Here’s a study of immigrant owned businesses in Lowell’s neighborhoods carried out by faculty, staff, and students at UMass Lowell. First were the Irish and French Canadians of the early and mid 19th century. Then came the eastern and southern Europeans of the late 19th and early 20th century. Now there are Caribbean, Latin American, and Southeast Asian residents. Many immigrants who settled in Lowell worked in the city’s large textile mills. Some, however, ran businesses. While city streets bustled with immigrant vendors in the late 19th century, many ethnic entrepreneurs rented or owned their stores. Groceries, bakeries, funeral parlors, variety stores, and saloons were among the various enterprises run by men and women from other countries. They often transacted business in their native language, sold goods that were either imported from or similar to those found in their native land, and helped their fellow countrymen and women adjust to American life. Over forty commercial buildings, located in the downtown as well as in small commercial districts of Lowell’s neighborhoods, were selected for the immigrant business study. For the study of changing immigrant neighborhoods, the fourteen buildings chosen were mostly residences and community building in areas with successive waves of immigration.


Immigration to the US, 1789-1930 is a web-based collection of selected historical materials from Harvard’s libraries, archives, and museums that documents voluntary immigration to the United States from the signing of the Constitution to the onset of the Great Depression. For Internet users worldwide, Immigration to the US provides unparalleled, free and open digital access to a significant selection of unique source materials—more than 410,000 pages, 100 individually cataloged maps, and 7,800 photographs.

http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu/immigration.1.html

“Global Boston: A Portal to the Region’s Immigrant Past and Present”: Global Boston is a digital project chronicling the history of immigration to greater Boston since the early nineteenth century. Examining different time periods and ethnic groups, the site features capsule histories, photographs, maps, documents, and oral histories documenting the history of a city where immigrants have long been a vital force in shaping economic, social and political life. ‘Global Boston’ is a digital project based at Boston College. https://globalboston.bc.edu

conducted one of the most extensive investigations on immigration to the U.S. But in the end, bias hijacked its recommendations.

