



Historic Preservation Partners Come Together

The New Bedford Historical Commission (NBHC) has joined with several organizations and agencies that share historic preservation as a core mission to form a new coalition. The new group aptly named the New Bedford Preservation Coalition includes a representative from New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, the New Bedford Preservation Society, the Waterfront Historic Area League, the City's Planning Department as well as the NBHC.

Each one of the listed organizations possesses strength in one or several disciplines of historic preservation; however this new coalition will provide a forum for collaboration and sharing resources on the historic preservation issues that affect the neighborhoods of New Bedford such as advocacy, regulation, education, preservation/development (bricks & mortar), planning, and technical support.

This type of coalition has been in discussion for the past several years and was included as a specific action in the National Park's Strategic Development Plan. The park's partners expressed their strong support of this new coalition and the park has enthusiastically offered the newly restored Corson Maritime Learning Center as the perfect facility to present preservation programming and workshops for the public.

At the coalition's first meeting it was determined that preservation education was an opportunity



for all the partners to focus their efforts for the first year in an effort to strengthen preservation awareness and encourage the growth of the preservation community in New Bedford.

Look for upcoming announcements of the coalitions activities on each of the partner websites and newsletters.

Above: The recently completed Corson Maritime Learning Center will serve as the home base for the newly established New Bedford Preservation Coalition. The new NPS facility will be able to host lectures, working demonstrations, and other education programs and events that are in the planning stages by the coalition members.

Notes from the Chair...

The NBHC would like to extend a warm welcome to Jan da Silva as the new Preservation Specialist for New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park. Most recently Jan was a Preservation Planner for the Massachusetts Historical Commission, consulting and managing a wide array of projects throughout the state. Prior to that position, she was a historic preservation consultant in the city of New Bedford.

In her new position at the park, Jan will serve as Secretary to the NBHC, managing the administrative needs of the NBHC while providing valuable technical assistance to the property owners in the district.

The NBHC looks forward to continuing its partnership with the National Park Service and working with Jan on the many preservation projects underway in the district. Her knowledge of the area and cultural resources make her a wonderful addition to the preservation community in New Bedford.

Derek Santos, Chairman

Did You Know?

● PEAK YEAR

During the peak whaling year of 1857, the 329 vessels engaged in the New Bedford whaling industry represented a \$20 million investment and a \$10 million annual catch. The monies earned by New Bedford's citizens enabled the community build the many structures currently standing in the New Bedford Local Historic District.

● STILL STANDING

The Bourne Counting House was constructed on Merrill's Wharf in 1844. This structure is still standing after two fires and threats of demolition during Urban Renewal. Major renovations were undertaken in the 1970s and in early 2000.