Week 4: Industrial America in the Countryside
26 Feb 2008
Lecture outline

Imposing an Industrial Order on the Antebellum Landscape

1. Rationalizing the landscape
   a. Jeffersonian vision of an agrarian republic
   b. Jefferson: “Cultivators of the earth are the most valuable citizens” (1785)
   c. U.S. Rectangular Land Survey (1785)

2. New sites and modes of production
   a. Industrial expansion and natural resources in the Atlantic corridor
   b. Regional specialization
   c. Land and labor in the American factory system
      i. Water-powered mills in the countryside
      ii. The social world of the mill
      iii. Paternalism
         1. Patrick Tracy Jackson (1780-1847): “The village steeple is the unfailing companion of the waterwheel.”
         2. The Brandywine Iron Works
            a. Rebecca Lukens (1794-1854)
      3. Lowell textile mills
         a. The Boston Associates
   iv. Worker resistance and labor activism in Lowell
      1. Strike of 1834
      2. Strike of 1836
      3. Lowell Female Labor Reform Association (est. 1844)
      4. Industrial accidents
      5. *The Lowell Offering* (1840-1845)

3. A new transportation infrastructure
   a. General Survey Act (1824)
      i. Army Corps of Engineers
      ii. B&O Railroad
   b. Roads
      i. Turnpike companies
         1. Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike Co. (est. 1794)
      ii. “Internal improvements”
      iii. The Cumberland (National) Road (1806-1852)
   c. The “canal craze”
      i. Benjamin Franklin: “Rivers are ungovernable Things . . . Canals are quiet and always manageable.” (1772)
      ii. Early canal projects (1785-1815)
      iii. The Erie Canal (1817-1825)
d. Steamboats
   i. Fulton’s *Clermont* (1807)
   ii. The switch to high-pressure steam engines (1816)
   iii. Steamboat explosions

e. Railroads
   i. Adopting and adapting British technology to American terrain
   ii. The Lowell engine-works
   iii. Conquest and settlement of the West