

Walking Tour of Civil War Lowell

2011 Lowell Film Festival

www.LowellFilmFestival.org



See reverse for full description of each site

1. Pollard Memorial Library
2. Ladd and Whitney Monument
3. Huntington Hall
4. Old City Hall
5. Lucy Larcom Park
6. Congressman Abraham Lincoln visits Lowell (National Park Headquarters)
7. Boot Cotton Mill

Civil War Tour of Lowell

1. Pollard Memorial Library - Originally called Memorial Hall, the Lowell library was dedicated in 1894. The influence of the Civil War on society in the last decade of the Nineteenth Century is evident from the stained glass windows and the carved figures above the main entrance. Inside, enormous murals of famous battles painted by artist Paul Philipoteau.
2. Ladd and Whitney Monument - Located to the front of Lowell City Hall. Luther Ladd and Addison Whitney were two young mill workers for Lowell who served in the Sixth Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment at the start of the American Civil War. While passing through Baltimore on the way to Washington on April 19, 1861, the regiment was attacked by a violent mob and Ladd, Whitney and two others became the first soldiers to be killed in the war. The monument was to be dedicated on April 19, 1865 but the ceremony was rescheduled to that November when President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated a few days earlier. Ladd and Whitney are both buried under the monument which also bears a plaque for Charles Taylor, one of the others killed that day, although Taylor is buried elsewhere.
3. Huntington Hall - This was the main public gathering place in Lowell through the Civil War. Located at the corner of Merrimack and Dutton Streets, the building had a train station on its first floor. A single brick wall on the Merrimack Street side mimics the building's architecture. On April 16, 1861, the city of Lowell held a formal send-off for the Sixth Regiment at Huntington Hall and this is where Ladd and Whitney's bodies lay in state in May 1861 after they were returned to Lowell.
4. Old City Hall - This building served as the city's center of government until the present City Hall opened in 1894. Old City Hall was the site of a famous lecture on December 3, 1834 by George Thompson, an English abolitionist. William Lloyd Garrison who was present wrote about the large bricks that were hurled through the second floor window from the streets below by anti-abolitionist protesters. Forever after, Thompson referred to the city as Low-Hell.
5. Lucy Larcom Park - women in Lowell participated in Sanitary Fairs to raise money and support for the war effort.
6. Congressman Abraham Lincoln Visits Lowell - in 1848, Illinois Congressman Abraham Lincoln travelled through New England campaigning for Zachary Taylor, the Whig candidate for president. Lincoln is thought to have spent some time at the Mill Agent's House on Kirk Street, the current home of the National Park Headquarters.
7. Boott Cotton Mills - On the eve of the Civil War, Lowell was the second largest city in Massachusetts and the country's leader in textile production. In 1858, Lowell had 52 textile mills that employed nearly 15,000 workers who produced 2.4 million yards of cloth from 805,000 pounds of cotton EACH WEEK. The economic ties between the textile mill owners and the north and the cotton producers in the south led pro-abolition Congressman Charles Francis Adams to label them "the Lords of the Loom and the Lords of the Lash."