

Gregg Harding

From: Ross Pristera <rpristera@uwf.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 3:50 PM
To: Gregg Harding
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] 321 W DeSoto

Gregg,

Yesterday I was able to take a closer look at the porch at 321 W DeSoto.

First, I want to give you some background on my previous assumption about the porch. In January, I met with the new owner and looked at the Florida Master Site File photos from the late 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. These photos show a board and batten siding above aluminum siding, along with some other modifications made to the house. I knew there had been changes when the house was clad in aluminum and figured the porch details were covered in an effort to reduce maintenance and make the install of the aluminum easier. The two sets of columns in the center of the porch looked original so I assumed there were either more columns in the corners or the original porch did have a large arch feature. Both details would have been appropriate to this style, but at the time, I was unsure what was original. The homeowner did indicate that the porch was deep and dark and that they would like to open it up. I suggested they remove some of the siding on the inside of the porch to see if columns had been enclosed. We did discuss options for changing the porch style.

Now that I have seen the house, I can say with confidence that the porch is original. Someone had covered the house in aluminum siding (now removed), but they did not damage the original siding, beadboard, or other decorative features. The lap siding has woven outside corners; the beadboard siding and ceiling matches known historic sizes and patterns; the paired column style, construction, and detailing all match the appropriate age of the house; and there is decorative molding between each exposed rafter. Looking closer, there are many layers of paint on the wood indicating these features have been around awhile. This house does have a lot of smaller architectural details once you start looking closely.

Knowing that the porch is original and that the owner would like to make it brighter and open, one of the easiest solutions is to change the paint color. The dark red deck and walls do add to the darkness of this deep porch. Painting everything a lighter color will help reflect more light into the deep enclosed corners. Changing the design of the porch is not advised. If the ARB was to entertain the idea of a new design, the details would need to closely match similar style houses and retain the paired columns. I strongly believe changing the paint color will help brighten the porch.

I hope this is helpful and let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Ross

On Wed, Jan 13, 2021 at 10:26 AM Gregg Harding <GHarding@cityofpensacola.com> wrote:

Thanks for the heads up, Ross. I agree, the porch looks odd. I don't think the FMSF shows the brick, so I would definitely believe that the original columns were covered at some point. Would be neat if they still exist underneath.

I'll keep an eye out for the home owner and will let you know once they reach out to us. Thanks again.

Best,

Gregg Harding, RPA

Historic Preservation Planner

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From: Ross Pristera <rpristera@uwf.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 10:14 AM
To: Gregg Harding <GHarding@cityofpensacola.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 321 W DeSoto

THIS EMAIL IS FROM AN EXTERNAL EMAIL ACCOUNT

Hi Gregg,

You will probably receive an email or phone call from the new owner of 321 W DeSoto. I had a meeting with her to discuss what can and cannot be done to the exterior of the house. The meeting was really good and the owner is a great person.

I want to make you aware that she does not like the front porch and is probably going to bring a new design to the ARB. I have not been at the house, but looking at pictures, there is something strange about the current design. It looks like someone covered columns and removed craftsman detailing probably in the 1950s or 60s when it was turned into a rental house. I suggested they cut a small hole in the porch wall and see if the original columns are still there. If they move forward with a new porch design, I suggested they go for conceptual review to make sure the Board is in favor of this change. In my opinion, I don't think this is the original porch and as long as they stay in the craftsman style, a new design is appropriate.

They also would like to remove the stairs and door on the side and restore the bay window feature. This door and stairs were added in the 1950s or 60s. On the other side of the house, there is an old porch that has been enclosed and they would like to change this area into a bathroom and closet. I suggested they install faux shutters in the closed position to maintain the porch appearance. They have some other minor changes that will be part of the application, such as painting and a new front door.

There is a shed/ADU in the rear of the property built I believe in 2012. They will have some questions for you about that building.

Ross

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Ross Pristera, MAHPP

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