

1133 Main Street, Vineyard Haven

Mark Kington <mark.j.kington@gmail.com>

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To: Alex Elvin <elvin@mvcmission.org>;

Cc: gsourati@souratigroup.com <gsourati@souratigroup.com>;

Mr. Elvin, my wife Ann and I write to you in support of the proposed reconstruction of 1133 Main Street in Vineyard Haven by the Bristol family. Our family also owns a home in Vineyard Haven, at 959 Main Street. We are ardent preservationists, having restored two properties on the National Register of Historic Places, one from with 18th C. I have had the pleasure of serving on the board of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and have chaired the Buildings and Grounds Committee for the University of Virginia, a World Heritage site, and Buildings and Grounds for Colonial Williamsburg.

I thank you in advance for your good efforts to protect the architectural heritage of the Island, and would offer the following brief thoughts for your consideration. If we try to protect everything, we protect nothing. Good preservation efforts are based on thoughtful and well defined guidelines. Bluntly, not all "old" structures can or should be preserved. Buildings can become functionally obsolete, structurally unsound. These points apply to many houses in West Chop, including 1133 Main Street.

West Chop, and the Island as a whole, depends upon a vibrant, living, changing community of people, and the structures through which they lead their lives. We must find a balance—preserving that which is of unique public value but yet allowing the personal stewardship of a private property as appropriate.

We trust the Bristol family to sensitively and successfully address the needs of 1133 Main Street and would ask that you approve their plans as submitted.

Sincerely,

Ann and Mark Kington
959 Main Street
Vineyard Haven, MA 02573