

# FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

93/357/13	Billerica		141
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Town Chelmsford

Place (neighborhood or village)

Chelmsford Center

Address 66 High Street

Historic Name Elliott/Smith House

Uses: Present residence

Original residence

Date of Construction 1876

Source tax records

Middlesex No. District Reg. Deeds 112, pg. 556; Bk. 114, pg. 319

Style/Form

Architect/Builder 1<sup>st</sup> owner: Jasper Elliott

Exterior Material:

Foundation granite blocks, cemented

Wall/Trim clapboards

Roof ridge, front to back, asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

small shed at rear of lot

Major Alterations (with dates) see attached

1974: attached barn roof fell in suddenly & barn was removed

ca 2000: French doors & deck replaced window

ca 2002: new front entrance stoop built over old dangerous brick steps

Condition good

Moved  no  yes Date

Acreage 12,814 sq. ft

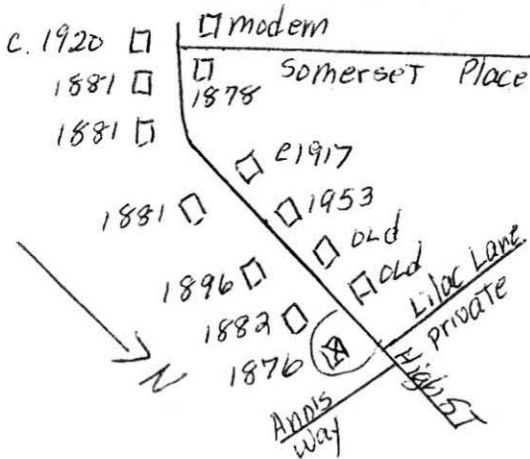
Setting This house located on the northwest corner of High St. & Ann's Way. A low stone wall is at the edge of High St. & a paved walk is at the edge of Ann's Way. The house is set back on a small rise. Behind it a lawn goes down gently to the rear of the lot. A paved driveway comes up from High St. along the left side of the house, back to the barn.



MA\_Chelmsford\_HighStreet\_66\_IMG\_3041  
 11/24/2006 CHC\_2006\_3 FSM

## Sketch Map

Draw a map showing the building's location in relation to the nearest cross streets and/or major natural features. Show all buildings between inventoried building and nearest intersection or natural feature. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Circle and number the inventoried building. Indicate north.



Recorded by Jane B. Drury

Organization for Chelmsford Historical Co0mmission

Date (month year) June 2006

## BUILDING FORM

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION *see continuation sheet*

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

This 2½ story dwelling at 66 High St. is one of three built for Jasper Elliott and his brother Ephraim and sister Sarah Elliott. 66 High St. was Jasper's house, 72 High St. was Sarah's house; and 84 High St. was Ephraim's house. Originally they had similar architectural designs with similar floor plans. However, the attached barn at 84 High St. was at the right rear of the main house, while the other two houses had or have the barn attached to the rear. They are of a simple design, commonly found in Chelmsford, with the ridge roof going front to back. However, the barn at 66 High St., which was built at the same time as the house, was removed about 1977 after its roof had collapsed very suddenly, much to everyone's surprise. The shed, which was erected a year after the house & barn, still stands.

### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE *see continuation sheet*

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

In the latter part of 1875 Jasper Elliott purchased the land for the residence at 66 High Street, and began building the house and barn during the following summer. It's shed was finished in 1877, when the Chelmsford Eagle reported that "Upon the old Robin's Hill road, now know as High street, three superior houses have been erected." " Mr. Elliott was born in New Hampshire in 1826. "As a young man he came to Lowell and learned the trade of machinist which he followed for many years" He, Jasper, his wife Caroline, and their 13 year old daughter Carrie moved to Chelmsford in 1875. "Quiet and unassuming in manner, upright and honest in his dealings with men, Mr. Elliott belonged to that generation which has so nearly passed away. Mr. Elliott united with the Baptist church and his consistent devoted life testified to the faith that was in him." In October 1885 he "sold his desirable estate on High street to William H. Smith of Lowell, contractor in the Lowell Machine shop. Mr. Smith will at once remove to Chelmsford, while Mr. Elliott will become a resident of Amherst, New Hampshire, where he has purchased a homestead." The Elliott family soon returned to Chelmsford, where he had at least four houses erected, and the family died here.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES *see continuation sheet*

Beers 1875 Atlas; Chelmsford Eagle: 12/12/1877; Lowell Weekly Journal: 11/1885  
Lowell Weekly Courier 12/30/1910; Chelmsford Newsweekly: 1/4/1979; Lowell Sun: 2/27/1981  
Records of Chelmsford Assessor, Town Clerk, Building Inspector  
Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds, Bk. Middlesex So. District Reg. Deeds, Bk. 15, pg. 64; Plan Bk. 71, plan 79A  
Chelmsford Street Directories, 1889  
Mrs. Barbara Porter: 1982, May 27 2006 telephone conversation  
Mrs. Monica Kent: May 28, 2006  
Mr. Leighton Porter: June 1, 2006

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*



# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town  
CHELMSFORD

Property Address  
66 HIGH STREET

Area(s) Form No.

	141
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## History

William J. & Mary Smith lived at 66 High Street until their divorce. In 1891 Mrs. Smith sold the house. Then it may have been rented out for few years. In May 1897 Augustus J. and Cynthia Howe of Lowell bought "the estate on High street for several years owned and occupied by the late William Smith." They moved right into the house and were apparently ready for the guests that arrived just a month later. Augustus was an insurance solicitor. The residence was sold in Dec. 1899 by the Howes, but they continued to live there until 1905, when they moved to Maine. In 1906 James W. Brown and his wife Isabella moved here from Norwich, VT, but four years later they sold their "attractive property in High street to William O. Mackay of Sherbrooke, Canada." They "bought for occupancy, and are to take possession within a few weeks. Mr. Brown is to remove with his family to Manchester, N.H." The Mackays remained here until 1922.

Between 1924 and 1949 the house was occupied by the Gray family. George Gray worked in sales and also had the Robin Hill Kennels. Following George's death in the 1930s, his widow, Fanita C. Gray, remained in the house until 1970. She was then living with Edwin & Valerie Lindsay, to whom she had sold the property in 1949. Both Edwin & Valerie were born in Boston. Edwin was a salesman, their son Douglas was a banker, and son Mark, born in 1953, worked as a bar tender.

George & Judy Moneyhun were the next occupants, having purchased the home in 1977. She worked as a housewife and later as a secretary. They had two children, Christian and Tanya. For many years George had been journalist but in 1980 he left his post at the Christian Science Monitor, having served in nearly every capacity he could there. His book The Mill Girls, which was about the Lowell mill girls prior to the Civil War, was published in 1981. The Moneyhuns had sold 66 High St. the previous year and moved to NH, where they opened an inn.

The present owners have lived here since 1980.

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

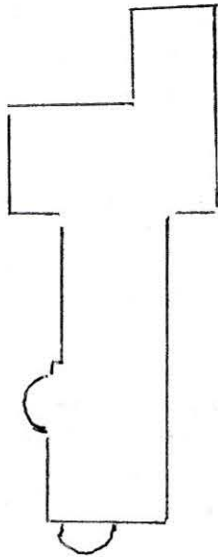
Town  
**CHELMSFORD**

Property Address  
**66 HIGH STREET**

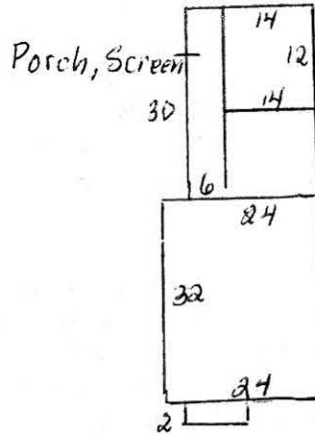
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Area(s) Form No.

**ALTERATIONS**



*Plan Book 76, Plan 79A  
Nov. 1949*



*Assessors' Records  
Dec. 2005*

front:

hallway: between right & left rooms  
Victorian railing

# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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Area(s) Form No.

## Alterations

- undated      odd roof line, left side of house: is a closet which goes straight out, back from the rear bedroom in ell to shed  
probably quite old
- 1959, fall    2 bay windows removed & replaced with smaller windows.  
the shape of the bays were changed & new windows with small panes used; there in 2006  
1 carrying partition removed & I beam installed
- 1974          attached barn roof fell in suddenly & barn was demolished  
a new roof was put on, but workmen failed to check the underpinnings, which were very poor.  
As a result, the roof collapsed from snow; the entire barn was removed.
- 1980          1980 small octagon window, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, right side of main house. replaced a 5' x 4" window.
- ca 2000      French doors & deck on left side of the house replaced large center window of the bay  
center window was removed to right side of the main house, facing 72 High St., replacing a smaller window
- ca 2002      front entrance "stoop" built over dangerous brick steps
- 1980-2006    cosmetic interior changes included in part:  
living room: built in shelves  
closet made into telephone room  
pantry area: now laundry room & 1/2 bath
- 1980 - 2006    new window: attic main house, left side: replaced old leaking window of similar size
- 1980 - 2006    porch screened; left side of ell; The porch itself is old, dating back to at least 1889
- 1980 - 2006    New French doors open from rear of "shed" to new deck (on supports, no foundation)



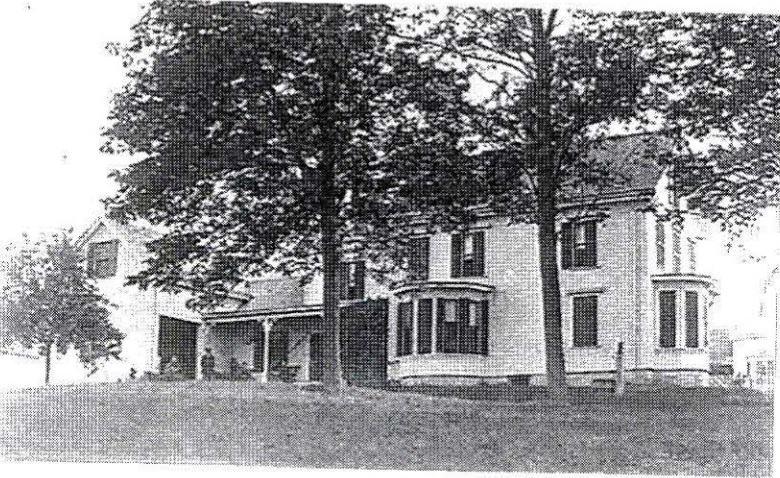
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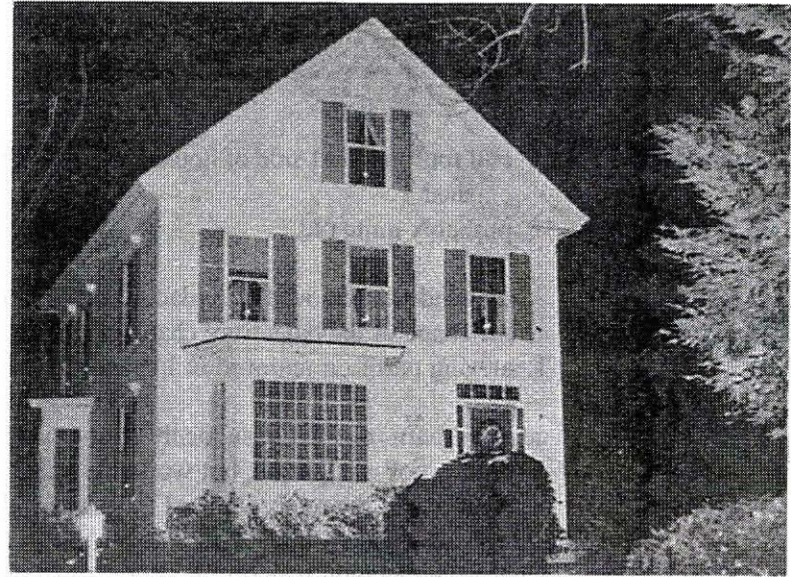
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1889 glass plate negative  
Willis Parkhurst, photographer

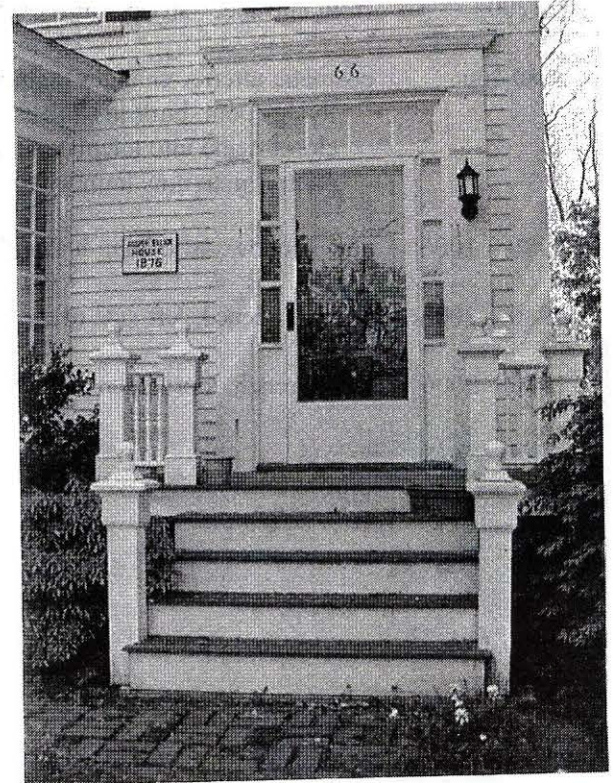


1976 Chelmsford Newsweekly

May 28, 2006



Left/Front Main House



Front entrance



**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

CHELMSFORD

66 HIGH ST.

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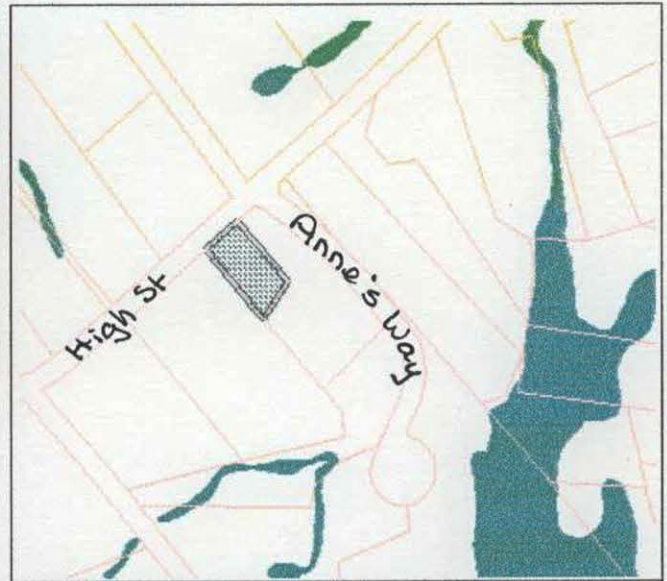
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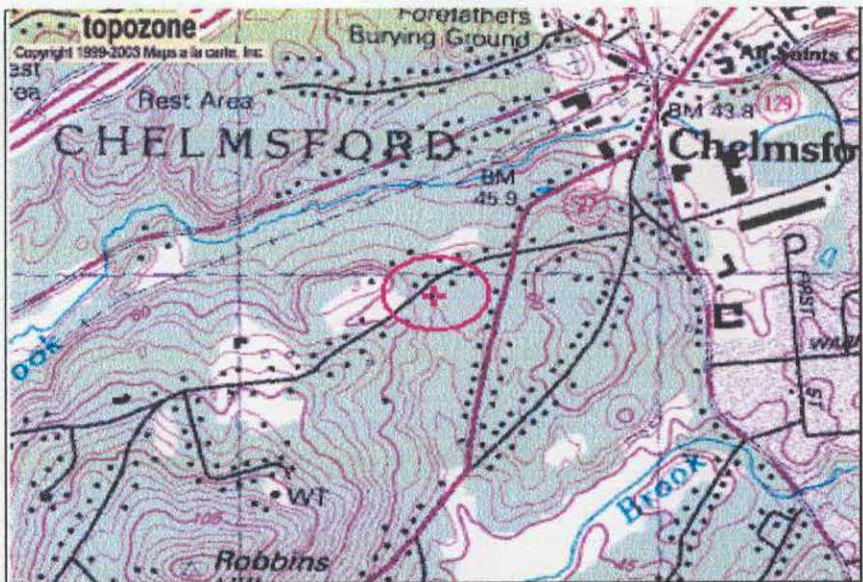
**Locational Information**



66 High Street viewed from local.live.com



66 High Street, Assessor's Map



Topozone excerpt from Billerica USGS quadrangle.

Decimal coordinates as provided by Topozone: 42°35'29" N 71°21'31" W



66 High Street

Book 1129, pg. 70	11/28/1949	Fanita C. Gray to Edwin N. & Valerie J. Lindsay 11,927 sq. ft. & buildings thereon well rights
Book 710, pg. 581	8/26/1924	George L. Gray to Fanita C. Gray, wife 10 acres & buildings thereon well rights
Book 710, pg. 237	2/23/1924	Estate of Harley H. Baker, New Milford Conn. to George L. & Fanita C. Gray 10 acres & buildings thereon well rights
Book 662, pg. 301	6/26/1922	William O. MacKay to Harley H. Baker, Lowell 10 acres & buildings thereon well rights
Book 455, pg. 344	8/13/1910	James W. Brown to William O. MacKey, Lexonville, Quebec, Canada 10 acres, & buildings thereon well rights
Book 364, pg. 151	3/30/1904	Samuel P. Dodge, Topsfield, to Francis Day 10 acres & buildings thereon well rights
Book 344, pg. 38	5/ 1/1902	Ausman H. Miller, Chelsea, to Samuel P. Dodge, Topsfield 10 acres & buildings thereon well rights
Book 314, pg. 285	12/20/1899	Augustus J. Howe to Ausman H. Miller, Charlestown 10 acres & buildings thereon well rights
Book 287, pg. 28	5/20/1897	Henry O. Cushman, Boston, to Augustus J. Howe, Lowell 10 acres & buildings thereon well rights
Book 263, pg. 518	4/25/1895	Alphonso E. Oakes, Orange, to Henry O. Cushman, Boston 10 acres & buildings thereon well rights



Book 263, pg. 516	12/10/1894	Esther H. Dow to Alphonso E. Oakes, Orange 10 acres & buildings thereon wellrights
Book 257, pg. 353	12/19/1892	Henry P. Hasey to Esther H. Dow, Lowell \$5500 10 acres & buildings thereon well rights
Book 223, pg. 336	4/25/1891	Mary J. Smith to Henry P. Hasey, Lowell \$4500 10 acres & buildings thereon well rights
Book 177, page 315	10/17/1885	Jasper Elliott to William H. Smith \$5000 10 acres & buildings thereon well rights
Book 112, pg. 556	9/29/1875	Solomon Parkhurst to Jasper Elliott \$798.22 Lot 3 - Baker plan: 198,746 sq. ft. fence restriction
Book 114, pg. 319	11/ 9/1875	Solomon Parkhurst to Jasper Elliott



# Scooped

## Writer saw in Lowell's mill girls subject for a novel, but two other writers beat him

By PALMER HILL  
Sun Staff

**LOWELL** — When journalist George Moneyhun moved to Chelmsford, an idea for a bestselling historical novel nobody had written slapped him in the face.

So after two years of researching on weekends, vacations and evenings, and several months of writing, he was perturbed to learn he had been scooped.

To Moneyhun the mill girls of Lowell deserved more kudos than history books had given them, but he thought he had been beaten to the punch when "Call The Darkness Light," by Nancy Zaroulis reached the public. One of Jackie Onassis' first projects as an acquisitions editor for Doubleday, it was published in August of 1979.

"Emmeline," by Judith Rossner followed in August of 1980. But by that time Moneyhun, using the pen name George Larkin, had sold Tower Publications the rights to "The Mill Girls," which is now hitting Lowell newsstands.

When Moneyhun read the other books, which was not until he had finished his own, he found his journalistic integrity was not damaged: he felt his angle was unique.

"In the other books, Lowell comes out looking completely dreary," he told The Sun in a recent telephone interview from his new home in Maine. "But if you read the letters the mill girls wrote home, you'll see they didn't find it bleak at all, not at first anyway."

"It is not my intention to criticize the other books," he added. "We all bring our own personal views to anything."

Moneyhun, who now runs a country inn in Cornish, Me., worked for the Christian Science Monitor for 20 years. A native of Louisiana, he covered the Civil Rights movement in the South during the 60's, and served as New York City bureau chief until he moved to Chelmsford in 1977. While tracing the history behind his new home, built in 1876, he became fascinated by what he saw as Francis Cabot Lowell's revolutionary scheme: a plan to lure women to work in the first manufacturing plant in the United States.

According to "The Mill Girls," females were the only source of labor available for Lowell's factory venture, and they had heretofore been confined to the home by society's dictates. But as Moneyhun's account would have it, Lowell had a vision of making work more than a respectable and advantageous proposition for them; by providing educational opportunities and a seminar atmosphere at the mills, he thought he could build an industrial utopia.



### Author of New Mill Girl Book

George Moneyhun (center), author of recently published "The Mill Girls", pauses from work with his wife Judy and their children Tanja (left) and Christian (right). The Moneyhuns, who

lived in Chelmsford for about three years, moved to Cornish, Me. last November to renovate and open an old country inn.

The first mill was built in Waltham, and Lowell died in 1817 before subsequent operations in the town which was named for him were opened. Moneyhun's book, focused on "New World Mills" in the Spindle City, is a composite of factories and events in their development in the 1830's and 40's.

Moneyhun did his research at the Merrimack Valley Textile Museum, Adams Library, Chelmsford, and Lowell City Library. He also took courses on the history of the Spindle City from Arthur L. Eno and Brian C. Mitchell at the University of Lowell.

As Moneyhun pointed out, some of the Lowell boarding houses for the workers were built to look like colleges, and the city offered one of the first circulating libraries in the country, as well as educational lectures. According to

"The Mill Girls," Frances Cabot Lowell's concept was lost in the 1830's and 40's as the profit margin became the main concern of the mill owners.

At New World Mills the females were overworked, underpaid, and molested by the mill foremen. The women's subsequent demands for a 10-hour day and better working conditions, based on the actual protests of the Lowell Female Labor Reform Association, are described in Moneyhun's account.

Work stoppages began as early as 1834, but a ten-hour day was not enacted in the state until 1874, 30 years after some of the mill girls formed the LFLRMA. By that time the females had been replaced by immigrants from Ireland and other countries, who were willing to work long hours for incredibly low wages.

"I felt it was too bad that the Lowell mill girls had never had the attention focused on them that they seemed to deserve," Moneyhun said. "After all, they were the forerunners of the suffragettes, of trade unions, and of the Women's Liberation Movement."

Moneyhun said the main characters of some of the other mill girl stories were weak. "Whereas I thought those women showed a lot of strength."

Francis Cabot Lowell left no written record of his vision or the way he went about pursuing it. But according to some of his friends' accounts, he went to England to steal ideas for the first American power loom and the rest of the textile manufacturing process.

At the start of Moneyhun's book, Francis Cabot Lowell pays a visit to a textile mill in Manchester, England, which has polluted the city and turned its workers into zombies. The reader is directed to note the contrast between the Manchester and Lowell operations, which become more similar as the book progresses.

The heroine, Emily Hatfield, is a composite of Sarah Bagley, Lydia Hall, and several other mill girls. Bagley was a leader of the Lowell Female Labor Reform Movement. Hall, one of the contributors to "The Lowell Offering, a magazine put out by the mill girls, went on to become a missionary to the Choctaw Indians and acting treasurer of the United States.

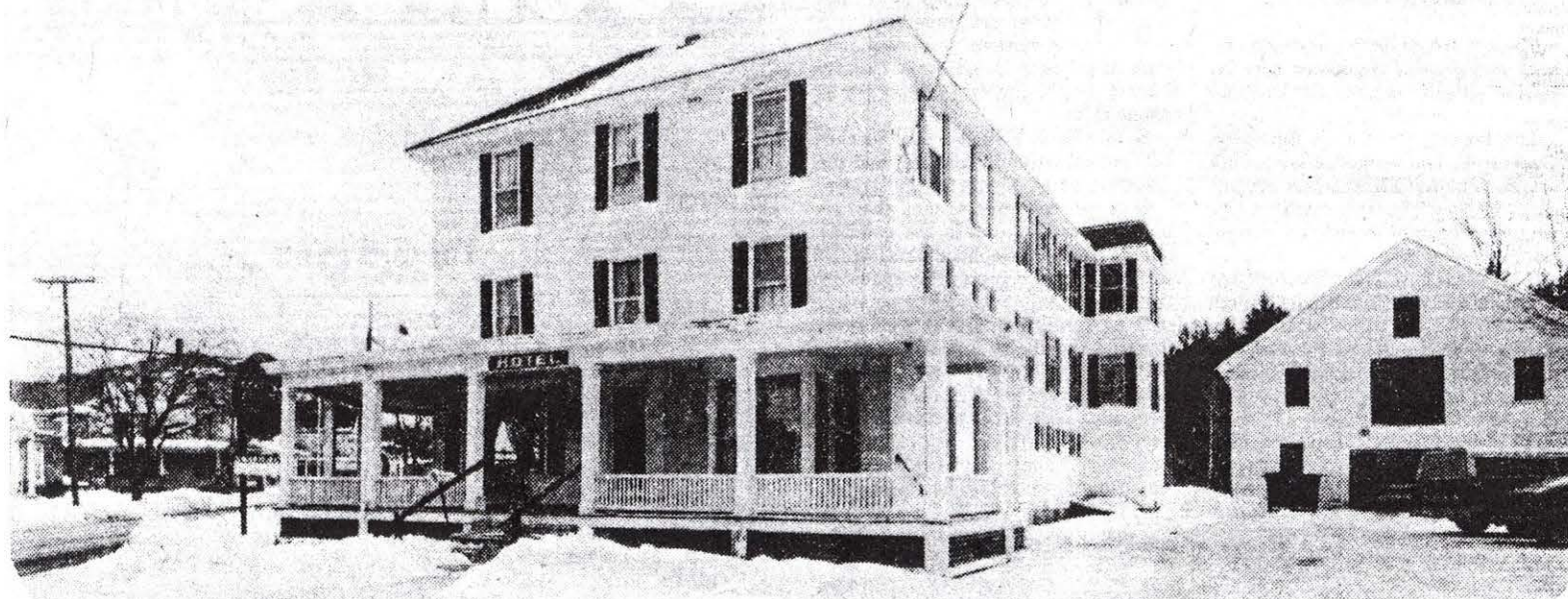
Two other characters, the owners of New World Mills, are based on Kirk Boott, a Lowell mill magnate, and Nathan Appleton, one of the people instrumental in the development of the industry. Some characters, such as Harriet Farley, editor of the Lowell Offering, and the Rev. Thomas, one of its founders, are taken directly from real life.

But as he states in the back of the book, Moneyhun changed dates and events to suit his purposes. "I felt I could tell the overall story better that way. The book was meant to be symbolic."

After years as a journalist, he was enthusiastic about being able to put emotions into his writing. He also was aware of the difficulties of trying to be historically accurate.

"If you do non-fiction, then you have to worry about somebody's ancestors suing you for putting them in a bad light."

Moneyhun left his post at The Christian Science Monitor last fall because he had served in nearly every capacity he could there. "I wanted to try my wings in another area. But I still wake up in the night wondering if I know what I'm doing."



THE CORNISH COUNTY INN, OWNED BY THE MONEYHUNS



# Author says he tried to demonstrate the reality of an industrialized utopia

*"The surroundings were hardly unfamiliar to the textile executive. He knew them from the ground up. After all, he perhaps better than anyone understood the idealism that had gone into the planning of Lowell's boarding houses. It was too bad Frank Lowell did not live long enough to see his dream become a reality. He would have been pleased."*

*--from "The Mill Girls", by George Larkin, copyright Tower Publications, 1981.*

LOWELL - In a recent telephone interview, George Moneyhun, the author of the latest Lowell mill girl saga, acknowledged that the textile factories were a controversial subject from the time they were built.

However from what he read and heard, Moneyhun (pen name: Larkin) concluded that Francis Cabot Lowell envisioned an industrialized utopia when he built the first textile mill in this country. In "The Mill Girls," Moneyhun wanted to demonstrate that for a certain amount of time, this vision became a reality.

"I tried to show that there was a period there where the girls found a lot of good in the mills and the surroundings," Moneyhun said. "That they came there for the educational opportunities as well as the chance to work."

He said in spite of the dispute surrounding the mills, some of the workers defended the factory system in *The Lowell Offering*, a publication put out by the mill girls.

Is there any evidence that Lowell had more than profit in mind when he organized the first American textile factory in Waltham? Is there proof that he had a more altruistic vision?

Most of what we know about Francis Cabot Lowell comes to us from what his associates wrote, said Thomas Dublin, history professor at University of California at San Diego and former director of the Lowell Museum.

Dublin is author of "Women at Work," a prize-winning scholarly work about the mill girls of Hamilton Corporation and three New Hampshire towns which sent women to Hamilton from 1830-1850.

He has not read "The Mill Girls," but remarked that there is no conclusive evidence to show that Lowell had a concrete plan for an industrial utopia. Dublin said the New England mill workers certainly had more education than those in the English mills, and that it would have been good public relations for the American mill owners to play that up.

Lewis Karabatsos, director of the Lowell Museum, has read "The Mill Girls," and said he has no quarrel with the positive view of the mills Moneyhun portrayed. But he did say that by changing some of the dates and places concerning the growth of the industry for literary purposes, Moneyhun may have been misleading the public.

Karabatsos said he didn't want to criticize the author, since he did include a disclaimer

in the back of the book explaining that events were telescoped for the purposes of the story. But Karabatsos contends that since the city of Lowell is presently being watched by the rest of New England and the United States, what is written about it should be accurate.

Karabatsos specifically pointed to events which took place in the 1840's but were placed in the 1830's in the book, which ends with the year 1837. For example, mill owner Kirk Boott didn't die until the 1840's, but the character based on him, Courtney Boone, dies in 1837. The Lowell Offering, which is an important part of the book, didn't exist until 1840. The Northern Canal, which in the story is the scene of one worker's death, was not actually built until 1847.

Karabatsos also commented on the fact that much has been written about the mill girls of Lowell, but very little about the city's immigrants and its use of hydraulics in industry. In addition to Moneyhun's historical novel, there has been "Call The Darkness Light" (Nancy Zaroulis, 1979), "Emmeline" (Judith Rossner, 1980), and a young adult book called "Nabby Comes To Lowell." Avon Press is coming out with a romance on the same topic in April.

Karabatsos added that "The Mill Girls" may have potential as a text for secondary school students, if instructors put some of the dates and events in context.

- PALMER HILL





High Street #66

11/24/2006 F. Merriam





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