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Ray Pohl, Chairman  
Historic District Commission  
2 Fairgrounds Road  
Nantucket, MA 02554

Re: 29 and 27 Fair Street

Dear HDC Members,

I was recently notified by a neighbor about the changes under review for 29 and 27 Fair Street. My wife and I own the home on 30 Fair Street, across the street from 29 and 27 Fair street. We have owned the house since 1999.

When I learned about the changes under review I was quite surprised and upset for a number of reasons, not the least of which is my concern of how the property would be transformed into something that would greatly alter the historic character of the neighborhood. We specifically purchased our home in the historic district to avoid what is under review while having close proximity to town. More specifically:

1. This is not a minor modification. It a major change of "use".
2. Having a bar where the main dining room is now located, in and of itself, will totally change the character of the neighborhood. It takes the old Woodbox and 29 Fair to a level beyond its intent and then some. The plan calls for the existing dining room to become a sizeable bar on the main level of the building when now there is not a bar area in the existing premise. I expect the reason for the new owner wanting a bar is economic and it is on the main floor because the building does not have a basement.
3. Aesthetically, the changes are subject to debate and I appreciate you are far better qualified to understand their impact than me, but I believe the underlying problem is

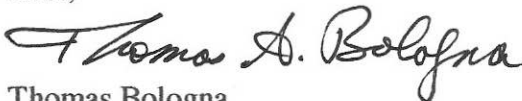
the use and "expanded use" of the property. It is almost as if the plan is to build a derivative of the Sconset Summer House on Fair Street. If my wife, daughter and I, or our neighbors, wanted to live in such a neighborhood we would not have moved to the Fair Street area.

5. The amount of people, related noise and traffic on Fair Street, Plum Lane, Hillers Lane and the surrounding streets would be incredible, not to mention food and other delivery trucks. When my wife and daughter are on the Island for most of the summer, the challenge with deliveries has not been trivial, but manageable because of their limitations. Imagine all the food and other delivery trucks going down Plum Lane, Fair Street, etc., and this is when the restaurant is closed. The proposed plan for 29 and 27 Fair Street changes the neighborhood throughout the day, evening and night, not just the evening and night.

Quite sincerely, I am not sure I should be addressing my concerns to you or the Planning or Zoning Board. However, I understand the HDC mission is to preserve and protect historic buildings, places and districts of historic interest through the "development of an appropriate setting for these buildings, places and districts". I also appreciate your mission is to take into consideration the economy of Nantucket in developing and maintaining its vacation-travel industry through the promotion of historic associations. That said, I would suggest Nantucket is a special place because it has not become remotely Disneyland like, or similar to vacation areas such as Martha's Vineyard where we see fast food restaurants, etc. I believe Nantucket has successfully preserved its historic value because it has not allowed areas like Fair Street to become commercialized beyond its original intent while we have the White Elephant and hotels and restaurants on Centre Street and other appropriate areas in town. Transforming the old Woodbox and 29 and 27 Fair Street into a property that goes far beyond the intent of its existing business, and even the Ship's Inn for that matter, I believe will destroy the historic character of the area. Yes, economic considerations are important, but not at a price which will forever change a very special neighborhood on a very special Island.

Thank you for your attention and consideration,

Best,



Thomas Bologna  
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