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STAFF REPORT

NEW BEDFORD HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING

December 10, 2018

CASE # 2018.30: CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

48 N Water Street (Map 53 Lot 179)

OWNER:

John Meldon/48 N Water St. Trust
60 N Water Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

APPLICANT:

Nancy Flynn
Flynn Wirkus Young, P.C.
400 Crown Colony Drive, Suite 601
Quincy, MA 02169



48 N Water Street

OVERVIEW: The applicant is seeking to paint the front door and seek Certificate for previously applied window signage.

EXISTING CONDITIONS: The circa 1832 William J. Rotch building is located on the southeast corner of North Water and Hamilton Streets. The two-and-one-half-story, end-gable building is clad in painted clapboards with plain corner boards and has a stone foundation. The doorway centered in the west elevation is filled with a two-light, two-panel wood door with a two-light sidelight that is topped by a plate glass transom and surrounded by a Greek Revival entablature. Fenestration consists of six-over-six double-hung sash and four-light fixed sash with wood sills and flared wood lintels. A fanlight is centered in the peak of the west gable.

PROPOSAL: The applicant is proposing to paint the entry door in the color black (Benjamin Moore #2132-10). The applicant is also seeking a Certificate for vinyl window signage which was recently applied to the first floor windows on the west façade as well as on the glass panel of the entry door.



Previously applied window signage

STATEMENT OF APPLICABLE GUIDELINES: *The Bedford Landing District Design Guidelines* state the following relative to this proposal:

SIGNAGE: Signs should complement the architecture or site where they are placed as well as make a positive contribution to the District. The overall goal is to create signage which complements the architecture without creating visual clutter and which reflects the historic use of signage in the District.

WINDOW SIGNAGE

Signage placed within windows for advertising is not permitted. Stencils with hours of operation and business names are permitted.

PAINTING: The primary purpose of paint is to prevent moisture penetration, and paint is one of the least expensive ways to maintain a building's historic fabric. Paint color also helps give the building its identity, and a good color scheme accents a building's architectural features.

PAINT REMOVAL

Paint weathers by chalking, peeling and alligating, and requires regular renewal. Painted elements should be repainted every five to eight years or as needed. Paint removal, with the exception of cleaning, light scraping, and hand sanding as part of routine maintenance, should be avoided unless absolutely essential. Accumulated paint layers may be removed from decorative features prior to repainting, using the gentlest means possible. Hand scraping and hand sanding is the preferred method of paint removal. Chemical removal can produce excellent results, but extreme care must be taken with the products, and the process can be expensive. Rotary sanders that may damage wood and the use of heat guns, which can result in fire, are strongly discouraged. Paint preparation and application specifications for historic properties have been prepared by Historic New England and can be found on their website: <https://www.historicnewengland.org/preservation/for-homeowners-communities/your-old-or-historic-home/paint-specifications/>

HISTORIC COLOR PALETTE

HISTORIC PAINT COLORS FOR EXTERIORS				
Below is a list of appropriate colors for period houses in Massachusetts. Any combination of body, trim, and accent colors may be used. Prepared by Fannin/Lehner				
Architectural Style	Body Color	Trim Color	Door/Accent	Window Sash
Federal (1780-1820) <small>Greens, pinks, sage greens and muted blues characterized the style.</small>	Brick Red Off-White Pale Yellow Ochre Orange Soft Beige Pale Green Medium Gray Medium Blue	White Buff Medium Blue Pale Yellow	Black Natural Brown Red Green	Same as Trim/ Window Frames
Greek Revival (1820-1860) <small>These buildings are invariably painted white (which were intended to suggest the marble temples of Ancient Greece and were more of an off-white). Accent colors were rarely used but could include black, dark greens and gold.</small>	Off-White Buff Pale Yellow Green-Gray Blue-Gray Pale Gray Gray Gray-Brown Tan Ochre Buff Pale Yellow Green-Gray Blue-Gray Pale Gray Gray Gray-Brown Tan	Olive Green Gray-Blue Dark Green Green-Black Buff White Black Light Gray Off-White	Dark Green Black Gold Medium Blue	Black Dark Green

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: The proposed paint color for the entry door is appropriate for the architectural style. Staff recommends its approval and the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness with the condition that hand scraping and sanding is the method for paint preparation, and not a rotary sander.

The window signage is an applied white vinyl which consists of the business logo, business name, services and phone number. A colored vinyl business logo is applied to the door's glass panel. The size and shape of the vinyl appliqué is proportionate with the scale of the windows and the structure. Furthermore, the installation does not create damage or loss of historic fabric and the installation is reversible. Staff recommends the approval of the signage and the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness.



Close-up of applied vinyl window signage



Similar window signage located adjacent to subject property.