



City of New Bedford

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

133 William Street, New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740

Telephone: (508) 979.1488

JONATHAN F. MITCHELL

MAYOR

MEMORANDUM

TO: New Bedford City Council

FROM: New Bedford Historical Commission

DATE: April 3, 2018

RE: BUILDING DEMOLITION REVIEW
2904 Acushnet Avenue (Map 130D Lot 247)
Circa late 19th century two storey residence and barn structure.

2018 APR -9 PM 2:55
CITY CLERK
RECORDS OFFICE
NEW BEDFORD, MA

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 structures located at the above-captioned site in order to determine their historical significance and whether it is in the public interest to preserve such structures.

The NBHC reviewed the application for demolition at its April 2, 2018 meeting, and hereby forwards its findings and recommendation in this matter to the New Bedford City Council:

- The structures are historically significant due to their association with members of the Spooner family who settled in this location from Plymouth in 1660, eight years after the "Old Dartmouth" land mass was purchased from Wamsutta in 1652. The Spooners were a well respected farming family whose vast land holdings were primarily located in the subject area, north of Acushnet Village.
- The residential structure, although associated with the Spooner family, has been altered. The barn, which retains its original form, massing and materials, is a good example of its regional barn type and is significant due to its connection with the Spooner family, its long term agricultural use, and is representative of New Bedford's early rural character.
- The property lacks in integrity, as it no longer possesses its historic qualities of setting and feeling. The land surrounding the subject parcel is no longer used for agricultural purposes and due to its location bordered by commercial development and its current Mixed Use Business Zoning; it is no longer attractive as a residential use. Additionally, the barn currently lacks context due to its commercial surroundings and will not likely experience adaptive reuse.

In light of these findings, the New Bedford Historical Commission has determined that the structures at 2904 Acushnet Avenue are historically significant, but not preferably preserved historic structures.

cc. Farland Corp., Inc., Applicant
Kevin Burgess, Property Owner
Department of Inspectional Services
Mayor's Office