



# CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

## Department of City Planning

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### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** New Bedford City Council

**FROM:** New Bedford Historical Commission

**DATE:** March 31, 2022

**RE:** **BUILDING DEMOLITION REVIEW**  
**13-19 Commercial Street (Map 47 Lot 189) Circa 1790 timber-frame building and 1851 wood -frame south addition.**

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 demolition at its March 14, 2022, meeting, and hereby forwards its findings and recommendation in this matter to the New Bedford City Council:

- The buildings are architecturally and historically significant, representative of the City's rich whaling and fishing industry, linked to the marine industry for 176 years, and associated with the long-term ownership by the Beckman family.
- The property's rehabilitation has been carefully reviewed and permitted by the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals and the Historical Commission. The project is utilizing Federal and State Historic Tax Credits and has been approved for over \$1.7M in rehabilitative tax credits for this project and as such, has been reviewed by the National Park Service and the Massachusetts Historical Commission.
- The property is located within the Bedford-Landing Local Historic District and at its March 14, 2022 meeting was issued a Certificate of Appropriateness for the demolition of the ca. 1790 timber-frame building and ca. 1851-wood-frame south addition.
- The demolition does not adversely affect the 3-1/2 story wood-frame gable roof structure facing Route 18, or the adjacent "stone" buildings to the west.

**In light of these findings, the New Bedford Historical Commission has determined that the buildings at 13-19 Commercial Street are Historically Significant but not Preferably Preserved historic buildings.**

**Cc:** National Downtown Club LLC, Applicant  
Department of Inspectional Services  
Mayor's Office

**Attachments:** NBHC Staff Report

**IN CITY COUNCIL, April 12, 2022**

Referred to the Committee on Appointments and Briefings.

Dennis W. Farias, City Clerk

a true copy, attest:

City Clerk