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OAK BLUFFS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 1327, OAK BLUFFS, MASSACHUSETTS 02557

November 9, 2006

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

Re: Martha's Vineyard Hospital new construction

The Oak Bluffs Historical Commission has reviewed the plans submitted by the Martha's Vineyard Hospital for the construction of a new building on the property it currently occupies at the intersection of Eastville Avenue, Temahigan Avenue and Beach Road in Oak Bluffs. We would like to offer the following comments.

The Eastville section of Oak Bluffs was one of the very earliest settlements in town beginning around 1730. The building that served as the island's first hospital from 1922 through 1929 was built in 1859 and remains intact as a private residence on Eastville Avenue.

Over the years, many of the original homes and structures in this area have been demolished or moved to other locations. Just a few historic homes remain. The house at the corner of Temahigan and Eastville Avenue and the house next door at 83 Eastville Avenue were built around 1818. They represent some of the last vestiges of historic character that remain in this locale.

In order to maintain the historic integrity of this important neighborhood, we would appreciate the opportunity for a joint meeting between the Oak Bluffs Historical Commission, the Martha's Vineyard Commission and the hospital to review the architectural features of the building such as roof pitches, decorative elements and building materials.

The Historical Commission feels that, while it is important to provide the community with a proper hospital, it is just as important to preserve our town heritage. We are therefore concerned with the proposed plan to create a parking lot in the wooded lot that surrounds the house at the corner of Temahigan and Eastville Avenues and the house next door at 83 Eastville Avenue. The loss of privacy and quiet enjoyment for these two

homeowners would be seriously compromised and the remaining residential character of the area impacted unfavorably.

We look forward to meeting with the hospital and the Martha's Vineyard Commission in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,

Oak Bluffs Historical Commission

Renee Balter, Chairman
Priscilla Sylvia, Secretary
Members
David Wilson
Pam Melrose
Alison Shaw
Joyce Dresser
Susan Thompson