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**ELROD & THOMPSON**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
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225 PEACHTREE STREET, N.E.  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303

404/659-1500  
TELECOPY: 404/880-4754

J. ALSTON THOMPSON, JR.

May 7, 1998

FILED  
98 MAY -8 AM 9:59  
MAIL  
J. Alston Thompson, Jr.  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

**VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS**

Department of State  
Division of Corporations  
409 E. Gaines Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Re: Filing of Articles of Incorporation of Southern Staircase, Inc.

Dear Sir or Madam:

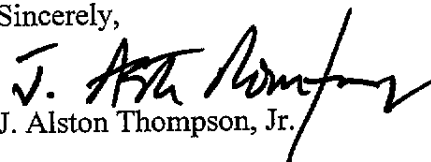
Enclosed please find the following:

1. An original and one photocopy of the Articles of Incorporation of Southern Staircase, Inc.; and
2. A check for the filing fee in the amount of \$78.75 payable to the Department of State.

We respectfully request that you file the Articles of Incorporation, issue a Certificate of Status for Southern Staircase, Inc., and take such other acts as are required by law to effect the incorporation. Please return to us by mail a photocopy of the Articles of Incorporation with the Certificate of Status attached.

Please contact the undersigned at the above phone number if there are any questions about these documents.

Sincerely,

  
J. Alston Thompson, Jr.

TNC:kab

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Richard R. Hanson (w/enclosures)  
Mr. Stephen M. Schaetzel, Esq. (w/enclosures)

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F. CHESSEY MAY 12 1998

**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION**  
**OF**  
**SOUTHERN STAIRCASE, INC.**

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TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

**I.**

The name of the corporation is Southern Staircase, Inc.

**II.**

The principal place of business and mailing address of the corporation shall be at 6025 Shiloh Road, Alpharetta, Georgia 30005.

**III.**

The corporation has authority to issue not more than 100,000 shares of no par value common stock that together have unlimited voting rights and that together are entitled to receive the net assets of the corporation upon dissolution.

**IV.**

The initial registered office of the corporation shall be at 1200 S. Pine Island Road, Plantation, Florida 33324. The initial registered agent at such address shall be CT Corporation System.

**V.**

The name and address of the incorporator are as follows:

J. Alston Thompson, Jr.  
1500 Peachtree Center-South Tower  
225 Peachtree Street, N.E.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

**VI.**

The Board of Directors of the corporation may not authorize the issuance of any shares of the corporation's stock without certificates.

7<sup>th</sup> IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned executes these Articles of Incorporation, this  
day of May, 1998.

INCORPORATOR

J. Alston Thompson, Jr.  
J. Alston Thompson, Jr.

Having been named as registered agent and to accept service of process for the above stated corporation at the place designated in this certificate, I hereby accept the appointment as registered agent and agree to act in this capacity. I further agree to comply with the provisions of all statutes relating to the proper and complete performance of my duties, and I am familiar with and accept the obligations of my position as registered agent.

REGISTERED AGENT

CT CORPORATION SYSTEM

Dale W. Morris

Dale W. Morris, Asst. Vice President

May 7, 1998

Date

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