



# City of Tampa

*Jane Castor, Mayor*

## Development & Growth Management Architectural Review & Historic Preservation

2555 E. Hanna Avenue  
Tampa, FL 33610  
(813) 274-3100 Option 3

February 16, 2026

Kimberly Headland  
1315 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Tampa, FL 33605

Re: 1516 N. Renfrew Street, Vertical Accessibility

Dear Ms. Headland:

The property located at 1516 N. Renfrew Street, known as the George Guida, Sr. House, is classified as a City of Tampa Local Historic Landmark. Built in 1952, The George Guida, Sr. House was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on March 19, 2006, and it was locally designated by the City of Tampa on April 14, 2005. Based on the classification and location within the historic district boundaries, the structure and its site are considered historic and are subject to the privileges and protections of federal laws and local ordinances. Construction work on locally designated structures is subject to review by the Architectural Review Commission (ARC) of the City of Tampa and must meet The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

In that historic preservation has a goal of facilitating access to historic properties, exemptions to vertical accessibility requirements are rarely endorsed by this office. However, in the case of the George Guida, Sr. House, the potential impact of facilitating vertical access warrants an exception. It is my opinion that the addition of an elevator would have an adverse effect on the building's historic integrity.

The installation of an elevator in this building would require the modification of the character-defining features of this former house, which is in conflict with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Constructed in the Art Moderne style of architecture, the building features a flat roofline to emphasis the horizontal aesthetic. The horizontality is only broken by a stone chimney stack that once featured a mural, which is intended to be recreated. Placing an elevator in the building would necessitate adding a vertical element which will divert from the intended horizontal orientation and the focus of the muraled chimney resulting in an adverse impact on the architectural character of this historic landmark. It should also be considered that access to the second floor and basement will be limited to the public as these spaces will be used for storage, prep areas, and offices.

Based on the foregoing, this office supports the requested exemption for the elevator requirement for vertical accessibility, thereby protecting the historic character of the building and allowing visitors to experience the architecture as it was originally intended. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Dennis W. Fernandez  
Architectural Review & Historic Preservation Manager