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# 303 S. 8th St.

**W.A.Mahoney house built by Captain James Bell  
1888-1889**

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Cedar St. Facade- Main Entrance

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## Introduction

This historic home located on 8th Street, a designated commercial corridor, near downtown Fernandina Beach on Amelia Island has recently been acquired for the purposes of using the first floor as a store for fine home furnishings and the second floor for offices and storage to support the store. The design of the home has an interesting history connected to Fernandina from twin brothers born in 1841 in North Carolina.

The Bell brothers, William B. And James, once becoming successful Captains and devoting spare time to acquiring real estate began to build cottages on the island. As their success grew they began to build a series of homes, each brother almost competing against the other by using variety and uniqueness of their architectural decoration.

303 South 8th was built by the Captain James Bell for a W.A. Mahoney. It has a small north facing ornate porch for double entry doors on Cedar Street and another entrance on a long porch facing east on 8th street, now a busy thoroughfare.





8th Street Facade

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## Current Planning

The desired goal is to preserve all of the building where its original details have not been altered over the years. And make some changes to the exterior to upgrade within a sensitive historic context those parts which have seen unsympathetic changes over time.

Those areas are concentrated on the west and south facades of the house.

In response to its change from residence to commercial space, a new more ADA friendly entrance is being developed on the south side of the building. Currently all three points of access are 35" - 41" above the ground.

A new commercial code compliant lift will be incorporated into a new historically referenced porch along with a new ADA compliant entrance door. The new entrance will make for a more inviting experience than currently possible.

These photos show the West facade with an addition and trellis enclosure that is not original.



The south facade which houses the current kitchen, a portion of which was once a back porch, was at some point was enclosed and remodeled. (See interior photos pg.8 )



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## West and South Proposed Elevations

The proposed West Elevation will tidy up the current trellis and enclose the open side porch. Below shows the enclosed portion with its proposed windows to match the existing ones and the side view of the new back porch.



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The South Elevation will have the new ADA compliant lift to the new porch and new entrance. All designed with more historic accuracy than is currently existing in the south side of the house.



303 S. 8th St. Proposed South Elevation  
1/8" = 1'0" 10/21/17



The lift is to the right of the south facing porch at the new entrance.

