



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Northeast Region
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

IN REPLY REFER TO:
1.A.2. (RS-PA)

July 9, 2016

Jeff Ferriell
President, Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association
80 Trinity Park
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

Dear Mr. Ferriell:

Thank you for reaching out to the National Park Service (NPS) for input on proposed projects at Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association, which is designated a National Historic Landmark under the name Wesleyan Grove. We also want to thank Mr. Frank Gould for providing our office with specific information about the rehabilitation project for the Tabernacle.

Kathryn Schlegel, Historical Landscape Architect, and I have reviewed the materials regarding the project for the Tabernacle, including a floor plan, elevations, sections, site plan, and images, and we believe that the small addition is compatible with the Tabernacle and its environment in terms of design, massing, scale, architectural features, and materials. The roofline of the addition fits well with the existing structure, and the overall design of the addition recalls, but doesn't copy, an earlier addition that no longer exists. In our opinion, the project meets the Secretary of the Interior's "*Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*".

We also appreciate that Mr. Gould provided follow-up information on the existing Tabernacle roof material and the future plan to replace the main Tabernacle roof when funds are available. The roof design, materials, and rooflines are important defining architectural features of the Tabernacle and it will be important to consider the original roofing material, prior to the existing asbestos material, as you plan for the replacement. We would be glad to provide further guidance on the roof replacement when you begin planning for that project.

I also want to briefly summarize the phone call we had concerning the proposals of a few of your residents to add basements to their cottages. I recommend that you continue to do research to develop guidelines to assist in the review of the proposals. The guidelines will help ensure that the historic character of the cottages, and the overall district, is preserved. The guidelines should include the following points:

- Structural Integrity: any work should not damage the structural integrity of the historic cottages, or any adjacent buildings. Monitoring for vibration during construction should be encouraged.

- Historic Character: the design of the basements should preserve the overall appearance and historic character of the individual cottages, but not create a false sense of history. The design should be compatible with each individual building with respect to size, height, clearance off the ground, materials, and skirting or the lack of skirting,
- Windows and Doors: the number of basement windows, doors, or other openings should be limited. The location of these openings should be to the rear and sides of the cottages if possible, or in locations that are not visible from streets, paths, and other common areas.

The applicable Secretary of the Interior's *Standards* for new additions to historic buildings, such as the Tabernacle addition and the proposals to install basements, are excerpted below. (For additional information and preservation guidance, visit the NPS website, <https://www.nps.gov/tps/standards.htm>)

9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.

10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

Thank you again for your interest in seeking the opinion of the NPS for your projects. Our comments are advisory; there is not a formal role for the NPS under Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (54 U.S.C. § 470 et seq). An owner of a property designated as an NHL may do whatever they want with their property as long as there are no federal monies or permits. However, the NPS has the responsibility for maintaining current information on changes to designated NHLs and working with stewards in seeking the best treatments that will ensure the continued status as an NHL, so we are pleased to provide assistance to you and your organization.

Please contact me at either (215) 597-5028 or at bonnie_halda@nps.gov if you have any questions or if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Bonnie J. Halda
Chief, Preservation Assistance