. The Merrimack is a broad regional river that runs through the center of the city. It is dammed just west of Central Island and a portion of its flow is diverted to the North and South Canals to provide waterpower for the mills. The downtown portion of the Merrimack has traditionally been industrial. As new uses are proposed for the mill buildings, the city is acquiring adjacent riverfront property as parkland to create a civic amenity and assure public access to the downtown waterfront. In outlying parts of the city the riverbanks have traditionally been wooded and undeveloped with informal public access. However, as development occurs along the river, both visual and physical access are becoming more limited. The dam and the three bridges across the Merrimack link the north and south parts of the city and are important visual landmarks in their own right. The Shawsheen and the Spicket are both tributaries of the Merrimack, much smaller in scale, far less visible within the community and generally not perceived as recreational or visual resources.

PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS

Preservation planning is a three-step process: identification, evaluation and protection. Four useful documents to consult before beginning to implement preservation strategies are the Massachusetts Historical Commission's *Survey Manual* and *Preservation through Bylaws and Ordinances*; the Department of Conservation and Recreation's *Reading the Land*; and the Essex National Heritage Commission's *Essex National Heritage Area Plan*. Each publication provides necessary information for the identification, evaluation and protection of the rich cultural heritage of Massachusetts communities. General recommendations are listed first, followed by more specific recommendations.

Each community will have to determine the best way to implement the recommendations discussed below. One approach that might help Lawrence begin the process is to form a Heritage Landscape Committee, as described in *Reading the Land*.

General Recommendations

Recommendations that apply to a broad range of resources are discussed below. The general recommendations are listed in the order in which they are most logically addressed when applying the three-step preservation planning process as described above. Thus the goal will be to (1) identify, (2) evaluate, (3) protect.

Inventory of Heritage Landscapes and Other Historic Assets

The vital first step in developing preservation strategies for heritage landscapes is to record information about the resources on MHC inventory forms. One cannot advocate for something unless one knows precisely what it is – the physical

characteristics and historical development. Although Lawrence has already done extensive survey work, many of the city's historic buildings have not yet been documented, and some of the older inventory forms are incomplete. All resources that have been recorded in the past should be reviewed, particularly those documented in the 1970s because survey methodology has changed since that time. New procedures are more comprehensive and link properties in a more coherent way than in the past. Thus, using the Massachusetts Historical Commission survey methodology, record Lawrence's heritage landscapes beginning with the priority landscapes listed in this report.

- Compile a list of resources that are under-represented or not sufficiently documented, beginning with priority landscapes.
- Organize the survey by property type and include a wide range of property types including the landscapes identified in the Appendix. Document unprotected resources first and prioritize by need/threat.
- Document the four priority neighborhoods identified by the community: Clover Hill, South Common, Tower Hill and Whitman Street.

National Register Program

As additional survey work is completed, evaluate properties for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

- Develop a National Register listing plan taking into consideration a property's significance, integrity and vulnerability. Properties that are in need of recognition in order to advance preservation strategies should be given priority.

Agricultural Landscapes

Other than the alternative correctional facility, there is no active agricultural use in Lawrence and no land suitable for large-scale agriculture. Consider the following options.

- Establish additional community gardens to allow Lawrence residents to grow their own food on a small scale.
- Work with regional farmers to establish/expand farmers markets in Lawrence. The only one currently operating seasonally has limited business hours.
- Explore successful agricultural partnerships that have worked in other communities such as The Food Project (see www.thefoodproject.org) which links urban communities, providing summer work opportunities for high school students and local restaurants.



Neighborhood Character

Nearly all preservation strategies address neighborhood character in some manner. As described above, thorough documentation on MHC inventory forms is an important first step in the preservation planning process, followed by National Register listing where appropriate. Lawrence already has a demolition delay ordinance that is an important tool for preserving historic neighborhoods. Two other preservation tools that are particularly applicable to Lawrence's historic neighborhoods are local historic district designation (MGL Chapter 40C) and neighborhood conservation district designation. Both types of districts recognize special areas within a community where the distinctive characteristics of buildings and places are preserved and protected. Each type of district is a local initiative, adopted by a 2/3 vote of the City Council, and administered by a district commission, appointed by the Mayor. The strongest form of protection for the preservation of historic resources is local historic district designation, while neighborhood conservation districts are less restrictive but still embrace neighborhood character.

- Publicize all demolition requests (including abutter notification) to reinforce the value of local historic resources.
- Determine whether historic neighborhoods such as Clover Hill, South Common, Tower Hill and Whitman Street would be appropriate local historic or neighborhood conservation districts. Areas with a high level of historical significance and integrity should be considered as potential local historic districts, while neighborhood conservation districts would be more appropriate for residential neighborhoods that may have less integrity and where more flexibility may be appropriate.
- Designate historically significant neighborhoods as local historic districts to preserve individual properties as well as neighborhood character. In a local historic district, any proposed changes to

exterior architectural features visible from a public right-of-way are reviewed by the locally appointed historic district commission.

- Alternatively, pass a neighborhood conservation district ordinance. Neighborhood conservation districts are special areas that are preserved by regulating scale, massing and materials of additions and new construction. Such districts may be the most appropriate way to preserve the land use pattern of an area where there are changes in materials but the overall size, scale and orientation of structures within the heritage landscape are retained.

Rivers

Lawrence's three rivers, particularly the Merrimack, are a regional resource with multiple values, including environmental, power generation, navigation and recreational concerns that are shared by many communities. Community visioning charrettes have already explored ways in which Lawrence's rivers can be preserved and enhanced as recreational and civic assets.

- Identify land use and landowners of parcels that border the banks of the rivers.
- Develop prioritized plan to purchase access points or to enhance existing access points.
- Work with Andover, North Andover and Methuen to enhance quality of the rivers and their banks.

Funding of Preservation Projects

Funding for preservation projects is an important aspect of implementing preservation strategies. In recent years, the ENHC has maintained a small grants program for Essex County communities. In addition, both the MHC and the DCR have had funding programs to assist communities in preservation related issues including:

- Survey and Planning Grants administered by the MHC support survey, National Register, and preservation planning work.
- The Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund (MPPF) administered by the MHC funds restoration and rehabilitation projects.
- The Historic Landscape Preservation Grant Program (HLPGP) administered by DCR funds planning, rehabilitation, education and stewardship projects focused on historic landscapes, including cemeteries.

Funding for state programs varies from year to year. When planning Lawrence's heritage landscape inventory program, contact relevant agencies to determine whether funding is available.

Cities that have adopted the Community Preservation Act (CPA) find it to be an excellent funding source for many heritage landscape projects; however Lawrence first would have to adopt the Act. While tricky to pass in lean economic times, the number and types of projects that are benefiting across the Commonwealth is worthy of consideration. The CPA establishes a mechanism by which cities can develop a fund dedicated to historic preservation, open space and affordable housing. Funds are collected through a .5% to 3% surcharge on each annual real estate tax bill. The Commonwealth has established a dedicated fund which is used to match the municipality's collections under the CPA.

Adoption of the Community Preservation Act, by a majority vote on a ballot question, fosters partnerships among historic preservationists, conservationists and affordable housing advocates. At least 10% of the funds must be used to preserve historic resources; at least 10% must be used to protect open space; and at least 10% must be used to advance affordable housing. The remaining 70% must be used for one of these three uses as well as recreational needs and can be distributed in varying proportions depending upon the projects that the town believes are appropriate and beneficial to the municipality. Information about the CPA can be found at www.communitypreservation.org.

Cities, like Lawrence, which have a local historic district ordinance, may apply for Certified Local Government (CLG) status which is granted by the National Park Service through the MHC. After the city completes an application and is accepted as a CLG, it files a report yearly on the status of applications, meetings, and decisions. In return the city is eligible for federal funding that is distributed by the MHC. The matching funds are competitive; however a proportion of the federal funding must be distributed to CLGs of which there are only about 20 in Massachusetts to date.

Specific Recommendations

Burial Grounds and Cemeteries

Bellevue Cemetery has recently been listed in the National Register, an important step towards recognition of the historical significance of the cemetery. However, National Register status does not provide a framework for preservation, which is the next step.

- Develop a preservation and management plan for Bellevue Cemetery, taking into consideration repair of stone markers, stone walls and fencing, repair of ironwork, removal of voluntary growth and on-going maintenance of plant material.

The history and current conditions of Saint Mary's/Immaculate Conception Cemetery and the Jewish cemeteries have not been documented.

- Prepare MHC inventory form for Saint Mary's/Immaculate Conception Cemetery in conjunction with Methuen.

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- Prepare MHC inventory forms for Jewish cemeteries.

Essex County Correctional Alternative Center

The Correctional Alternative Center contains several historic buildings and also represents important agricultural land and open space along the Merrimack River.

- Document on MHC inventory forms property as a campus.
- List in NR if determined eligible.
- Encourage State Department of Capital Asset Management (DCAM) to adopt guidelines to retain defining features of the historic buildings and the landscape.

Jaques Pond

Jaques Pond is an undocumented and unprotected natural resource that is threatened by development.

- Define land uses around pond.
- Acquire or improve access points.
- Review and amend dimensional requirements in zoning to preserve views.
- Require access to pond in future development projects.

Mill Buildings and Associated Structures

Mill buildings are critical to Lawrence's community character and economic well being.

- Document all existing mills and evaluate for integrity.
- List mills on NR where appropriate if not already listed.
- Investigate state and federal tax credits available for rehabilitation.
- Collaborate with a graduate program such as MIT Real Estate Development or BU Preservation Studies to develop reuse plan(s) for mill buildings in this area.

CONCLUSION

The Lawrence Reconnaissance Report is a critical tool in starting to identify the rich and diverse heritage landscapes in Lawrence and in beginning to think about preservation strategies. However, it is only the first step in the planning process. Landscapes identified in this report, especially the priority landscapes, will typically need further documentation on MHC inventory forms. The documentation in turn can be used in publicity efforts to build consensus and gather public support for their preservation. Implementation of recommendations will require a concerted effort of and partnerships with municipal boards and agencies, local non-profits, and state agencies and commissions.

Distribution of this Reconnaissance Report to the municipal land use boards and commissions will assist in making this one of the planning documents that guides Lawrence in preserving important features of the community's character. The tasks that are recommended will require cooperation and coordination among boards and commissions, particularly the Lawrence Historical Commission and the Prospect Hill Local Historic District Commission, the Community Development Department and the Conservation Commission. It also is advisable to present this information to the City Council and the Mayor, the applicant to the Heritage Landscape Inventory program on behalf of the town. Finally distribution of the report to conservation and neighborhood groups such as Groundworks Lawrence and other preservation minded organizations will broaden the audience and assist in gathering interest and support for Lawrence's heritage landscapes.

APPENDIX: HERITAGE LANDSCAPES IDENTIFIED BY COMMUNITY

This list was prepared as a summary of the Heritage Landscape Identification meeting held in Lawrence on June 16 and follow-up fieldwork on June 30, 2004. This is a working list and can be updated by the community. **There may be other heritage landscapes that were not identified at the HLI meeting noted above.** The chart has two columns, the name and location of the resource are in the first, notes about the resource are in the second. Landscapes are grouped by land use category. Abbreviations used are listed below.

CR = Conservation Restriction

NR = National Register

LHD = Local Historic District

PR = Preservation Restriction

* = Priority Landscape

Burial Ground	
<i>Bellevue Cemetery</i> * Tower Hill	NR. Large 19 th century city-owned cemetery, dramatic hillside location with panoramic views. Has critical preservation and maintenance needs.
<i>Saint Mary's / Immaculate Conception Cemetery</i> * Tower Hill	Adjacent to Bellevue, partly in Methuen, partly in Lawrence. Owned by St. Mary's Catholic Church. Not in NR. Also has preservation needs.
<i>Son of Israel Cemetery</i> Beacon Street	This is one of two Jewish cemeteries in the Mt. Vernon neighborhood.
Industrial	
<i>Arlington Mills</i> North end of city	NR (Lawrence portion only, not Methuen portion.) Major mill complex along Spicket River, links with Arlington neighborhood in Methuen.
<i>Ayer and Wood Mills</i> South Union Street	Formerly owned by American Woolen Mill Company, now proposed for mixed-use development in conjunction with new transportation center. Ayer Mill tower is important visual and historic landmark, considered a symbol of the city.
<i>Bicknell Clock</i> Methuen St.	Now on corner near Heritage State Park, was on Essex Street. Visually important.
<i>North and South Canals</i> * Canal Street	In NR District. Built to supply hydropower to mills, lined with granite blocks, no longer actively used. Park-like treatment along edges. Owned by Enel Corporation, successor to city's founding Essex Co.
<i>Central Island</i> * Merrimack River	Major concentration of mill buildings on Central Island includes Washington and Pacific Mills, portions of which are proposed for redevelopment. North Canal runs along northern edge of island. Newly acquired city parkland along southwestern edge of island.
<i>Mechanics' Block</i> Garden & Orchard Streets	NR, LHD. Important 19 th century block of brick row houses.

<i>Underground Waterways</i>	Extend from Den Rock Park to Merrimack River. Suggested at meeting as a potential walkway.
<i>Water Treatment Plant</i> Water Street	New one mandated, old one will be preserved.
Institution	
<i>Essex County Correctional Alternative Center *</i> Commonwealth Road	Located along Merrimack River at eastern edge of city, seven acres, 320 inmates. Campus-like institution that includes two large brick Georgian Revival buildings, several late 20 th century utilitarian buildings, large agricultural field and mature specimen trees.
Natural Feature	
<i>Jaques Pond *</i> Hale Street	In Mount Vernon neighborhood. Edges being built up, no public access. Proposed subdivision on South Boylston St. side.
<i>Merrimack River *</i>	Runs through center of city dividing it into two. Great Dam built to supply hydropower. Salmon ladder supports fish migration. Boathouse area is important to community as this is the only facility for public recreation on the river. Limited public access in some areas.
<i>Shawsheen River</i>	Meandering river forms southeast boundary with North Andover. Overgrown, heavily wooded, steep banks, dumping threat. Narrow, not very visible in community. Some parks along riverbank.
<i>Spicket River</i>	Picturesque river that meanders through northern part of city. Scenic but also overgrown, dumping threat. City is building new river front park and acquiring land.
<i>Springs</i>	Three active springs in Lawrence: Bigelow Street, Blanchard Street and May Street. Not perceived as threatened.
<i>Stevens Pond</i> Currant Hill Road	Industrial area near Immaculate Conception Cemetery, partly in Methuen. Historic mills around it being removed.
Open Space	
<i>Den Rock Park</i> Salem Turnpike, Route 114	Large, ledgy wooded area in southeast corner of city. Access is difficult, city is currently improving. Pre-historic connections (see recent masters thesis at MHC). Could be allocated for other uses. There is pressure on Lawrence to fill some areas in park to alleviate Andover water issues so that land on Andover side is more buildable.
<i>Lawrence Riverfront State Park</i> Merrimack River	Linear park along south side of river, links with city-owned Abe Bashana Community Boathouse (waterfront program for public sailing and kayaking). Other riverfront parks being built when mill buildings are torn down.
<i>North Common</i> Haverhill Street	In LHD. Also known as Campagnone Common. City-owned, in. Olmsted firm involved in city parks in 1890s. Traditional tree-lined common with diagonal paths and several monuments including Korean Memorial and Heritage Statue.

<i>Price's Field</i>	City-owned wooded area near Platt Street, vulnerable to development.
<i>South Common</i> South Lawrence	1895, also called O'Connell Field. City-owned, Olmsted firm involved in city parks in 1890s. Large park with trees, paths, retaining wall, bandstand, stone planters, also newer basketball court, baseball field and street hockey rink. Fewer trees than North Common, more recreational use, low hill at south end.
<i>Storrow Park</i> High Street	City-owned, important vista.
<i>Swimming Pools</i>	Important to community. Two remaining, not threatened.
<i>Veterans Memorial Stadium</i>	Was proposed for demolition, now rehab is proposed.
Residential / Building	
<i>Orange Wheeler House</i> 355 Haverhill Street	Has been rehabbed, two preservation restrictions. Not listed on National Register.
Residential / Neighborhood	
<i>Carltonville Neighborhood</i>	West of Rt. 28, south of the Merrimack River. Northern edge is Andover Street. There is one public boat access.
<i>Clover Hill *</i>	19 th century residential neighborhood in northwest part of Lawrence characterized by late Victorian style homes (Queen Anne, Italianate, Second Empire style).
<i>Colonial Heights</i>	Southeastern part of city, larger lots, newer neighborhood, near Den Rock Park. Modest mid 20 th century capes, some apartments, military housing near RR.
<i>Mount Vernon Neighborhood</i>	Southwest part of city, 1940s with intermittent Italianate, bungalow and Arts & Crafts housing stock, few larger lots, unusual twig fence.
<i>North Common Neighborhood</i>	NR, LHD. North central part of city. Includes North Common (Campagnone Common) and major civic buildings such as city hall, high school, library, courthouse, Masonic Hall, Grace Episcopal Church. Common is in good condition. New high school is proposed, concern about future of old high school.
<i>Prospect Hill</i>	LHD, Rollins School and Engine 6 are listed in NR. Northeast part of city, East Haverhill Street, Ferry Street. One of the oldest neighborhoods in Lawrence.
<i>South Common/ Greenfield *</i>	Southeast part of city west of Spicket River. Originally called Loring Park area. Greenfield section east of South Common to Shawsheen River includes mix of 20 th century housing on large lots, extensive tree-cover contributes to character of neighborhood. South of common housing is 2-3 family on smaller lots with fewer trees.
<i>Tower Hill *</i>	Northwestern part of city, named for water tower, multi-family housing in 2 and 3-deckers with some Italianate detailing. Jewish, French Canadian neighborhood.

<i>Whitman Street *</i>	Residential neighborhood adjacent to Methuen with Victorian style homes (Queen Anne, Italianate, Second Empire styles). .
Transportation	
<i>Alleys</i>	There are 36 alleys, mostly in North Lawrence, owned by Essex Company. They were offered to the city but city refused title. Being inventoried by Lawrence Community Works Inc. Alleys used for dumping, need cleaning up, city can't afford to do it but does minimal maintenance.
<i>Bridges</i>	Three bridges over Merrimack, Duck Bridge, O'Leary and Central, are highly visible and function as important connecting links between north and south parts of the city. Also railroad trestle bridges and smaller Spicket River bridges.
<i>Lawrence Airport</i>	In North Andover. Functions as open space. Vulnerable to development.
<i>Shattuck Street</i>	The only remaining cobblestone street in Lawrence.

LAWRENCE OPENSOURCE & HISTORIC RESOURCES

