



ASSOCIATED DESIGN
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September 27, 2007

07012

Patricia Weimer
J.B. Brown & Sons
482 Congress Street
P.O. Box 207
Portland, Maine 04112-0207

RE: Fire Escapes
39 Pleasant Street
Portland, Maine

Dear Ms. Weimer;

This letter is in response to your question about our opinion as to the structural soundness of the fire escape on your building at 39 Pleasant Street in Portland. Back in February we delivered to you our report evaluating the egress from in this building. I believe that the following paragraph from that report covered this point.

"The building codes do not provide any criteria for analyzing fire escapes that do not have to be designed to current code standards. By observation the fire escapes on the building appear to be in sound condition. My limited visual observation did not reveal any components that appear to be deteriorated to the extent that they would significantly reduce the original design capacity of the fire escapes. In my opinion the most critical component of the fire escapes is their connection to the brick masonry wall of the building. The elements that comprise these connections are 7/8 inch diameter bolts penetrating through the eight inch thick brick masonry wall anchored by six inch square plates with two by eight wooden planks to distribute the load on the insides of the walls. The portions of the bolts that pass through the walls could not be observed, but based on the visible parts of the bolts, these connections appear to be in good condition and adequate. During the on-site evaluation, the weight of a 200 pound person jumping on the fire escapes did not cause any discernable deflection, flexure or movement. Pushing on the handrails with an estimated 75 to 100 pounds of lateral force, did not cause significant deflection of the handrails. Based on these observations, in my opinion, the fire escapes appear to be structurally sound."

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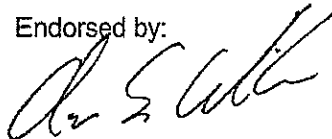
I hope this answers your question. If you have any questions about this letter, our previous report, or any other issue regarding your building, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Robert Arledge

Endorsed by:



Aaron Wilson, P.E.