

Public Notice Regarding the National Endowment for the Humanities' Section 106 Review of New Bedford Whaling Museum's Historic Bourne Building Roof Replacement

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has the Old Dartmouth Historical Society, in New Bedford, Massachusetts, a Challenge Infrastructure and Capacity Building grant (CHA-296138) to the roof of our historic and Bourne Building.

NEH is an independent grant-making agency of the United States government dedicated to supporting research, education, preservation, and public programs in the humanities. This public notice is issued as part of NEH's responsibilities under 36 C.F.R. Part 800, the regulations which implement Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, 54 U.S.C. 306108. NEH, a funding agency, is required by regulation to identify and assess the effects of any proposed actions on historic properties. If any proposed action will have an adverse effect on historic resources, NEH works with the appropriate parties to seek ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects. Additionally, the Section 106 regulations require NEH to consider the views of the public on preservation issues when making final decisions that affect historic properties.

The proposed project will take place at the Bourne Building, located at 18 Johnny Cake Hill, New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740. Work involves replacement of the failing asphalt shingle roof. The project will remove all existing roofing shingles, flashing, and trim down to the structural decking. The decking will be prepared for new paper, and asphalt shingles that will match the existing roofing material. The cooper flashing, fasciae, trim, coping caps, ridge caps, and other detail will be replaced in-kind. Work will comply with the Secretary of the Interior standards for historic preservation. The Bourne building is a two-story, masonry, Georgian Revival building constructed in 1915-16 with a footprint of 9,086 square feet. It is part of the New Bedford Whaling Museum campus which is subject to a Preservation Restriction Agreement with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts by and through the Massachusetts Historical Commission. The Bourne Building is listed in the National and State Registers of Historic Places as a contributing property to the New Bedford Historic District, a National Historic Landmark and National Register Historic District (NHRP #66000773), as well as the locally recognized Bedford Landing-Waterfront Historic District

On March 17, 2025, Brona Simon, State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), with the Massachusetts Historical Commission provided a determination of no adverse effect to historic properties. After reviewing Section 106 documentation and SHPO finding, NEH issues a determination of no adverse effect to historic properties.

As required by Section 106, NEH is providing the public with information about this project, as well as an opportunity to comment on any knowledge of, or concerns with, historic properties in the proposed project area, and issues relating to the project's potential effects on historic properties. Comments may be submitted to the NEH by e-mail to FPO@neh.gov. The deadline for submitting comments is April 18, 2025.