



Martha's Vineyard Commission

OLD STONE BUILDING • 33 NEW YORK AVENUE
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October 13, 2021

Joan Hughes
PO Box 99
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

Re: MVC non-concurrence with referral for 165 Circuit Ave. Demolition (CR 9-2021)

Dear Joan,

I am writing to confirm that on Oct. 7, 2021, the MVC discussed the proposal to demolish the house at 165 Circuit Ave. in Oak Bluffs, which had been referred as a concurrence review. The Commission voted to not concur with the referral and to remand the project back to the town.

The proposal is to demolish the existing house built around 1900 and restore an existing shed that was likely built in the 1930s or 1940s. The Commission determined that the existing structures due to their state of disrepair, original construction methods, and other factors are not historically significant enough to warrant review as a Development of Regional Impact. The Commission noted the possible historic significance of the original owner, who is thought to have been an African American housekeeper for a family in Boston, and encouraged the Applicant to consider a plaque or other memorial as appropriate, and to consult the Martha's Vineyard African American Heritage Trail for additional guidance.

The Town may now proceed with the permitting process.

If you have any questions, or if there is anything we can help with, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Alex Elvin
DRI Coordinator

cc: Tom Perry (Building Official)
Matt Rossi (Local Inspector)
Adam Turner (MVC Director)