



PLANNING DIRECTOR  
TABITHA HARKIN

## CITY OF NEW BEDFORD DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING

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### HISTORICAL COMMISSION

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** New Bedford City Council

**FROM:** New Bedford Historical Commission

**DATE:** April 7, 2020

**RE: BUILDING DEMOLITION REVIEW**  
**23 Robeson Street (Map 71 Lot 45)**  
**Circa 1903 two story wood framed residence-partial demolition of east façade bay.**

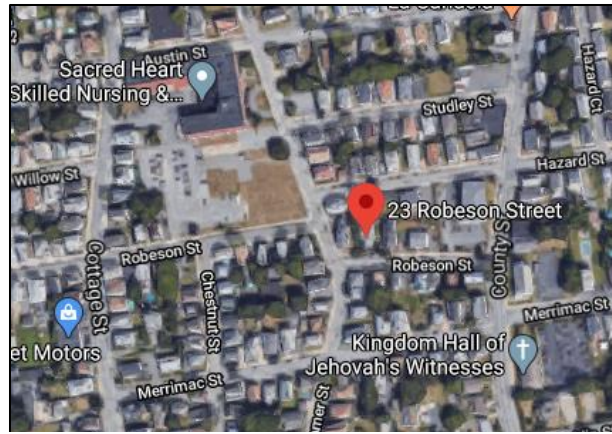
In accordance with the requirements of the New Bedford City Code, Article XI, Section 2-157 Demolition of Buildings, the New Bedford Historical Commission [NBHC] has examined the structure located at the above-captioned site in order to determine its historical significance and whether it is in the public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

The NBHC reviewed the application for demolition at its April 6, 2020 meeting, and hereby forwards its findings and recommendation in this matter to the New Bedford City Council:

- The building is a contributing property (NBE.419) within the Acushnet Heights National Register District. This area is characterized by its late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century residences developed on the rise of County Street overlooking the inner harbor.
- The building is associated with the political and social history of the city, as it was constructed in 1903 by Thomas Desmond, a local leading attorney and a City Solicitor for several years. The Desmond family also constructed the abutting properties at 17 and 27 Robeson Street. This house is locally known as the longtime residence of former Senator, Councilor and Mayor George Rogers.
- The building is architecturally significant as it embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Queen Anne style. The subject building is part of a group of buildings which share identical architectural features including cut shingles, arched openings, swag motifs and full bays with stained glass windows.
- The property owner has indicated that he will follow the Historical Commission's recommendations to mitigate the partial demolition of the façade wall.

**In light of these findings, the New Bedford Historical Commission has determined that the building at 23 Robeson Street is Historically Significant but the east façade bay is not a Preferably Preserved Historic Structure.**

cc. P & I Realty Trust Corp., Applicant  
Department of Inspectional Service  
Mayor's Office



**23 Robeson Street Locus Map**



**27 Robeson Street**



**23 Robeson Street**



**17 Robeson Street**

Demolition Request:  
Removal of two story bay on  
east façade.



A two story faceted bay exists on the east façade towards the rear of the building. Long term deferred maintenance has allowed for significant water infiltration throughout the cornice and particularly in this bay resulting in structural sagging. The owner is seeking to remove the bay and replace it with a flat wall with a single window on each floor. The siding materials will match existing.