

January 26, 2022

Martha's Vineyard Commission  
The Old Stone Building  
33 New York Avenue  
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

Dear Commissioners and Staff:

You asked us to address statements made by the public that the house was intentionally neglected. We are responding to your request based on what we saw in the Fall of 2017 and the time of purchase in January 2018. We had not been in the house since 1968, and we have never seen the house as depicted in the photographs submitted. As you know our family owned the home from 1888 to 1968, and we were responsible for the 1948 re-build.

In short, what you saw during your site visits is what we purchased in 2018, it is no different today. The only exception being chipped paint on the first floor. The house we purchased:

- Did not have a functioning heating system
- The septic system to both main and guest house were not usable,
- Pipes had been drained
- Fireplaces stuffed with insulation
- Flue piping disconnected and exposed
- Several windows not functioning
- The washing machine was in the first-floor bathroom, and
- Any holes in the walls were there at time of purchase

It was recommended we turn off electricity given standing water in the basement and the potential for fire. The house was uninhabitable.

We commissioned and received a structural report, a hazardous materials report and a builder's opinion, all of which we have submitted. To the best extent possible, we secured the house to the weather. Over the following 3 years, we restored paddocks, re-built stone walls and created a pasture in which we graze sheep every summer. These were done with the oversight of the Sherriff's Meadow Foundation. We also granted Sherriff's Meadow a permanent easement through the property supporting the Irvin Trail Head parking area.

Please feel free to ask us any other questions as we have over an 80-year history with this property and are eager to clear up any miss-information about its condition, its history, and our stewardship. Our family has been coming to the island every year since 1888.

We thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration, and with the highest regard,

Lois and Jeff Meyer