



Superfund Records Center
SITE: New Bedford
BREAK: 16.1
OTHER: 498998

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

October 29, 2010

Melville P. Coté, Jr.
Manager
Ocean and Coastal Protection Unit
US Environmental Protection Agency
Region I
1 Congress Street, Suite 1100
Boston, MA 02114-2023

RE: New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site Sunken Vessel Discovery, New Bedford, MA.
MHC #RC.17682.

Dear Mr. Coté:

Staff of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the office of the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer, have reviewed the technical archaeological report, *Technical Report Marine Archaeological Documentation and Assessment, New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site Unanticipated Shipwreck Discovery*, Acushnet River, Acushnet Massachusetts, submitted by Fathom Research, LLC, received October 7, 2010, for the project referenced above.

A second copy of the technical archaeological report, A CD-ROM with the report bibliography and abstract, and an MHC historic archaeological site form for the shipwreck should be submitted by Fathom Research to this office.

Results of the survey and documentation determined that the identified shipwreck site has been substantially disturbed by dredging activities. Structure vessel elements recovered during initial discovery and subsequent phase of archaeologically monitored recovery and documentation are contaminated and damaged or degraded. Analysis of vessel elements indicates that the vessel was well-used and then burned during the 18th century. Recovered keel, floor, futtock, stem, planking and stern timbers suggest a locally manufactured vessel of common type and tonnage suitable for coastal and inter-island commerce between the Atlantic colonies and the Caribbean. The report suggests that this vessel may be one of those burned during the British raid on New Bedford in 1778.

In MHC's opinion, because of the project related impacts the shipwreck no longer possesses integrity of structure or location, and therefore does not meet the criteria of eligibility (36 CFR 60) for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If other unanticipated historic maritime archaeological discoveries are made during the remediation project, MHC recommends that the Environmental Protection Agency, with the assistance of the US Army Corps of Engineers follow the notification and consultation process pursuant to 36 CFR 800.13

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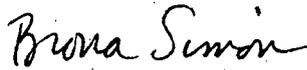


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These comments are provided to assist in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (36 CFR 800). If you have questions or require additional information please contact Jonathan K. Patton at this office.

Sincerely,



Brona Simon
State Historic Preservation Officer
Executive Director
State Archaeologist
Massachusetts Historical Commission

xc:

CR Environmental, Inc.
Lois K. Adams, EPA Region 1 Federal Historic Preservation Officer
Marc Paiva, USACOE-NED
Victor T. Mastone, BUAR
David S. Robinson, Fathom Research, LLC
Jennifer T. Nersesian, Superintendent, New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park
James Russell, President, New Bedford Whaling Museum
Peter Hawes, President, Waterfront Historic Area League
Acushnet Historical Commission
Fairhaven Historical Commission