

Tabernacle Renovation

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To: Oak Bluffs Planning Board <planningboard@oakbluffsma.gov>

>>>> Dear Oak Bluffs Planning Board,

>>>> It is my understanding that there is a proposal for renovations/addition to the existing historic Tabernacle at Trinity Park, Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts , which involves roof replacement in addition to a 1300 square foot addition as well as the plumbing for 10 bathrooms (to be tied into septic system IF approved)

>>>> I understand the needs for roof repair but question the addition as well as the future bathrooms.

>>>> The Tabernacle falls under the veil of National Historic Preservation Act and wonder how the Town of Oak Bluffs is able to perform such addition (s) without proper consideration within the law.

>>>> Let me insert a sentence from the documents:

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>>>> With the passage of the act, preservation in the United States became formalized and professionalized. The National Historic Preservation Act was tied to a growing awareness of the past and of community identity. Many communities realized that there was an unexpected economic force behind preservation. The act helped foster heritage tourism, attracting visitors who wanted to experience the past in ways that no book or documentary could match. The distinctive character of old architecture and historic districts became a powerful draw for many Americans, and antidote to anonymous suburbs and strip malls.

>>> My opinion follows

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>>>> Slowly, inch by inch, our Island's history is being eroded out from under our feet! Please consider preventing this project from going through. Enough is enough!

Thank you,

Eben L Elias

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