



Martha's Vineyard Commission

OLD STONE BUILDING • 33 NEW YORK AVENUE
PO BOX 1447 • OAK BLUFFS, MA 02557
PHONE: (508) 693-3453 • FAX: 508-693-7894
INFO@MVCOMMISSION.ORG • WWW.MVCOMMISSION.ORG

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To Whom It May Concern:

Martha's Vineyard is a small island off the coast of Cape Cod recognized for its beauty and culture. In the early 1970s, the State of Massachusetts created a regulatory commission to review and approve development on the Island. The preservation of historic structures is a key component of the MVC mission.

Several years ago, the Santander Bank Corporation sought to replace the roof on its bank building in Tisbury. The Santander Bank is one of the most iconic structures on the Island, sitting at the end of Main Street and having a roof of 100-year-old red Italian tile. Instead of replacing the tiles with similar material, a flat shingle was used. Predictably, there was much outrage as residents and the Tisbury Historic Commission viewed the bank minus the historic tile roof and demanded that the tiles be restored.

The matter was quickly referred to the MVC, which determined that the new roof had violated the historic character of the building and needed to be replaced. As that action was playing out, the Bank closed the building and sought to sell the property. As the Commission ordered replacement and the Bank was in a for-sale mode, the resolution of this matter was uncertain.

What resolved the situation was the work of Mike Lynch and the team at Associate Roofing. Initially he participated in the proper selection of the replacement tiles. This was not an easy task as the proper tile had to be identified and the precise color selected. In addition, this type of tile must be carefully measured and installed. The installation was not like putting shingles on a roof; it was more similar to fitting a large puzzle together. The situation was made even more complicated by the age and condition of the underlying roof itself, and the fact that the roof was not flat.

Mike and his team installed the materials expertly, even repairing ridgelines and other intricate features. He had the knowledge and experience to accurately repair the roof and install the tiles, so they reflected the historic character of the building.

Mike also showed great professionalism in working with the Tisbury Historic Commission and the Bank. Each of the three entities involved had a slightly different mission, and he had to navigate the various desires and personalities. As one of those personalities, I can say it was not easy. However, he did complete the restoration and unbelievably made each party happy.

In conclusion, this was a complicated project both technically and politically. Mike's professionalism in all matters resulted in a project that everyone is proud of.

Sincerely,

Adam Turner
Executive Director