

Dear MVC,

Thank you for setting up the recent site visit to the historic Captain Edwin Luce Homestead.

Historic preservation is not only about a building but also about the people who built and lived in these homes. Edwin Luce was a whaling captain and farmer who built an elegant Greek Revival home during the booming whaling period from about 1830 to 1880. Greek Revival architecture was also the style at the time and with the regional economy due to whaling booming. West Tisbury had several Whaling Captains whose family names are still used to this day. The home should not be demolished but restored to its true elegance as the engineer stated in his opinion a gut renovation would accomplish this bringing the house to code while maintaining the exterior style is not an impossible mission . The MVC has been given the job as gatekeeper for Historic Preservation of these unique homes and neighborhoods please do the right thing and deny this demolition don't allow the bulldozers in. As Geraldine Brooks expressed in a letter to the editor, "If the MVC does not change its course in the way they evaluate Historic Preservation that entire story will soon be erased from the landscape."

Thank you

James Cisek Edgartown