STAFF REPORT

NEW BEDFORD HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING
December 4, 2017

Guidelines for Determination of Historic Significance for Historic Resources Funded through CPA

OVERVIEW

To be determined eligible for Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding a historic resource must either be listed on the State Register of Historic Places or be determined "significant in the history, archaeology, architecture or culture" of New Bedford by the New Bedford Historical Commission (NBHC).

The CPA defines a historic resource as a building, structure, vessel, real property, document or artifact. The NBHC may wish to consider establishing two processes and sets of guidelines for making significance determinations: one for buildings and structures, which have traditionally been under the purview of the NBHC, and one for vessels, real property, documents, and artifacts.

The CPA legislation requires that all CPA historic resources projects comply with the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The following proposed guidelines are based on the of the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and the National Park Service's Criteria for Evaluation.

Buildings and Structures

Process: Staff will recommend a significance determination to the NBHC using the guidelines below, and the NBHC will vote on a final determination.

Guidelines: The NBHC will determine the significance for buildings and structures based on the following criteria:

1. **Date of Construction**
   The property must be at least 50 years old.

2. **Cultural or Historic Association**
   The property must either:
   a. Be associated with one or more historic persons or events;
   b. Be associated with the broad architectural, cultural, economic, political or social history of the City of New Bedford.

3. **Architectural/Design Quality**
   The property must either:
   a. Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction;
   b. Be associated with a famous architect or builder;
   c. Possess high artistic values;
   d. Have architectural significance, either by itself or in the context of a group of buildings or structures.

4. **Integrity**
   The National Park Service defines historic integrity as the ability for a historic resource to convey significance. Integrity must be evident through historic qualities including location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. To retain historic integrity a property will always possess several, and usually most, of these aspects.

Vessels, Real Property, Documents, and Artifacts

Definitions:

<u>Vessel</u> – *The Community Preservation Coalition has stated that, in the context of the CPA, a vessel refers to a ship or large boat.*

<u>Real Property</u> - *The CPA legislation defines real property as "land, buildings, appurtenant structures and fixtures attached to buildings or land, including, where applicable, real property interests."*

Process: Staff recommends that the NBHC give consideration to have applicants submit an "Explanation of Significance" written by a professional in the field associated with the resource type and a brief statement of the professional's credentials and/or expertise.

Guidelines: The NBHC recommends the explanation of significance address the following criteria:

1. **Level of Completeness**
   Typically, this pertains to completeness of records, but can also apply to other resources if they are composed of multiple pieces or materials.

2. **Historic Scope**
   The resource must convey the scope of history with which it is associated. The scope of history represented may be identified by the cultural association or design quality. The resource may:

   a. Illustrate the site of an important historic event;
   b. Identify a person or group of persons who have impacted the community;
   c. Exemplify the cultural, economic, industrial, social, or political heritage of the City;
   d. Embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of creation;
   e. Represent the work of a master craftsman, artist, etc.
   f. Possess high artistic values; or
   g. Be used to inform an area of scholarship.

3. **Integrity**
   The National Park Service defines historic integrity as the ability for a historic resource to convey significance. A historic resource should possess sufficient integrity to convey, represent, or contain the values and qualities for which it is judged significant.

   For records, the Society of American Archivists defines integrity as the principle that a body of records resulting from the same activity must be preserved as a group, without division, separation, or addition, to protect the evidential and informational value that can be discerned from its context.

CPA HISTORIC RESOURCE EVALUATION FORM

Historic Resource Information	
PROPERTY NAME:	
PROPERTY LOCATION:	
PROPERTY AGE:	
PROPERTY TYPE:	

YES	NO	Buildings and Structures
		Cultural or Historic Association:
☐	☐	Resource is associated with the broad architectural, cultural, economic, industrial, political or social history of the City of New Bedford.
☐	☐	Resource is associated with one or more important persons or events.
		Architectural/Design Quality:
☐	☐	Resource possesses distinctive design or physical characteristics in terms of period, style, or method of building construction.
☐	☐	Resource is associated with a famous architect or builder.
☐	☐	Resource possesses high artistic values.
☐	☐	Resource has architectural significance, either by itself or in the context of a group of buildings or structures.
		Integrity:
☐	☐	Resource retains integrity.

YES	NO	Vessels, Real Property, Documents, and Artifacts
☐	☐	Resource is a complete set of materials or records.
☐	☐	Resource illustrates the site of an important historic event.
☐	☐	Resource identifies a person or group of persons who have impacted the community.
☐	☐	Resource exemplifies the cultural, economic, industrial, social, or political heritage of the City.
☐	☐	Resource represents the work of a master craftsman, artist, etc.
☐	☐	Resource possesses high artistic values.
☐	☐	Resource can be used to inform an area of scholarship.
☐	☐	Resource retains integrity.

YES	NO	NBHC Determination of Significance
☐	☐	
NOTES:		