



TISBURY
MASSACHUSETTS

TISBURY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
WILLIAM STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
VINEYARD HAVEN, MASSACHUSETTS 02568

Martha's Vineyard Commission
33 New York Avenue
Oak Bluffs, MA. 02557

October 19, 2022

Re: DRI 736 – 43 Look Street demolition (previously CR 4-2022), Tisbury (Vineyard Haven)

Along with Eric Dray's meticulous analysis of 43 Look Street, both historically and architecturally, Tisbury Historical Commission board members have done their own independent reviews.

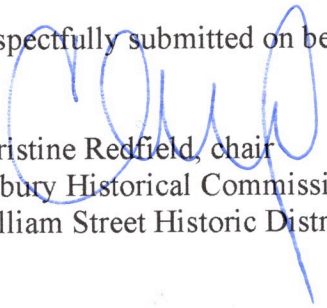
43 Look Street is one of the few existing examples left of American Foursquare architecture on Martha's Vineyard. Foursquare designs were popular in the 1890-1930s, especially for their affordability. They were seen as one way to achieve the "American dream" of homeownership, and they were often kit homes made even more popular by Sears Roebuck.

Most homes in the Look Street neighborhood are historically and architecturally coherent products of the period between 1880-1920, which were significant in the development of Vineyard Haven. Look Street is, in its way, as emblematic of the climax-and-twilight era of the village as William Street (architecturally very different but similarly coherent) is of the golden years of the 2nd quarter of the 19th century.

Along with William Street, the fringes of colonial Vineyard Haven that survived the Great Fire, and the rambling summer "cottages" at the tip of West Chop, Look Street is an important link in the history of the village and town, one that deserves special consideration and (if necessary) thoughtful and nuanced new construction.

Tisbury Historical Commission's goal is to help protect and maintain the architectural and historic residential character of the Town of Tisbury. The property at 43 Look Street borders the William Street Historic District and, in its original Foursquare design, lends to the story of its neighborhood. For these reasons, we recommend renovation over demolition.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Tisbury Historical Commission,


Christine Redfield, chair
Tisbury Historical Commission
William Street Historic District Commission