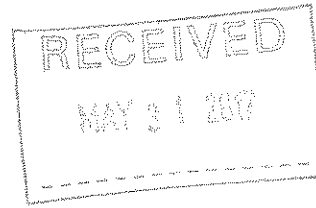




ALISON SHAW



May 31, 2017

Commissioners,

I am writing in regards to the removal of the historic roof tiles on the Santander Bank building on Main Street in Vineyard Haven. Although I am writing as a private citizen from another town, I bring to the table many years of service on the Cottage City Historic District Commission, and the Oak Bluffs Historical Commission.

I am of the opinion that with the removal of those tiles (and accompanying wood trim), and their replacement with generic asphalt shingles, the venerable and distinctive bank building has visually become a shell of its former self. It's the equivalent of taking the clock tower off the Old Whaling Church, eliminating the clerestory stained glass windows from the Tabernacle, removing the Stanley Murphy paintings from the Tisbury Town Hall, or taking the masts and rigging off the topsail schooner Shenandoah.

I believe the stone building with its red tile roof is the most distinctive as well as historically interesting building on Main Street in Vineyard Haven. In its present sorry state, it will no longer have that distinction.

Regardless of how this came to pass, for me it comes down to doing the right thing, which is replacing those tiles and trim, and by doing so restoring the bank building to its rightful architectural place of honor on Main Street. The money required to do the right thing feels like a drop in the bucket for a major financial institution – if it's really and truly a financial hardship for the bank, perhaps they could apply for CPA funds for Historic Preservation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Alison Shaw", written over a horizontal line.

Alison Shaw