



KENNETH P. LAVALLE
SENATOR
1ST SENATE DISTRICT

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK

325 MIDDLE COUNTRY ROAD
SUITE #4
SELDEN, NEW YORK 11784

September 9, 2009

Carol Ash, Commissioner
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Empire State Plaza
Agency Building 1
Albany, NY 12238

Dear Commissioner Ash:

I am pleased to write in support of the application submitted by the Town of Shelter Island for funding under the Environmental Protection Act of 1993's Historic Property Preservation and Planning Program. Such funding will support the repair and restoration of the Smith-Taylor Cabin.

Built in 1900, the Smith-Taylor Cabin is located on Taylor's Island. The historic structure is the only remaining structure in its original location built by Francis Marion Smith, a California business magnate known as the "Borax King." Unfortunately, years of neglect and exposure to the elements have resulted in serious damage to the roof, windows, exterior siding, and its trademark tower and catwalk.

Funding under the Historic Property Preservation Grant Program will enable the Town of Shelter Island to make important repairs to the Smith-Taylor Cabin, including repairing the roof, restoring the siding, repairing deteriorated wood window frames, repairing the tower and catwalk, repointing the fireplace, and repairing the chimney. It is vital that historic sites like the Smith-Taylor cabin are protected and preserved, as they offer tremendous benefits to the community. I applaud the Town of Shelter Island for its foresight, and hope its application for funding meets with your approval.

Thank you for your consideration of this important project.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kenneth P. LaValle". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Kenneth P. LaValle
State Senator