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MVC
33 York Ave.
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

Dear Commissioners,

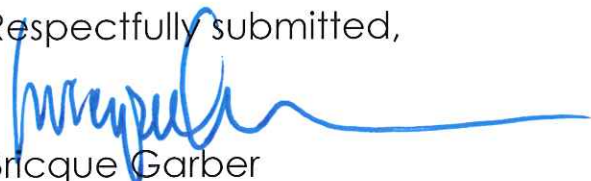
I write as a West Tisbury resident to encourage the membership to save the historically significant, Edwin Luce house, off Indian Hill Road. I am the assistant to the members of the Historic District Commission in Edgartown and have seen all manner of arguments used to justify demolitions of historic structures. In this situation, the arguments seem very weak. Neglect and peeling paint, as arguments, are nonsensical. This house was built in approximately 1840. It is old but grand and lovely.

I cannot be more eloquent and on point than what has been expressed by Geraldine Brooks, in her letter to the editor. Still, I have the experience of seeing many plans over the past 13 years, and have visited many completed renovations to homes in very, very poor condition, some lacking any foundation whatsoever and many suffering from years of neglect and insect infestations. I know that these homes can be saved; it comes down to the costs and buyer's wishes for something new and different. To argue disrepair as a reason for demolition is a false argument. I would contend that the architects, in this case, are excellent and more than capable of saving the house along with trying to meet the wishes of their clients. It is well known that additional square footage can be gained by adding basements (which will not change the facades of the historic house) and/or additions to the buildings that can compliment and subordinate to the historic house. The house in question is a lovely example of an early Greek Revival architecture sitting on a large parcel of land as was intended in its construction. The preservation of such structures is most definitely in the interest of the history of the island. As Commissioner Hancock noted, the location of the house is not an argument for its historic significance.

The costs of renovation are likely higher than a demo and new house but weighing the loss of this historic home cannot compare with planned investment of the owners, and is not a valid reason for demolition. According to the article in the Gazette, they are finding a way to renovate an old creamery.

Quoting Ms. Brooks, "Indian Hill is a wonderfully preserved enclave of this Island's rural past. It's increasingly rare historic homes speak to our Island history as a rural place where people of modest means lived and thrived by hard labor and closeness to the land.... "If the MVC does not change course in the way they evaluate issues of historic preservation, that entire story will soon be erased from the landscape."

Respectfully submitted,



Bricque Garber