



# 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:** Anne Louro, Preservation Planner  
**DATE:** October 25, 2016  
**RE:** **BUILDING DEMOLITION REVIEW**  
**20 Willis Street (Map 66, Lot 167)**  
**Circa 1838, 2-1/2 story wood framed building**  
**Circa 1910, 2-1/2 story wood framed building**

CITY CLERKS OFFICE  
NEW BEDFORD, MA  
2016 OCT 26 A 11: 14  
CITY CLERK

In accordance with the requirements of the New Bedford City Code, Article XI, Section 2-157 Demolition of Buildings, the Preservation Planner, designated to act on behalf of the New Bedford Historical Commission, has examined the structures 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.

Having reviewed the application for demolition I offer the following findings and recommendation in this matter to the New Bedford City Council:

- The property is located in the Acushnet Heights National Register Historic District.
- The circa 1838 structure is associated with Clement C. Covell, a Master Mariner who, for a period of time, was part owner of the Bark Lagoda.
- The buildings have experienced acute alterations, resulting in a lack of historical integrity in their design, setting, materials, workmanship and feeling.
- Due to the exterior alterations, the buildings no longer retain sufficient integrity to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register.

**In light of these findings, the Preservation Planner has determined that the circa 1838 and circa 1910 structures at 20 Willis Street are neither Historically Significant nor Preferably Preserved structures.**

The Council may wish to note that the owner additionally intends to demolish the circa 1952 three story brick masonry additions which once served as Union Hospital. Because those building additions are *not* seventy-five (75) years old, they are not subject to the Demolition Delay Ordinance and therefore are not included in this determination.

cc. Veterans Transition House, Property Owner  
Department of Inspectional Services  
Mayor's Office  
Councilor Dana Rebeiro  
New Bedford Historical Commission