



City of New Bedford

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

133 William Street, New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740

Telephone: (508) 979.1488 Facsimile: (508) 979.1576

JONATHAN F. MITCHELL

MAYOR

MEMORANDUM

TO: New Bedford City Council

FROM: New Bedford Historical Commission

DATE: January 7, 2016

RE: BUILDING DEMOLITION REVIEW
255 River Road
Map 119, Parcel 94

In accordance with the requirements of the New Bedford City Code, Article XI, Section 2-157 Demolition of Buildings, the New Bedford Historical Commission [NBHC] has examined the structure located at the above-captioned site in order to determine its historical significance and whether it is in the public interest to preserve such structure.

The NBHC reviewed the application for demolition at its January 4, 2016 meeting, and hereby forwards its findings and recommendation in this matter to the New Bedford City Council:

- A portion of the structure is the original barn associated with the abutting Captain Humphrey Hathaway House (circa 1795);
- The barn retains historical significance due to its association with the Hathaway family, Acushnet Village and the social and economic development of 19th century New Bedford;
- The original barn portion of the structure provides insight to the building materials and construction methods of early 19th century New England;
- The barn portion of the structure has been acutely altered, has experienced long-term deferred maintenance, and the level of rehabilitation required to meet current building code standards far exceeds the value of the property.

In light of these findings, the New Bedford Historical Commission has determined that the structure at 255 River Road is Historically Significant, but is not a Preferably Preserved structure.

cc. Abilio Fernandes
Department of Inspectional Services
Mayor's Office