

Shearer Cottage

Jill <jilliejams@aol.com>

Mon 10/11/2021 1:16 PM

To: Alex Elvin <elvin@mvcommission.org>;

Cc: lvanallen@comcast.net <lvanallen@comcast.net>;

Dear Mr Elvin:

I am writing to voice my support of the renovation and preservation of Shearer Cottage in Oak Bluffs.

From its inception as an inn welcoming black vacationers to The Vineyard until today, Shearer Cottage and the descendants of the Shearer family have provided not only a place to lay sunburned, sandy heads, but a vibrant, loving history. Shearer Cottage is a consistent presence that plays a central role and helps to illuminate, commemorate, and celebrate the African American presence on the island. It is a community building institution. So many of the physical structures that housed these lively communities have been lost.

I urge the Martha's Vineyard Commission to support Shearer's renovation and restoration.

Thank you.

Jill Nelson

Author, Finding Martha's Vineyard: African Americans at Home on an Island
(Interview with Doris Jackson and her daughter, Lee Van Allen, p. 50-55)