

# Old King's Highway Regional Historic District Commission

First District Courthouse, Barnstable, Mass. 02630

Telephone 617-363-4092

|   |
|---|
| TOWN CLERK<br>TOWN OF SANDWICH<br>MAY - 8 1981<br>10 H 45 M A M<br>RECEIVED & RECORDED<br>Case # 81-5 |
|---|

MILTON SCHWARTZ & PAUL WHITE  
Appellants

VS

THE OLD KING'S HIGHWAY REGIONAL  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMITTEE FOR  
THE TOWN OF SANDWICH  
Appellee

A hearing was held on May 5, 1981 by the above Commission on an appeal filed by the above Appellants from the decision of the Sandwich Historic District Committee approving the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness to Yesteryears Museum Assoc., Inc. (Doll Museum) allowing the placement of vinyl siding on the exterior of the Museum's building located at 143 Old Main Street, Sandwich, Massachusetts.

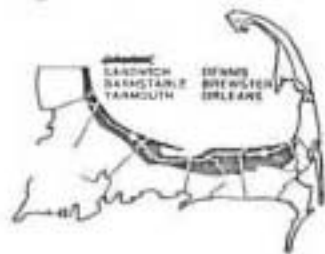
Present were: Mr. Hanger, Dennis, Mr. Ivers, Brewster, Mr. Long, Yarmouth, Mr. Cullity, Sandwich, Mr. Schwartz and Mr. White. Appellants, Colonel and Mrs. Thomas for the Applicant and Attorney James R. Wilson.

Shown to the Commission was a copy of the contract for installation of the vinyl siding indicating a price of \$7792.00. Additionally all of the members of the Commission indicated that they had previously viewed the site and were familiar with the neighborhood in question.

The decision of the Town Committee was made April 7, 1981, and filed April 8, 1981. The appeal was filed with the Commission on April 17, 1981 within the ten day appeal period.

Mr. Schwartz addressed the Commission and stated that the use of vinyl siding on this 1833 building would seriously damage its historical integrity and adversely effect its aesthetic appearance. He reviewed the history of the building as a church and pointed out its prominent location within the center of Sandwich. He further referred to the publication by the Department of the Interior and other authorities condemning the use of vinyl or aluminum siding and suggested that it would be very inappropriate for this building to have any vinyl siding.

Mr. White supported the statements of Mr. Schwartz and indicated that he felt the Committee erred in concluding that the applicant had a hardship within the meaning of the Act.



## Old King's Highway Regional Historic District Commission

First District Courthouse, Barnstable, Mass. 02630

Telephone: 617-362-4092

Mr. Cullity stated that the Committee had reviewed this application three times and had tried to do what was right. He indicated that the Committee felt in light of the willingness on the part of the Applicant to only place vinyl on the rear and sides of the building and to leave the front wood, that a genuine effort to compromise had been made by the applicant.

Colonel Thomas stated that they did not have the financial means to do the wood clapboard replacement as it would cost \$33,000.00 to do the work properly. He stated that he was very sympathetic and wished to put wood on the structure but was fearful that the building could not wait until sufficient funds could be raised to pay for the wood. In fact, he suggested that vinyl was a stop-gap solution that would give them breathing space until such time as they could afford to properly re-do the exterior of the building in wood. Colonel Thomas also reviewed the history of the building and the earlier efforts to have the building registered as a national landmark.

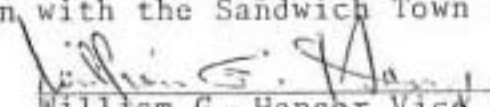
After lengthy discussion by the Commission members, on motion made by Mr. Ivers, seconded by Mr. Long, the Commission voted 3-0-1 to affirm the Sandwich Committee's approval of the application of vinyl siding.

In accordance with said decision the Commission makes the following findings:

1. That the building has historical significance.
2. That the use of vinyl siding on this particular building is inappropriate.
3. That because of the unique character and condition of the building it would be a hardship not to approve the use of vinyl siding at this time.
4. That a Certificate of Appropriateness allowing vinyl on the sides and rear of the building may be done without derogating from the intent and purposes of the Act or causing injury to the public welfare.
5. That this decision does not endorse or support the use of vinyl siding as a means to protect old buildings but to the contrary suggests and states that it is inappropriate material as the evidence before the Commission indicated that it may promote the rotting and destruction of the building.
6. That the applicant acknowledges that he is aware of these problems and will in the future make every effort to someday replace the vinyl siding with wood.

This decision may be appealed to the First District Court of Barnstable by filing an appropriate complaint within 20 days of the filing of this Decision with the Sandwich Town Clerk.

May 7, 1981

  
William G. Hanger, Vice Chairman