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September 25, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter serves to formally document the condition of a historic window system located at 49 Church St, Bristol, RI, based on observations and assessment completed on August 28, 2025.

### **Evidence of Significant Alteration**

#### **1. Introduction of Incompatible Retrofit Materials**

The original window sash tracks have been aggressively modified through the installation of metal channels, which were bent and stapled into the grooves of the historic wooden frame. These alterations required the removal of original material and the cutting of new grooves, permanently compromising the original frame dimensions and integrity.

#### **2. Loss of Original Operating Mechanism**

The window's original pinch lock system, integral to its historic function, was either removed or rendered inoperable by retrofit efforts. As a result, the window no longer retains the ability to remain open independently, defeating its intended operability and compromising user safety.

#### **3. Abrasion and Mechanical Damage**

The retrofit has introduced significant points of abrasion, as the window sash now scrapes along exposed metal staples during movement. This continuous friction not only prevents smooth operation but also accelerates deterioration of the sash and jamb materials.

### **Conclusion and Recommendation**

Due to the extent of damage and functional compromise, the existing window cannot be reasonably restored through minor repairs. Instead, full removal of retrofit materials, reestablishment of the original track dimensions, and reproduction of the window sash may be required to ensure both functional restoration and regulatory compliance.

It is our professional assessment that this window has been significantly altered and no longer meets the standards for historic preservation or safe operation. As such, a major intervention, including potential sash reproduction, is warranted.

Respectfully,



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