

# FW: 1133 Main Street house in West Chop,

Chris Seidel

Thu 8/4/2022 9:10 AM

To: Lucy Morrison <morrison@mvcommission.org>; Alex Elvin <elvin@mvcommission.org>; Christina Mankowski <mankowski@mvcommission.org>;

Cc: Adam Turner <turner@mvcommission.org>;

Mornin' – FYI – DRI Correspondence below.

- Chris

Chris Seidel (pronouns – she, her, hers)

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**From:** Olivia Henry <oeyhenry8@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 03, 2022 8:11 PM

**To:** Chris Seidel <seidel@mvcommission.org>

**Cc:** Adam Turner <turner@mvcommission.org>

**Subject:** 1133 Main Street house in West Chop,

I learned about the possible demolition of this house on about July 20th and was shocked and deeply saddened. I speak in strong opposition to this plan.

I had no idea that one of the most beautiful houses in West Chop and on the island might disappear. My Draper great grandparents were among about 6 families from the Boston area, who envisioned creating an intergenerational island community at West Chop. They pooled resources, built houses, created an inn, the Cedars and a casino, ( not Las Vegas gambling, but where they'd play bridge, dance, gather for a secular Sun 10 am service, before heading out for tennis, just outside, then off to the beach).

My grandmother, born in 1895, loved coming each summer. Her 3 daughters and later their families enjoyed the friendly low key atmosphere of the Chop.

My great grandparents experienced bad economic setbacks and had to sell their large multistorey house at Middle Pier. It rivalled the 1133 Main St house, where I loved visiting Ruthie and her Tallman family to play, go to parties. They were so vivacious and welcoming to all comers.

I wish I could have visited our Draper house, which had to be sold and was torn down long before I was born in 1950. It was large, and had a great wraparound porch, overlooking Vineyard Sound. I first saw old photos of it when I was about 70. My grandmother, Ruth Peters, became a realtor at West Chop for about 25 years. She got her own house by selling the Mink Meadows land for homes and a golf course. I started visiting in 1950, when I was about 6 months old. I missed only 2 years until we had to sell it in 2004. It was sold and torn down, despite our efforts to find a buyer who would keep it. 1133 Main is iconic and epitomizes a time in history, time of family gatherings, of easygoing community fun. We learned to swim, ride bikes, have parades, play lots of tennis.

I wish this history would not be lost, only remembered in yellowed photographs and stories of a time past. Very few of these lovely old houses remain. We need to preserve, honor and remember a time past. I wish we had an historic district here.

I understand that old houses have their challenges. May the Bristols find a way to modernize, without destroying this beautiful structure. I feel I am speaking for 4 generations of Vineyarders, who deeply loved this place .

In closing, I hope that no demolition is approved. Hopefully, good interior work to modernize can be obtained. If not, then I hope the family can buy a piece of land and build a house to all their specifications.

Sincerely,

Olivia Henry

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