

Moody Street Feeder Gatehouse
1848

Building History

The Moody Street Feeder Gatehouse was built in 1848 as part of the construction of the Moody Street Feeder. The underground Moody Street Feeder was built as part of the Northern Canal project and was designed by engineer James B. Francis. The Feeder drew water from the Western Canal and delivered it to the Merrimack Canal, supplementing its flow, where it could be used to meet the needs of the Merrimack Mills that were located at the end of the canal (where the present day River Place Tower buildings and new residence hall are located). The feeder, still in existence today, is 1,418 feet long, 30 feet in width, and 10 feet high.

The Italianate style Moody Street Feeder gatehouse is part of the Feeder itself. It contains three manually operated sluice gates equipped with counterweighted rack and pinion equipment. All of the equipment in the building is original except for the counterweights which were added in 1853.



View of the Moody Street Feeder Gatehouse on Merrimack Street in 1911. (Photo – Umass Lowell Center for Lowell History)