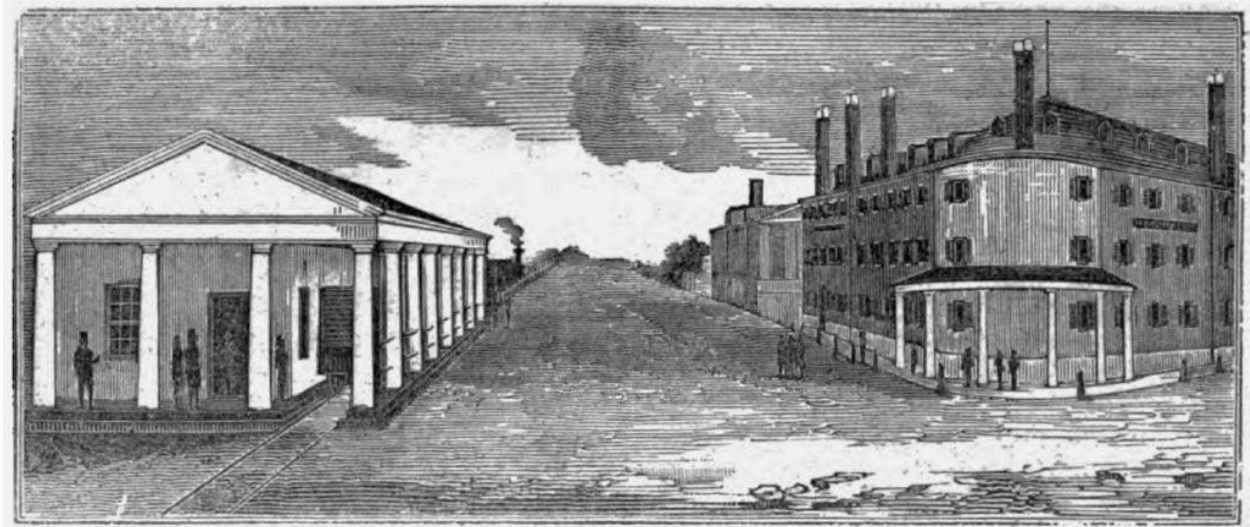


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## **STORY CARD: Walker and Enoch Lewis**

### **- Lowell House Hotel**

1



The Merrimack House (right) and Boston and Lowell Railroad (left) were located across the street from one another, attracting business from travelers. (1836)

**Walker Lewis**, a committed abolitionist, had a barbershop at the Merrimack House Hotel in the 1830s. This barbershop was managed by Lewis and his brother-in-law John Levy. Lewis was one of the founding members of the Massachusetts General Colored Association, the first all-black organization in the country. With support from the MGCA, Lewis arranged for Boston to print David Walker's 76-page *Appeal to the Coloured Citizens of the World* in 1829, demanding unconditional and immediate emancipation of all slaves in the USA.

Walker's son **Enoch** ran a used clothing store, mainly to assist escaping slaves to change their appearances with new and better clothing. Walker would cut and style their hair to assist in their disguise.

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<sup>1</sup> (Source; [Lowell National Historical Park](#))

**Resistance and Resilience in Lowell, MA**

Unit by Educators from Lowell Community Public Charter School,

part of the 2022 cohort of *The 1619 Project* Education Network

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When Nathaniel Booth came back to Lowell from Canada, it was the Lewis family who sheltered him from “manstealers” trying to return him to slavery.