



City of New Bedford

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

133 William Street, New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740

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JONATHAN F. MITCHELL

MAYOR

MEMORANDUM

TO: New Bedford City Council

FROM: New Bedford Historical Commission

DATE: December 6, 2017

RE: BUILDING DEMOLITION REVIEW: PARTIAL DEMOLITION - ROOF ONLY
475 Purchase Street (Map 41, Parcel 52)

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
NEW BEDFORD, MA
2017 DEC - 6 P 3:35
CITY CLERK

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 the *partial* demolition at its December 4, 2017 meeting, and hereby forwards its findings and recommendation in this matter to the New Bedford City Council:

- The property owner is proposing the partial demolition of the roof for the purpose of raising the overall height of the roof and adding another story to the building. No other demolition work has been proposed at this time or reviewed by the NBHC.
- The Jireh L. Ferguson House was constructed in 1841 in the Greek Revival style and is a contributing resource within the County Street National Register District.
- The property has historical significance due to its association with the broad architectural, cultural, economic, political and social history of the City during the height of the whaling industry in the 19th century.
- The property owner has worked with the NBHC, and in the proposed design, dated 11.15.17, has revised the plans in an effort to mitigate the adverse effect the proposal will have on the property and District.

In light of these findings, the New Bedford Historical Commission has determined that the structure at 475 Purchase Street is Historically Significant, but is not a Preferably Preserved structure. This determination is applicable to demolition of the roof only.

cc. Ben Neves, Property Owner
Ricardo Santos, Architect, Applicant Agent
Department of Inspectional Services
Mayor's Office