



Notes from the Chair...

The commission would like to welcome Anne Louro to the position of Community Historic Preservation Planner. This is one of two new positions that have been filled in the Office of City Planning by Mayor Lang. Anne Louro is a native of New Bedford and brings a wide knowledge of preservation planning to this position. A professional Historic Preservation Planner provides the city with a better means to identify, preserve, enhance and market the city's vast inventory of historical assets.

Ms. Louro's responsibilities include: ensuring historic preservation compliance for the Office of Housing and Community Development, providing technical assistance to city departments and private citizens and serving as the alternate member from the Office of City Planning for the commission.

We look forward to working closely with Anne Louro in her efforts working with the public regarding important preservation issues as well as utilizing historic preservation as a cornerstone for New Bedford's future planning efforts.

Joan Beaubian, Chairman

The Benefits of a Job Well Done

The historic buildings that line our cobblestone streets provide us with a tangible link to our storied past. Many of our structures exceed 100 years old and more than a few were built greater than 150 years ago. Maintaining these architectural icons can be a challenge for property owners, architects and tradespeople. While the cost of proper maintenance is always a factor, finding a craftsman with the experience and know how as well as using appropriate materials are critical to the success of any project.

Property owners should always consider using professionals who have experience in working with historically significant structures as well as working in a historic district with design review, such as ours. Working with experienced architects, builders, painters and other tradespeople will ensure that the review process and, more importantly, the work itself is done properly. The benefits of a job well done not only are reflected in a beautiful paint job or a perfect repair, but can also result in long range cost savings for the property owners.

Commission staff is always on hand to provide technical assistance regarding specific historic preservation issues in addition to helping with the application and approval procedures of the commission. In addition to the support that staff can provide, the National Park Service has published easy-to-read briefs on preserving,

rehabilitating and restoring historic buildings. There are 44 briefs that have been published to provide property owners, preservation professionals and contractors technical and detailed information to assist their efforts in maintaining historic properties. Web versions of the Preservation Briefs are available online at the NBHC website under the design guidelines heading. The NBHC recommends the use of these briefs as a valuable resource in preserving our historic structures for use well into the next century.



Richard Silvia of Bay State Restoration reconstructs the damaged scroll work of the visitor center as one of the final touches of the brownstone facade stabilization project recently completed by the NPS.

Quick Tips

● THINKING ABOUT A NEW SIGN OR AWNING?

The Mayor's Office of Housing & Community Development manages the **Storefront Reimbursement Program** which provides financial assistance through a direct grant up to a maximum of \$2000 per storefront for necessary rehabilitation/restoration of commercial storefronts located within eligible census tracts throughout the city of New Bedford, including all of downtown. Applicants will be required to have NBHC approval for proposed projects

within the Bedford Landing-Waterfront Historic District as part of the application package.

Funding for this program is provided from the Community Development Block Grant Program and is subject to eligibility and the availability of funding. For complete information regarding this program contact Cindy Tourville, Finance Specialist, at 508-979-1500.

● WE'RE ON THE WEB

The NBHC website, which is part of the City's official home page, is located under *City Hall* in the navigation bar. The site has a series of pull down menus that allow the user to access historic district information, commission publications and application forms. The site provides users access to planning and research materials as well as information about commission policies and approval procedures.