

CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING SERVICES

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January 9, 2018

Ms. Kate Newhall-Smith
Office of Planning & Development
City Hall
60 Pleasant St.
Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear Ms. Newhall-Smith:

At your request I observed the six exterior decorative columns at the front entry porch at 101-103 State Street. At issue is the necessity of replacing them.

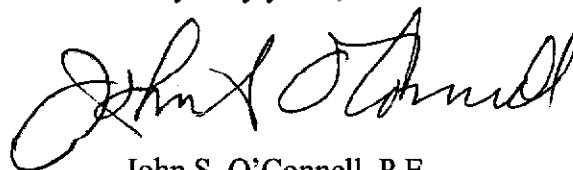
One column has already been removed and is currently on the ground beside the porch. The base of this column is visible on the porch and shows signs of serious rot. Two other columns have been opened up slightly, presumably to allow observation of the bases, which are also seriously compromised. The existing structure is in my opinion beyond repair and should be replaced.

I would recommend that the columns be replaced with those of composite material. The decorative wood capitals can be repaired. Composite columns, when painted, will be indistinguishable from wood columns, but have the advantage of strength, low maintenance, and longevity, as opposed to wood.

I would suggest that I be advised of the final decision so that I could check the load-carrying capacity of the columns.

Please feel free to call should you have any questions.

Very truly yours,



John S. O'Connell, P.E.