



Different Roofs & Materials, Same Standards Apply

A well executed new red cedar roof was recently installed for the trellis structure of the Fifty-Fourth Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Plaza at Custom House Square. Although originally constructed in 1999, the existing roof shingles proved too deteriorated to repair, and were replaced in kind.

Last summer, the New Bedford Whaling Museum restored the exterior of the Bourne Building as part of their continuing preservation efforts. The Bourne Building is a Georgian Revival structure constructed in 1915 and is now the centerpiece of the museum complex that includes seven joined structures. The complete

restoration of the iconic cupola was the hallmark of this significant preservation project.

In many ways these projects are quite different. The trellis at Custom House Square is constructed of traditional materials; however it is a contemporary structure, fairly new to our landscape. The cupola atop the Bourne Building is nearly a century old and is the icon for the world's largest whaling museum. One roof is of wooden shingles and the other is sheathed in copper. What is the same, however, are the standards used for selecting the appropriate methods of repairs and needed replacement of the materials for both roofs.

The commission uses the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* with guidelines as the basis for determining if an appropriate approach is being proposed for work that may be undertaken in the district, such as these roof replacement projects. The *Standards* are intended to provide guidance to historic building owners, preservation consultants, architects, and contractors prior to working on a building or structure.

Guidelines have been prepared to assist in applying the *Standards* to all project work and are set up in a way that lists approaches that are consistent with the Standards as "recommended" and lists approaches that are inconsistent with the Standards as "not recommended".

For example, both projects replaced the deteriorated existing roofing with the same material in the same method of installation for each roof. This is considered **replacing in kind** and is a recommended approach.

The commission generally applies the *Standards* and guidelines for the treatment of **Rehabilitation** for most properties, however there are cases where Preservation, Restoration or Reconstruction may be the most appropriate approach to a specific project for a building or structure. If you have questions as to what treatment method should be applied to your project please contact commission staff.



Notes from the Chair...

The *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* is not what I would call a page turner. Just the title can be intimidating for many. The *Standards* are, however, a nationally recognized set of guiding principles for projects involving historic properties, districts, and other structures. Commission members use the *Standards* and guidelines when reviewing the treatment approach proposed for all projects in the district, no matter how big or small. A link to the *Standards* is on our website, www.ci.new-bedford.ma.us/NBHC.htm, under the heading of design guidelines.

Joan Beaubian, Chairman

Above Far Left: Staging surrounds the cupola on the roof of the Bourne Building during the exterior restoration of this New Bedford icon. The new copper roof and lighting of the cupola was cause for celebration in the summer of 2006.

Above Left: Jeffrey Louro, Construction Manager for R.P. Valois & Company, cuts red cedar shingles for the carpenters on the trellis roof. This in-kind roof replacement was one of many projects completed for the National Parks America Tour volunteer day on May 5th. R.P. Valois & Company, an active supporter of historic preservation in New Bedford, donated the equipment and skilled labor to complete the project.