

Monument to Grey's Raid victims should stay where it is

Statement from Mark P. Fuller, president of the New Bedford Preservation Society

The New Bedford Preservation Society strives to heighten awareness, provide education and guidance and promote sensitive restoration and preservation of New Bedford's fine historic structures and the neighborhoods in which they are located. Also provide significant historical information regarding the structures architectural style, ownership, residents and history of the neighborhood in which they are located.

In regards to the monument located at the corner of County and North streets memorializing the Revolutionary era incident involving the deaths of New Bedford civilians during what is known as Gray's Raid of 1778, with the long standing historical research by (Leonard Bolle) Ellis in his published New Bedford and Vicinity historical guide, along with the fact that the Daughters of the American Revolution chose that site as the best and the closest location to actual incidental to erect the monument in 1927 for the 150th anniversary, it is our belief that is the best location to leave the monument.

And a reminder it is currently located on private property, recently purchased by the YWCA who have since been made aware of the importance of maintaining the site.

We understand the historical significance of the original event and would be in support of installing readable street signage or broadsides throughout the city marking locations of Grey's movements here in New Bedford. Hosting a well publicized rededication of the existing monument including school children could do more to spark new interest in its New Bedford history.

On a side note there are dozens of monuments throughout the city, who knows what and why they are where they are located and their

significance. We recently celebrated the Capt. Anthony and Catalpa anniversary with a flag raising at City Hall and graveside service, but there was no mention that directly across the street at the Registry of Deeds is a monument to Capt Anthony and the Fenians, another forgotten New Bedford monument.

Mark P. Fuller is president of the New Bedford Preservation Society.