



## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

**RON DESANTIS**  
Governor

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Secretary of State

May 9, 2024

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RE: Received by DHR: 4/24/2024  
Project: *ADA Sec. 202.5 Exemption Waiver Review:*  
*101 E Ashland, Hastings, Florida 32145*  
Exemption Type: Vertical Access

To Whom it May Concern:

At your request we reviewed the above referenced property pursuant to the procedures set forth in Section 202.5 – *Alterations to Qualified Historic Buildings and Facilities*, 2020 Florida Accessibility Code for Building Construction, 7th Edition, codified in 28 CFR Part 36 and equivalent procedures implementing Sections 553.503 of the Florida Statutes.

The above referenced property is a locally designated property also known as the Potato Growers Association Building which historically served as a collective agency representing Hastings's potato farmers and is a significant site in Hastings's agricultural history. The 1927 building is a T-shaped two-story Italian Revival building that features a central portion that joins two asphalt-shingle gabled towers. The building is clad in stucco and the front façade features decorative quoins and a cornice. The central section is simpler and features a flat roof with red barrel tile eaves and a chimney at the rear. There is a one-story frame vernacular storage shed attached to the rear of the building. This addition is historic and was used to store farming equipment. The interior of the building features all its original woodwork including moldings, trim, stairwell, doors, and teller booth. Both floors retain their historic floorplan, and the second floor has its original ceilings. The first floor has an acoustic tile drop ceiling that was installed to conceal HVAC and electrical equipment. Other character defining features include the stage and bank vault. The building retains a high level of historic integrity and is significant to Hastings's agricultural history and community development.

The proposed project will utilize the Potato Grower's Association Building as a school. The owner is applying for an exemption for vertical access. The only viable location for a LULA or elevator is through the existing bank vault. The vault is built into the building and consists of layers of reinforced concrete that would require specialized demolition equipment to remove. Moreover, the vault is a character defining feature of the building and demolition would alter or destroy the historic fabric of the building and threaten its historic integrity.



**Division of Historical Resources**  
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Therefore, it is the opinion of this office that the property is eligible for the exemption granted Qualified Historic Buildings and Facilities per Section 202.5 of the FACBC, 2020 as the considered measures to meet full compliance with the requirements for accessible routes, entrances, or toilet facilities would threaten or destroy the historic significance of the above referenced project.

If you have any questions, please contact Alayna Gould, Historic Preservationist, by email at *Alayna.Gould@dos.fl.gov*, or by telephone at 850.245.6343.

Sincerely,

Kyra N. Lucas  
Survey & Registration Supervisor  
Bureau of Historic Preservation

KNL/arg