

Clinton Hotel WAV #163

Issue: Vertical accessibility to all floors.

Analysis: The applicant is requesting a waiver from providing vertical accessibility to the four floors of a hotel. The Applicant is remodeling the interior of the historic hotel. Guest rooms and bathrooms will be modified and updated. The Clinton Hotel is a four story, historic hotel. It was originally built in 1934 with architectural design by Charles Neilder. The hotel building contains five retail bays, all accessible from the street, a small restaurant, and eighty-seven hotel rooms. While the historic Clinton Hotel has been retrofitted to contain an elevator, the elevator does not meet current ADA standards. The elevator is smaller than current regulations require. It should be noted that there are seven hotel units on the first level which are accessible via chair lifts. The project cost is \$1,376,402.71 for the alteration. They submitted an estimate of \$1,099,000 for elevators and work associated. Substantial financial costs will be incurred by the owner if the waiver is denied.

Uploaded Documents:

1. Documentation of Historical Significant
2. Building Official Recommendation
3. Cost of Compliance
4. Construction Cost
5. Plans

Project Progress: This project is in plan review and is a Historical preservation alteration.

Items to be waived:

Vertical accessibility to the structure, as required by section 553.509, Florida Statutes.

553.509 Vertical accessibility. This part and the Americans with Disabilities Act Standards for Accessible Design do not relieve the owner of any building, structure, or facility governed by this part from the duty to provide vertical accessibility to all levels above and below the occupiable grade level, regardless of whether the standards require an elevator to be installed in such building, structure, or facility, except for:

- (a) Elevator pits, elevator penthouses, mechanical rooms, piping or equipment catwalks and automobile lubrication and maintenance pits and platforms;
- (b) Unoccupiable spaces, such as rooms, enclosed spaces and storage spaces that are not designed for human occupancy, for public accommodations or for work areas; and
- (c) Occupiable spaces and rooms that are not open to the public and that house no more than five persons, including, but not limited to equipment control rooms and projection booths.
- (d) Theaters, concert halls, and stadiums, or other large assembly areas that have stadium-style seating or tiered seating if ss. 221 and 802 of the standards are met.
- (e) All play and recreation areas if the requirements of chapter 10 of the standards are met.
- (f) All employee areas as exempted in s. 203.9 of the standards.
- (g) Facilities, sites, and spaces exempted by s. 203 of the standards.

(2)However, buildings, structures, and facilities must, as a minimum, comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act Standards for Accessible Design.

206.2.4 Spaces and Elements. At least one accessible route shall connect accessible building or facility entrances with all accessible spaces and elements within the building or facility which are otherwise connected by a circulation path unless exempted by 206.2.3 Exceptions 1 through 7.

402.2 Components Accessible routes shall consist of one or more of the following components: Walking surfaces with a running slope not steeper than 1:20, doorways, ramps, curb ramps excluding the flared sides, elevators, and platform lifts. All components of an accessible route shall comply with the applicable requirements of Chapter 4 and 208.3.1.

Waiver Criteria: There is no specific guidance for a waiver of this requirement in the code. The Commission's current rule, authorized in Section 553.512, Florida Statutes, provides criteria for granting waivers and allows consideration of unnecessary or extreme hardship to the applicant if the specific requirements were imposed.