

Arita Parker  
247 Swain Street  
Copeland, FL 37137

May 18, 2022

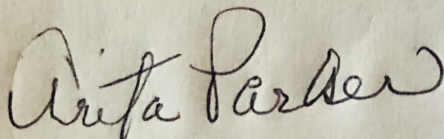
Mr. Timothy Parsons, Ph.D.  
SHPO  
Director, Division of Historical Resources  
500 South Bronough Street  
R.A. Gray Building, Room 305  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

Dear Dr. Parsons,

In 1952 I graduated from Everglades City High School and started working as a bookkeeper for Mr. Jimmy Howell, Manager of the Bank of Everglades which was the first bank in Collier County. Mr. C. H. Collier was the Bank President at the time. I continued there for three years until 1955. Growing up in Everglades City was a wonderful experience, and I have a lot of fond memories of the Bank of Everglades building. I am very honored to write a letter of support for the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation for their Special Category grant application to the Division of Historical Resources for the preservation and rehabilitation of the historic Bank of Everglades building.

For many years the Bank building was uninhabited, then it was devastated by Hurricane Irma in 2017. Everglades City is so fortunate to have a dedicated non-profit organization that was able to obtain this building from Mr. Bob Flick and bring the building back to life. It will be the centerpiece of the town and will attract many locals and tourists to its Visitor Center and Trail Town Headquarters. Please consider funding this important project for our community.

Sincerely,



Arita Parker