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The American Brewery Lofts in Jamaica Plain was a working brewery in the early 1900s.

Lofts bursting all around Boston

They have exposed pipes, concrete floors and 20-foot ceilings.

It's been approximately a decade since lofts surfaced as a mainstream residential choice in the city. Once, they were just limited to artists who needed a place to work and live. Now lofts are a major component of the residential marketplace with price tags from \$200,000 to \$2 million.

More than 25 loft complexes are in the Boston area with units for sale right now. And, from July to September, 112 lofts were sold in the city and surrounding areas, according to Boston Lofts, an online marketplace devoted to marketing, selling and featuring lofts for sale.

"People right now want lofts. Even these luxury buildings are trying to become more loft-like, with open floor plans and raw elements," said Paul Santucci, director of Boston Lofts.

The traditional loft building is a converted warehouse, school or factory that incorporates original architectural components of the building.

"If you are talking about original, loft-style you have a little bit of grit, high ceilings, large windows and a wide- open floor plan," said Santucci. "The nails in your overhead beams could be 150 years old."

But grittiness doesn't always come with a small price tag. A high-end loft is selling for \$1.9 million in FP3, in the Fort Point neighborhood of South Boston.

But at American Brewery Lofts, you can purchase a 600-square-foot loft for about \$269,000.

"During the early 1900s there were a lot of brewing companies in Boston, and this is the only one renovated for residential use," said Michael Caraviello, of The Collaborative Co., which is marketing the lofts.

PRICE POINTS

Back Bay lofts, \$709 per square foot on average

Dorchester lofts, \$305 per square foot on average

BOSTON LOFTS

LOFTS IN BOSTON

Court Square Press Building in South Boston was once a printing company.

DNA Lofts in Dorchester was a factory.

American Brewery Lofts in Jamaica Plain is a converted brewery.

METRO

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Your turn:



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