



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

September 1, 2023

Re: DRI 694 -15 Cromwell Lane, Vineyard Haven-Caleb Prouty House

Along with the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the MVC's meticulous analysis of the Caleb Prouty House historically and architecturally, Tisbury Historical Commission board members have done their independent reviews. We have also looked into our records from previous correspondence regarding the condition and proposed demolition request of October 2019 to find that on February 20, 2020, in a letter to the MVC, this board made the following statements:

"The THC respectfully requests and recommends any activity by Stop & Shop and/or implementation of the DRI process by the MVC involving the Caleb Prouty House, include preservation and complete historical renovation of the Caleb Prouty House at its present address or a location to be determined in concert with the THC," the letter reads in part. "Having survived the fire of 1883 and being one of only two homes in Tisbury with most of the original interior woodwork intact, including the original floors, staircase, and balustrade, the THC believes the house is of great historical value."

Fast forward to September 3, 2023, and our wishes remain unchanged. THC realizes the significance of the location of the Caleb Prouty House and its remarkable survival in the Great Fire of 1883. Still, we also plainly see the troubling neglect its current stewards have led it to. This board considers this new proposal to move the home nearby as the best hope for the property. Like the many houses that burned and disappeared from our then landscape, we as a board feel strongly that the historical fabric of this town is limited and hope the MVC will agree that it is essential to preserve our historically significant structures and protect the character of our town with any efforts to keep this structure in some form.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Tisbury Historical Commission,

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