

February 27, 2015

Department of Business and Professional Regulation
FLORIDA BUILDING COMMISSION
1940 North Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0772

To Whom It May Concern,

I purchased the historic building at 801 Beech St., Fernandina Beach, FL in 2013 to restore it to its original grandeur because of its important place in the history of Fernandina Beach. I received a Historic Preservation Award from the City of Fernandina Beach in 2014 as a result of my work done on the outside. The building is truly a local, and national, treasure.

I leased the space to Tim Lawther (President of Oliver's Twist, Too, Inc. d/b/a Beech Street Bar & Grill) so that he could operate a restaurant in the location. There was a successful restaurant in this location for over 20 years prior to Mr. Lawther. He has continued my work to ensure that everything being done on the inside in consistent with the preservation of the historic building.

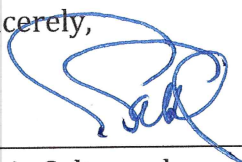
Captain Bell, a pioneer and leader in the Fernandina Beach ship building industry, finished the building in 1889. Included in the many important features of the building is the grand staircase leading to the second floor. That staircase has been painstakingly restored to highlight the original, nautical-inspired newel, finial, and banisters.

We cannot put an elevator on the outside of the historic building, as it would compromise the integrity of the historic building and not be allowed by the Historic Commission. Furthermore, we cannot put a platform lift to the second floor because it would destroy the historic nature and character of that important staircase and the historic building overall, as well as necessitate cutting out some of the second floor.

Given the importance to the community to preserve the historic nature of this building, and the fact that we will have easy access to the first floor for ALL people and all products and services provided, I am 100% supportive of Mr. Lawther applying for, and receiving, the vertical access waiver for which he is applying.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at (904) 545-3017. Thank you for your consideration of this request, and for your help in allowing us to preserve the historic beauty of this building while still ensuring access to the food and drink of the restaurant by all people.

Sincerely,



Ernie Saltmarsh
Nassau Trust, LTD