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STAFF REPORT

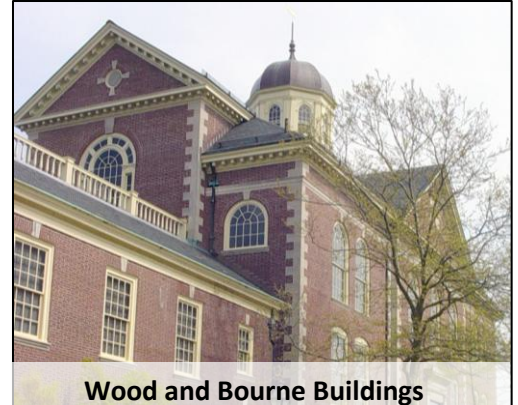
NEW BEDFORD HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING

February 4, 2019

CASE # 2019.03: CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

18 Johnny Cake Hill (Map 53 Lot 161)

OWNER/ Old Dartmouth Historical Society/
APPLICANT: New Bedford Whaling Museum
18 Johnny Cake Hill
New Bedford, MA 02740



Wood and Bourne Buildings

OVERVIEW: To rehabilitate the exteriors of the Bourne Building, including its distinctive Cupola, and the Wood Building Annex. Both buildings suffer from deteriorating window sealants, exterior paint, and wood work; which, unless immediately addressed, will lead to water damage, mold, and a high risk of compromising the collections housed within the buildings.

EXISTING CONDITIONS: The complex that houses the New Bedford Whaling Museum encompasses the entire block between Johnny Cake Hill and William, Water, and Union streets. It consists of four independently constructed but interconnected buildings: the c. 1820 Sundial Building; the c. 1822–1825 William H. Allen Building; the 1883 National Bank of Commerce; and the 1915–1916 Jonathan Bourne Building, which connects to the rear (west) elevations of the two older buildings and has multiple contemporary additions.

The Jonathan Bourne Building is the largest building in the museum complex. Designed by Boston architect Henry Vaughan, it is a two-storey, masonry, Georgian Revival building constructed in 1915–16 for Emily Howland Bourne as a donation to the Whaling Museum. In 1934, a two-storey, addition (the Wood Annex) was built to extend from the north of the Bourne Building. The buildings' are characterized by their brick and limestone construction and the Bourne Building's cupola provides a highly recognizable and iconic backdrop to the port's landscape.

The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) holds a Preservation Restriction on the Whaling Museum Complex and furthermore, the proposed work is being partially funded through a MHC grant, which requires all work to follow the Secretary of the Interior Standards for Rehabilitation.

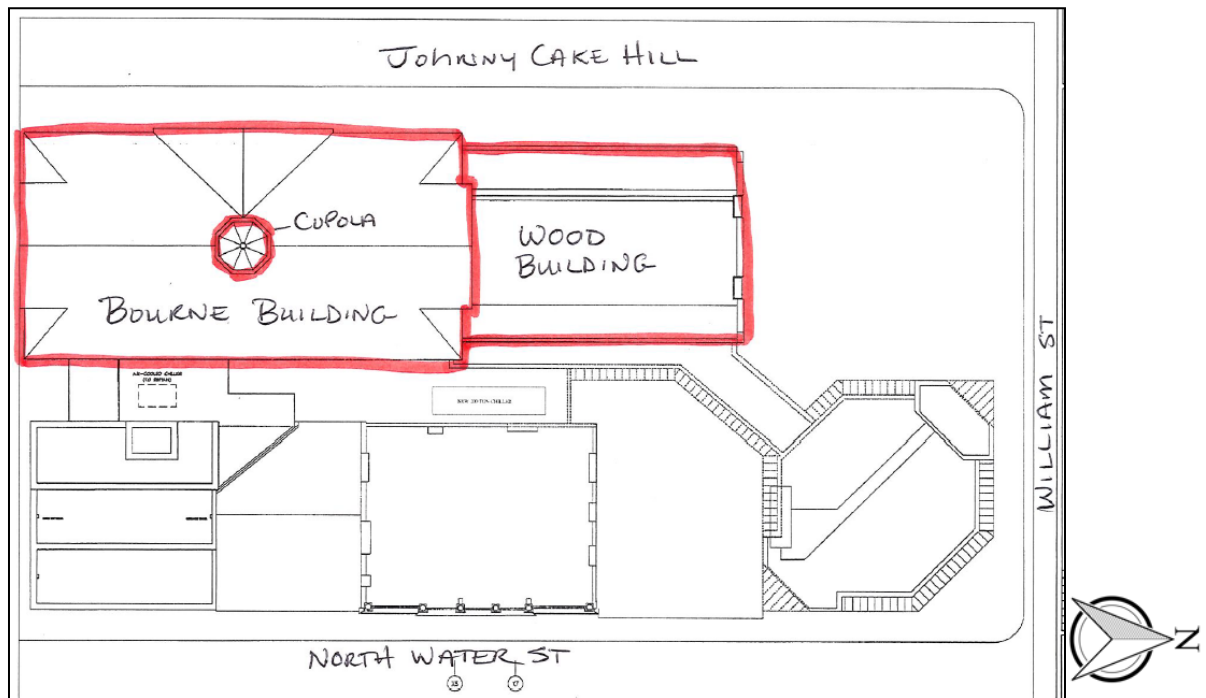
PROPOSAL: Civitects Architects recently performed a comprehensive assessment of the exterior of the two buildings and developed a scope of work and rehabilitation approach which will follow the Secretary of the Interior Standards for Rehabilitation and specific National Park Service Preservation Briefs.

The proposed scope of work consists of work on window and door casings, cornices with knee brackets, balustrades, and cupola. The window work will include removal and replacement of the deteriorating glazing compound. The wood trim work will include stabilization and repair of areas of deterioration. The current conditions of the wood trim will be evaluated. Based on the existing conditions the wood trim will be prepped and painted appropriately. All work will be conducted in alignment with the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. **SEE CIVITECTS ASSESSMENT AND DRAWINGS.**

STATEMENT OF APPLICABLE GUIDELINES: The proposed work will follow the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with *Illustrated Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring & Reconstructing Historic Buildings*. The proposed work will also follow the guidelines found within the National Park Service Preservation Brief #9: The Repair of Historic Windows and Preservation Brief #10: Exterior Paint Problems on Historic Wood.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: The proposed rehabilitation work addresses existing conditions using appropriate methods and materials. The project also proactively applies copper capping to the balustrade to prevent future wood deterioration and ensure its preservation.

Staff recommends the approval of the proposed rehabilitation work and the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness.



Whaling Museum Locus Map of Area of Work