

The River Transformed Exhibit – Wannalancit Mill/Tremont and Suffolk Company Mill No. 6  
1860s; 1879-1881

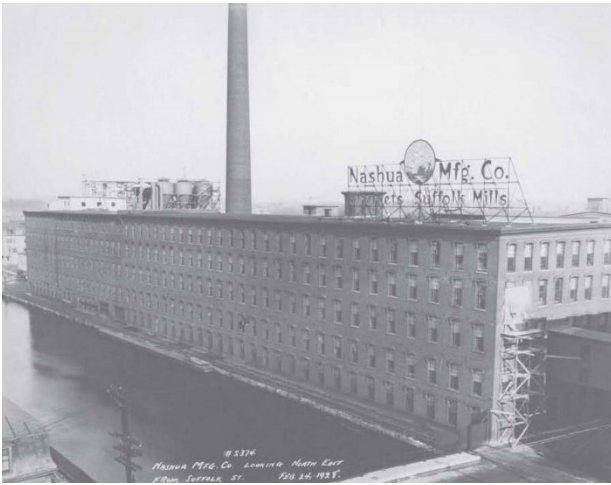
Building History

The Suffolk Manufacturing Company was chartered in 1831 for purposes of manufacturing cotton cloth. It was powered by water from the nearby Western Canal and in later years, by the Northern Canal. The Suffolk was poorly managed during the Civil War years and by 1871, had merged with the Tremont Mills across the street and became known as the Tremont and Suffolk Mills. This new company survived until 1926.

Textile work was subsequently maintained in the Suffolk buildings on and off as a branch of an out-of-town company until the establishment of the Wannalancit Textile Company. Operated from 1950 to 1980, it was the last weaving operation in Lowell to use the old technology of the shuttle loom.

A development group purchased and rehabilitated the former Suffolk millyard between 1982-83. Renamed the Wannalancit Office and Technology Center, the complex is home to a variety of high-technology companies and other small companies. Portions of the millyard were subsequently purchased by the University of Massachusetts Lowell and houses a variety of university functions.

The River Transformed Exhibit is housed in the former Tremont and Suffolk Company Mill No. 6.



*View of the former Tremont and Suffolk millyard, including Mill No. 6 along the Northern Canal, from 1928 (Photo – Lowell National Historical Park)*