



Old King's Highway Regional Historic District Commission
P.O. Box 279, Hyannis Mass. 02601

Telephone: 617-775-1766

ARTHUR BUFFUM

v.

Decision #89-13

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

On Tuesday, July 11, 1989 the Commission held a hearing on Appeal #89-13 filed by Arthur Buffum seeking reversal of a decision by the Barnstable Historic District Committee which had denied a Certificate of Appropriateness for a sign to be located at 3236 Main Street, Barnstable, Massachusetts.

Present were Janet Francis, Brewster; Peter Freeman, Barnstable; Christopher Miner, Orleans; Allen Abrahamson, Sandwich; Robert DiMartile, Yarmouth; Robert G. Brown, Commission Counsel; and Arthur Buffum, Applicant.

The Committee's decision had been filed with the Town Clerk on June 15, 1989, and the appeal entered with the Commission on June 26, 1989, within the ten day appeal period.

Prior to the start of the hearing Peter Freeman announced that he would not act as Chairman for this hearing in that he would be presenting the position for the Barnstable Committee.

Arthur Buffum, addressed the Commission in favor of his appeal. He showed the Commission pictures of the building he partially occupies. All of the Commission members stated they were familiar with the building as it is very prominent in the village of Barnstable. He stated that there were many signs on the buiding which had never been before the Barnstable Committee. He quoted from the December, 1983 Bulletin of the Commission which described the desirable and undesirable characteristics of signs to be located in the District. He stated that the bulletin lists the characteristics of his sign as being desirable. He displaed pictures of early buildings in Barnstable County and also presented a petition in favor of the sign.

Peter Freeman, representing the Barnstable Committee, addressed the Commission to explain the Barnstable Committee's reasons for denial. He stated that the Guidelines of the District are not etched in stone. He said the other signs on the building are debatable but that the Barnstable Committee was well within their discretion in not approving the Applicant's sign. He submitted the verbatim

minutes of the hearing before the Barnstable Committee to show that the Barnstable Committee's decision was not made quickly but was the result of careful deliberation. He further stated that the sign was off-center and may have to be made smaller.

After lengthy discussion the Commission made the following determination.

1. That the Barnstable Committee did not act in an arbitrary, capricious, or erroneous manner in denying the Application. 4-0-1.

2. That the appeal be denied. 4-0-1

Any person aggrieved by this decision has a right to appeal to the District Court Department, Barnstable Division, within 20 days of the filing of this decision with the Barnstable Town Clerk.

Christopher Miner
Vice-Chairman