



## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

April 29, 2013 William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Mark London  
Executive Director  
Martha's Vineyard Commission  
P.O. Box 1447  
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

RE: 15 Cromwell Lane (aka Caleb Prouty House), Tisbury, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. London:

Staff of the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) have reviewed the MHC Building Inventory Form B and supporting documentation related to the above-referenced property submitted to our office on behalf of the Martha's Vineyard Commission by the Public Archaeology Laboratory. The material was received April 17, 2013. The submission included a request that MHC staff assess the eligibility of 15 Cromwell Lane for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

It is the opinion of MHC staff that the Caleb Prouty House, 15 Cromwell Lane, Tisbury, is individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C at the local level. Most likely built for Caleb Prouty, a mariner, between 1844 and 1855, the house is a remarkably well-preserved example of a wood-frame Greek Revival residence typical of those constructed in the village of Vineyard Haven in its period of mid-19<sup>th</sup> century maritime prosperity. The house presents a front-gable façade with a wide cornice and flanking Doric pilasters, and an entablature door surround with transom and side lights. The side hall interior retains an intact first floor plan with a high degree of surviving interior features and finishes. Although subsequent nineteenth and twentieth century owners of the property have been identified, a National Register nomination would need to more fully establish their role in the history and development of Vineyard Haven. The Prouty House is also set among a small cluster of buildings that survived the fire of 1883 that destroyed over 70 buildings in the immediate vicinity. Further research would be needed to establish whether the Prouty House may also be eligible for listing in the National Register as a contributing resource to a small district of related properties that survived the 1883 fire.

Please feel free to contact Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director at MHC, or me, if you have any questions regarding the above comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Steinitz".

Michael Steinitz  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Director, Preservation Planning Division  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Xc: Virginia H. Adams, PAL