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Truro Historic Commission: narrative, 3 Castle Rd.

Dear Commissioners, my name is Tim Dickey, I'm here to represent the owners of 3 Castle Rd in our application for a demolition permit for the residence at this address.

The owners' family has had the property since 1939, when Katherine B. Day, widow of the author Clarence Day, arrived in Truro. With the current owners grandchildren counted, that's five generations.

The kitchen wing of the house did serve as the Post Office, before the house was moved back from the square (it was right on the street until then) in the 1950s. It is at some distance from it's original historic location.

Unfortunately, there's enough wrong with the house at this advanced age that recycling it, saving what we can, is my recommendation and the owner's decision, hence this application and hearing. My firm is active in reusing the old growth wood in these structures, so it can be celebrated as flooring and in other applications. We did this in 2009 when this commission approved our application on Nancy Craig's project at 32 Town Hall Rd, and we've recycled wood in numerous other projects before and since. This last week we used reclaimed wood from the attic in Dexter Keezer's old place for the floor in a kitchen addition there. We do full historic restoration where applicable, and are currently finishing the restoration of the Marcel Breuer house in Wellfleet, for the Cape Cod Modern House Trust.

Families like to gather at their Cape properties, and this is the driving reason why we have decided not to save the current structure - it can't be configured to serve the family adequately. They'd like to enjoy their property with their children and grandchildren, but the current layout is too hazardous and uncomfortable for the rest of the family to visit. Starting over

with a replica of the old house - but one that serves the family's needs, is safe and energy efficient, in our minds, seem like a reasonable thing to try to achieve. This is one way that history can be preserved: from the street, for the public, the house will appear the same, and for the family the interior will function, and expose the 200 year old wood.

The house has many physical ailments, the worst of which is extensive powder post beetle damage in the timber frame and roof trusses, which is why I mention safety above. But the condition of the house is only part of the reason for this hearing, not the main reason, and not worth debating. The real reason is utility, having an adequate place to gather. As for the increase in size, the current proposed design at roughly 2100 square feet is below the national average house size of 2400 square feet, and well below the Town's maximum area for this lot at 3600 square feet.

This is why we are before you with drawings of a house that is hard to tell apart from the existing. The owners and I respect the historic nature of the center of Truro, and though the house's historic location was lost 70 years ago, we'd like it to appear the same as it does now. Whether the 12 month delay is enforced or not, we plan to carefully take apart the structure, save the (up to) 30" wide, 18 and 20' long boards that are hidden under the eaves, and celebrate the history.

Respectfully submitted

Tim Dickey