



# 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

July 11, 2025

Alex Rios  
RIOS Architecture, Inc.  
700 Harbor Island Blvd #235  
Tampa, FL 33602

Re: 408 E 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vertical Accessibility

Dear Mr. Rios:

The c.1901 property located at 408 E 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue is classified as a contributing structure to the local and national Tampa Heights Historic Districts. The Tampa Heights Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on August 4, 1995, and it was locally designated by the City of Tampa on September 7, 2000. 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 and the Tampa Heights Design Guidelines adopted by the City of Tampa.

In that historic preservation has a goal of facilitating access to historic properties, exemptions to vertical accessibility requirements are rarely requested by this office. However, in the case of this historic building, the potential impact of facilitating vertical access warrants consideration. 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. The building features a steeply pitched hip roof with cross gables, characteristic of the Queen Anne style of architecture. The second floor has a low sloped ceiling due to the roof configuration, resulting in insufficient height for an elevator. Placing an elevator in the building would necessitate raising or penetrating the roof and would have an adverse impact on the architectural character of this historic structure.

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. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Dennis Fernandez  
Architectural Review & Historic Preservation Manager