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## Major renovations underway at historic Governors Inn hotel in downtown Tallahassee

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A major facelift is underway at Governors Inn to update the downtown hotel for the first time in its history.

Located at 209 S. Adams St., the Governors Inn opened to the public in 1983, just two blocks from the Capitol. In May, operations were temporarily suspended for the multi-million dollar renovation project. It's slated to reopen August 2022.

Ownership of the boutique hotel was unique: Its rooms weren't owned by a single entity but rather split up among different owners. But last year, Orlando businessman Craig Mateer purchased the entire hotel last November for around \$2.9 million, property records show.

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Individuals guest rooms and suites will be gutted for the renovation, along with major work in the lobby and common areas. The 41-room hotel will lose three rooms to create a new patio and bar lounge on the second floor within the Adams Street Commons.

### Goal is to return historic charm to Governors Inn

Yet, vintage furniture, including an assortment of armoires, headboards and nightstands in every room, are being restored and will remain a fixture as the renovations usher in a new yet nostalgic lore.

“We just want to bring back the historic charm of the building and add a little contemporary flair at the same time,” said Mark Moravec, vice president of operations for TMFB, the company representing the Mateer family business.

“We love the Adams Street vibe,” he added. “We think that is such an important part of the downtown area.”

Design and construction work is being done by Hungerford Design Inc. of Orlando, Tallahassee-based Architects Lewis+Whitlock and Childers Construction Co.

The Governors Inn famously names rooms for former Florida governors. Moravec said some rooms will be renamed and a suite will be dedicated to Gov. Ron DeSantis.

Moravec said Mateer always wanted to get into the hotel business so he couldn't refuse the opportunity to own the Governors Inn.

Mateer, a 1998 Florida State graduate, is the founder and CEO of CCM Capital Group, Inc., a hospitality, logistics and real estate operations company. He is also a member of FSU's Board of Trustees.

He launched Bags Inc., a baggage handling company, and in 2018 sold it for \$275 million to national parking conglomerate SP Plus Corporation, according to aviationpros.com.

Mateer declined to comment until after renovations are complete. His son, William Mateer, will be the principal executive for the Inn.

“Our family is excited to bring new life back into a building with such rich history in Tallahassee’s downtown area,” William Mateer said in a statement. “A goal of this renovation is to help revitalize downtown, creating a diverse, inclusive atmosphere that is welcoming to everyone. We look forward to seeing you soon.”

## **Donations fueled renovations**

As part of the renovation process, a significant portion of the inn’s furnishings were donated to four local organizations:

- Tallahassee's Homeless Coalition
- ECHO Outreach Ministries
- Boys Town North Florida
- Tallahassee Community College's Emergency Medical Services Technology program

Items included food, appliances, furniture, linens and paper goods.

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