



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Big Cypress National Preserve
33100 Tamiami Trail East
Ochopee, Florida 34141-9710



September 10, 2021

Everglades Society for Historic Preservation, Inc.
P.O. Box 46
Everglades City, FL 34139

Re: Bank of Everglades Building

The purpose of this letter is to express Big Cypress National Preserve's support of The Everglades Society for Historic Preservation (ESHP) efforts to rehabilitate the Bank of Everglades building. The efforts to rehabilitate the Bank is significant to the historic preservation of Everglades City in southwest Florida and would support ESHP in their service to the community.

Everglades Area Visitor Center was housed in a building owned by the Big Cypress National Preserve just north of Everglades City for 50 years. This visitor center was closed after Hurricane Irma in 2017. ESHP opened the Everglades Area Visitor Center/Trail Town Headquarters as a temporary solution in 2019. The rehabilitation of the historic Bank would serve as a permanent location for the visitor center and allow them to better aid our shared visitors.

ESHP is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that was gifted the building by its previous owner Bob Flick in March 2021. The neo-classical edifice, dating from 1927, has fallen into disrepair. It needs considerable rehabilitation so that it can, once again, be a focal point that attracts visitors and promotes the local economy.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me, Thomas Forsyth at 249-695-1101.

Sincerely,

Thomas Forsyth
Superintendent