

The Brown House, featured on our tour  
228 4th Street West ca 1910



\*Moses A. Brown was born at Mandarin, April 18, 1870. His father was Moses J. Brown and his mother was Julia A. (Belknap) Brown. Moses J. Brown, the father was also born at Mandarin and his father married Nancy Bowden, the daughter of Moses Bowden, who fought in the Confederate Army. He was a descendent of Uriah Bowden one of the early settlers in Duval County. Julia Belknap Brown was a daughter of Jefferson P. Belknap a Harvard professor who came to Mandarin to raise silk, but later taught in the Broward School. Moses A Brown studied law at the University of Virginia and practiced in Jacksonville until the great fire of 1901 burned his home and his library. Following the fire, the Browns and their two sons moved into Springfield, living first at 222 4th Street West, before building 228. Afterwards, he became secretary to Governor Napoleon B. Broward and also served as Sheriff of Duval County in 1906, filling the unexpired term of W. B. Pickett.

\*Source: *History of Duval County, (1928)* by D.P. Gold.

The Moses A. Browns were married on November 10th 1892, formerly she was Miss Blanche Eells. Blanche Eells Brown was present at the meeting called by Mary Dillon in May of 1904 and from this said meeting the Springfield Improvement Association (SIA) was born. Mrs. Brown wrote the minutes of the SIA for many years.

Until recently, 228 4th Street West was owned by the late Dan Wright and his wife Lynn. They restored the house to its current beauty. Lynn moved to Atlanta after the death of Dan, hence the sale of the house. This neighborhood misses them. The photograph of Moses A. Brown shown above was found in the attic of the house, during one portion of the restoration. It had probably lain there for 80 years. It is planned to have a display of Brown history and memorabilia in the house during the Spring Home Tour 2012. For tour information please visit [www.spartour.org](http://www.spartour.org) or (904) 419 7432

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Does a house count? *Continued from Page 1.*  
Additional information on Warren K. Bartleson

The original Brentwood subdivision, developed in 1913 by the Brentwood Investment Company, was roughly defined by West 26th Street on the south, West 35th Street on the north, and from North Pearl Street on the east to North Davis Street on the west. Capitalized at \$500,000, the Brentwood Realty Investment Co. was housed in the Bisbee Building in downtown Jacksonville, with Charles W. Bartleson as president, and Warren K. Bartleson as secretary along with Benjamin Franklin Hampton & Associates. Born in Morgan County, Ohio, Warren Knowlton Bartleson (1835-1913) was a Union veteran who moved his merchant and milling business to Alachua City, Florida in 1883. Warren K. Bartleson moved to Jacksonville in 1899 in order to take advantage of lower freight rates created by the city being a major rail center. He along with his son, Charles Warren Bartleson, established the C.W. Bartleson & Company, wholesale grocers. Warren K. Bartleson resided in Springfield and was instrumental in the founding of the Springfield Methodist Church. In 1919, Charles W. Bartleson (1867 – 1929) moved his business to Lee County where it continued as the Fort Myers Wholesale Grocery Company.



# THE SHEC SAMPLER

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## DOES A HOUSE COUNT?



51 4th Street East



1402 Hubbard Street

One of the many idiosyncrasies that SHEC has encountered during our marathon (still to continue) task of reading and scanning the 1985 Survey, is the strange disappearance or appearance of houses. Above is an example of why it is sometimes difficult at this point to say exactly how many houses we had and how many are left. The houses numbered 51 4th Street East above left and 1402 Hubbard Street on the right are a case in point. The history of the 4th Street house says it was built ca. 1911, the home of W.K. Bartleson, Secretary and Treasurer of C. W. Bartleson and Co. and his wife Amelia. The Hubbard Street house on the right bears the construction date of 1928, with its dwellers being Robert D. Womack, V. P. and Treasurer Gay-Womack Lumber Co. and his wife Mary. After much help given by Leesa Venettozzi, Sandy Boyd and Clay Whitfield of various city agencies, we determined that they are the same house. At first we thought 1402 Hubbard, which is now painted green, had disappeared.

We understand now that the 1985 survey was done over many months by many wonderful volunteers. The house on East 4th apparently was photographed, surveyed and documented first, then much facade alteration took place. The porch was completely changed, its lovely old columns and balustrades sadly were removed and replaced with what you see today. In 1928 the building became a multi-family dwelling and an apartment address was added on the Hubbard Street side. When the 1985 surveyors began work on Hubbard Street addresses they recorded 1402 separately with a construction date matching the change to multi-family status.

Joel McEachin supplied the wonderful history of this house. The original owner of 51 East 4th Street, Warren Bartleson was one of the developers of the Brentwood Subdivision. The descendants of Warren Bartleson occasionally sponsor a large family reunion that draws family members from across the nation. They met in Jacksonville, a few years ago, and Joel gave them a tour of buildings and sites associated with Warren & Charles Bartleson. Warren Bartleson's name is on one of the stained glass windows at the Old Springfield Methodist Church (the church located at 6th and Market), and he is buried in Evergreen Cemetery.

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The Archibald House, (125 2nd Street, West):  
A House That Love Restored



Judge Robert Burns Archibald was born at Alva, Scotland on July 15th 1842. In 1850 his father and mother moved to America. In 1852 the family moved to Rockford, Illinois. Robert Archibald graduated from Rockford High School in 1859 where, he taught school until 1861 when he volunteered for the Union Army. He joined the 74th Illinois Regiment as a private and was promoted to captain. After the conflict was over, he entered the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, where he graduated in law and was admitted to the bar in Freeport, Illinois. In 1869 he came to Duval County Florida and went into law partnership with Colonel Horatio Bisbee. Mr. Archibald took a prominent part in the civic, social and political activities of Duval County. In 1873, he was appointed Judge of the 4th Judicial Court of Florida. Judge Archibald is also prominent in the history of Duval County as a member and President of the Board of Trade and of its River and Harbor Committee. In the early days of Jacksonville he was keenly interested in education and was a trustee of the Stanton School. *Source: History of Duval County, (1928) D.P. Gold.*

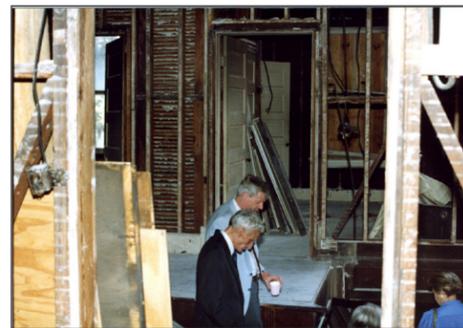
The photo above of the Judge Archibald home (constructed ca. 1903) was taken in 1985. By that date the house had been burned, and was boarded and deserted.

Carolyn and Josef Molenda

In 1988 the Archibald House was purchased by Carolyn and Joe Molenda. Their wedding reception in April of that year was held among the "ruins".

The following article was published in *The Florida Times Union* by columnist Bob Phelps.

One had to look deep beneath the surface to appreciate the romance in holding a posh, formal wedding reception, with lacy white linens, crystal, tuxes, top hats and other such splendor in the midst of peeling wallpaper, plaster dust, dangling molding and water-stained walls. Even the musty odor of the old Springfield house could not spoil the moment for Carolyn Cook and Josef Molenda. The Cook-Molenda wedding was solemnized at St. Paul's Catholic Church, then the 40 celebrants were taken on a surprise caravan to the secret reception site. There, architect Madie Rider opened the reception by explaining the vision that the newlyweds have for their home. They plan to turn the old home into a bed and breakfast inn.



Above are photos of the reception. This was probably one of the most wondrous wedding receptions ever! Guests picking their way through debris to celebrate the union of this beautiful and adventurous couple. You could probably feel the house sighing in relief and happiness.

In 1990, Carolyn and Joe received a very well deserved Preservation Award from the Historic Landmarks Commission of Jacksonville.



**The Archibald, Inc.**  
**Bed & Breakfast Inn**  
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*Quality Service In a Turn-of-the Century Judge's Home*  
Bookings available for parties and receptions

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Jacksonville, FL 32206 . . . . . Joseph & Carolyn Molenda

Above, The Archibald House after restoration and the advertisement for the Bed and Breakfast Inn therein. They also served lunches.

Carolyn and Joe sold the Archibald House in 1995 and bought the McMillan House at 149 3rd West, which they have also beautifully restored. Photo to the right, Carolyn and Joe (right) accepting the 1990 Preservation Award from the Historic Landmarks Commission of Jacksonville.

(Back left Alex Combs, Prime Restoration; Front left is Madie Rider A.I.A.)

Carolyn and Joe have generously given the Archibald B&B sign to Rob and Sierra Steele for their own Bed and Breakfast on 7th Street West.



The photo at the left is of "The Archibald" today. It is so fortunate that the Molendas sold the house to Karla and Tony Crawford. Once again this beautiful house is in loving hands. It is so perfectly maintained and we all love and admire the beautiful decorations which change with the seasons. The holidays are a delight!