

Old King's Highway Regional Historic District Commission  
First District Courthouse, Barnstable, Mass. 02630 Telephone: 617-362-4092

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TOWN OF SANDWICH  
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JAMES B. WALLACE  
Appellant

VS

DECISION  
Case no. 81-12

Old King's Highway Regional  
Historic District Committee  
for the Town of Sandwich  
Appellee

A hearing was held on November 18, 1981, by the above Commission on an appeal filed by James B. Wallace from the decision of the Sandwich Historic District Committee disapproving an application for the placement of five (5) solar panels on a dwelling located at #32 Grove Street, Sandwich, Massachusetts.

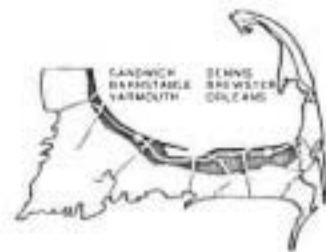
Present were, Mr. MacSwan, Barnstable, Mr. Ivers, Brewster, Mr. Brown, Orleans, Mr. Long, Yarmouth, Mr. Hanger, Dennis, Mr. Leonard, Sandwich, James R. Wilson counsel for the Commission, Mr. & Mrs. Wallace, applicants, and Mr. Jackson, the installer.

The decision of the Sandwich Committee was filed with the Town Clerk on October 15, 1981, and the appeal entered with the Commission on October 27, 1981, within the ten day appeal period.

All members indicated that they had visited the site and were familiar with the neighborhood. Additionally, photographs of the area, a plot plan and sketches of the proposed location of the panels were submitted to the members.

Mr. Wallace addressed the Commission and stated that he had sought permission to place the panels on his house so as to minimize the impact of high energy costs and that he had had numerous solar experts examine the property and give recommendations as to the best location and type of panels to be involved. The system is a hot water heating system designed to accommodate his family of six. He further indicated that his house was built approximately four years ago and was of relatively contemporary style but compatible with the historic character of the street and neighborhood. He indicated that he had relied upon the advice of many potential installers in determining that the location as presented to the Committee and Commission was correct. He further indicated that while there would be no loss of efficiency between a ground mount and a roof mounting, that shading or shadows from the house might reduce the system's efficiency if it were placed anywhere other than the proposed location.

Mr. Jackson addressed the Commission and stated that the



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proposed location was the best location for maximum efficiency with a minimum amount of shade and other interference.

Mr. Leonard stated that his Committee had considered the application at length and felt that the proposed panels would enhance the contemporary style of the dwelling to such an extent that it would detract from the historic character of the street. He further indicated that his Committee felt that a ground mount system would be a better alternative.

After lengthy discussion the Commission makes the following findings:

1. That insufficient evidence regarding the feasibility of a ground mount system was presented to the Sandwich Committee.
2. That the Sandwich Committee erred in its outright denial of the application.

WHEREFORE the decision of the Sandwich Committee denying a Certificate of Appropriateness is annulled and the matter is remanded to the Sandwich Committee for further review and to make specific findings on the feasibility of a ground mount system.

The applicant was advised that he may appeal to the First District Court of Barnstable within twenty (20) days of the filing of this Decision with the Sandwich Town Clerk

Respectfully submitted

*Elliott B. MacSwan*  
Elliott B. MacSwan, Chairman

November 23, 1981