

The Story of Our House



2134 Island Home Blvd.

Knoxville, TN

(formerly 126 Island Home Blvd. 1929-1950)

by Michael L. Jordan

December, 2022

Introduction:

No Stone Unturned

When we moved into our circa-1929 brick Tudor in Knoxville, Tennessee in the summer of 2014, I had a sense that this house had some stories to tell. The handsome structure on the south side of Island Home Boulevard, in the middle of a historic streetcar subdivision, was known in the neighborhood as “the Carlson House,” after the family that lived here for more than six decades and had vacated the property just seven years earlier.

Having written books and produced documentary films about historic house museums in our former hometown of Savannah, Georgia, and then worked as the Director of Public Relations and Development at circa-1792 Blount Mansion in downtown Knoxville, I felt compelled to unearth the story of the ninety-plus-year-old house our family called home. I knew that my experiences and training made me uniquely suited to the task. Travel, work, and other responsibilities prevented the start of this project until the COVID-19 pandemic trapped us in the house 24/7 in the spring of 2020.

I began with a January, 2021 visit to the McClung Archives above the East Tennessee History Center on Gay Street in downtown Knoxville, starting with the collection of Knoxville City Directories and working my way backward from the present day to the earliest mention of the house in 1928. I was surprised to learn that our family was the sixth to call the house home, and that three seemingly forgotten families lived here in the nearly two decades prior to the Carlsons’ arrival in 1947.

It was a simple matter to find deed books to corroborate the bare-bones information in the directories, and searches on Ancestry.com and other genealogy websites provided more details on the previous residents and their lives. I was startled when Knox County Chief Archivist Eric Head discovered a divorce pleading and decree for the couple who built the house in the late 1920s. Their heartbreaking story was spelled out in lurid detail over 19 typewritten pages.

I am incredibly fortunate that Dr. Gordon Carlson, who owned the house longer than anyone else to date, sat at an early personal computer in the basement and typed out his memoirs, which include several fascinating stories of life at 126/2134 Island Home Boulevard. Later, I was able to make contact with two of his children, who shared numerous photographs and reminiscences which vividly illustrate their years in the house.

One former resident, Bette Carlson Borgmeier, paid a visit to the house in May of 2021, bringing with her the bell her mother rang to summon the kids to dinner from the far corners of the neighborhood. Another former denizen, Durinda Bocock Kelly, mailed me handwritten letters her mother had penned on stationery bearing the former address of the house (the City of Knoxville renumbered addresses on Island Home Boulevard in 1950 to confirm with a city-wide block numbering system).

Searches of digital databases of Knoxville’s historic newspapers yielded two previous advertisements for the sale of the home in 1944 and 1947, as well as a photograph of the Carlsons standing in front of the house alongside a notice of the engagement of their daughter, Shirley, in 1968. William Hutchinson, grandson of the home’s second owners, provided a picture of his mother, aged five, standing in the backyard in 1947—the earliest surviving image of the house. Jeff and Karen Williamson, architects who substantially renovated the house from 2006-2007, provided numerous photos of the interior prior to the renovation, and our immediate predecessors, Russ and Nicole Wilson, graciously shared photos taken during their six years in the house.

This process has been an enjoyable, and at times obsessive, journey over the past two years. I was doggedly determined to leave no stone unturned in my quest to learn the story of the house I call home. It is my hope that the resulting work will be as interesting to others as it has been to me, and might inspire other modern-day owners of historic homes to undertake research into the histories of their own residences. It is a reminder that, while we are only the latest caretakers of such historic properties, our families make history in our homes every day.



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BLANKENSHIP AND SPEARS FAMILIES: 1919-43

On August 21, 1915, Leon and Catherine Blankenship purchased Lot Number 14 in Block H of the Island Home Park Company's new subdivision on the Tennessee River in South Knoxville. The lot was sixty-six feet wide and 175 feet deep, situated in the middle of the south side of what would become Island Home Boulevard, a wide street with a broad median. The area across the river from downtown was opened for development by the completion of the Gay Street Bridge in 1898, and occupied the former estate of Perez Dickinson, a wealthy Massachusetts banker and merchant and cousin of poet Emily Dickinson. Island Home Park was one of Knoxville's first streetcar suburbs, connected to the city by a trolley which conveniently traversed tracks laid in the middle of the median on Island Home Boulevard. The Blankenships made a down payment of \$10 and agreed to make twice yearly payments to the company until the remaining \$1,040 of the purchase price was paid off.

In a reflection of the institutionalized racial discrimination of the day, the original deed on the property, like all the others in Island Home Park, included a restriction stipulating that the property "shall never be sold, granted, devised or otherwise conveyed to, nor leased rented nor let to, or acquired or owned by any negro for [a] period of ninety nine years" from the date of its inception."



The location of 2134 Island Home Blvd., Lot #14, is indicated on the original 1911 neighborhood survey, from the McClung Historical Collection.

Island Home Park

The Island Home Park Company has authorized us to sell 28 choice lots on Island Home Pike at the end of car line—positively—at

ABSOLUTE AUCTION

Every lot to the highest bidder

Monday, May 30, 2 P. M.

These lots are all on the pike—have trolley service, lights, city water, close to schools stores, churches—including lots in a beautiful grove.

Terms: \$60 Down—\$10 Month



Take Island Home trolley direct to property. Get off at end of line.

McLEAN-RECTOR & SCOTT
LEADING AUCTIONEERS
ST. PETERSBURG FLA. — KNOXVILLE TENN.

RED FRONT REALTY MART

An ad from the May 26, 1927 *Knoxville News-Sentinel*.

In 1917, the Blankships moved to Asheville, North Carolina, where Leon opened his own business, the Asheville Battery Company. Two years later, on September 12, 1919, the Blankships sold their lot in Island Home Park to John and Beatrice Spears of Morristown, TN. The Speares paid the Blankships \$281.56 up front and agreed to assume the remaining \$863.49 the Blankships still owed the Island Home Park Company. It took the Speares the better part of a decade to pay off the loan, which was paid in full on April 26, 1928. Shortly thereafter, the Speares constructed a two-story brick Tudor home on the lot. The house was described in 1940 as a seven-room brick house worth approximately \$10,000. There was a \$1,660 lien, on which the Speares paid \$80 every six months. The Speares had lived in an apartment in Knox County since 1915, though census records indicate they also lived at least part of the time in Beatrice's parents' home in Morristown.

John and Beatrice Spears did not have a happy marriage, and their years on Island Home Boulevard were marked by turmoil and strife. John was a traveling salesman working for St. Louis-based Harris-Polk Hat Company. According to the 1940 census, John worked an average of fifty hours per week and earned \$2,800 per year—more than \$40,000 in today's dollars. John's net monthly income in 1940 was \$250/month after all expenses were paid. He also earned a bonus at the end of each year which occasionally equaled his salary. Beatrice claimed John spent that money "wildly and extravagantly, and bestows it upon those whom he meets in beer joints," then accused Beatrice of having stolen it from him. By Beatrice's account, John was a cruel drunk, a serial womanizer, and a dangerously violent man. Over 19 single-space, typewritten pages, Beatrice spelled out John's alleged misdeeds in a divorce pleading filed in Knox County Chancery Court on June 8, 1940.



The Island Home streetcar, circa 1920s, from the Thompson Photographic Collection, McClung Historical Collection.

The couple's troubles began long before they moved to Island Home Park. John was eight years older than Beatrice. They were married in Morristown on Dec. 16, 1913, when she was 18 and he was 26. Shortly after their marriage, when Beatrice was still a teenager, she became pregnant. John had a doctor come see her and perform an operation on her, "the nature of which she did not then understand, and shortly

thereafter she learned that an abortion had been performed.” Beatrice was “deathly ill for a month thereafter, suffering the most excruciating pain.” The procedure left Beatrice unable to bear children, though she did become pregnant once in subsequent years, and presumably suffered a miscarriage. Beatrice claimed that over the years John “cursed and reviled her” for being sterile, even though he never actually wanted children. This hurt Beatrice deeply, making her feel as though she had failed him in her duties as a wife.

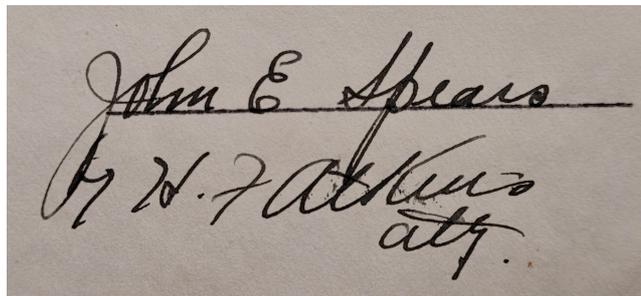
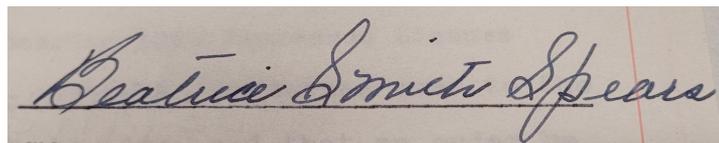


A button from the Harris-Polk Hat Company, John Spears's employer. From the Busy Beaver Button Museum website.

John regularly drank whiskey to excess, through he also had a taste for beer. Beatrice reported that “he gets drunk, vomits all over himself, all over the bed and bed-clothing, on the floor, in the bathroom, and frequently gets down and wallows in such filth...” Beatrice complained that she frequently had to drag her semi-conscious husband across the floor to the bed and undress him, after which he would demand that she make love to him. Once Beatrice manhandled John into the bed, he would lie awake the remainder of the night, “screaming, yelling at the top of his voice, cursing her, accusing her” of cheating on him and calling her profane names. Beatrice “lived in constant fear” of John being arrested for drunk driving. He frequently had to pull over and ask friends or even strangers to drive him home. John’s worst drinking binges took place February through May of 1940, pushing Beatrice over the edge and prompting her to file for divorce.

John’s jealousy boiled over when he was drinking. One evening, following a party at a neighbor’s house in Island Home Park, John raised his voice in the presence of others and accused Beatrice of being intimate with another man in the alley behind their house. Beatrice was humiliated, and John was so out of control that neighbors were forced to call the police to defuse the situation. On another occasion, John accused Beatrice of sleeping with the husband of a close friend. He even suggested that she was having sexual relations with her thirteen-year-old cousin and their Black chauffeur, the latter a scandalous accusation in that racist era, the former a shocking claim in any day and age. To make matters worse, John trumpeted these calumnies all over town. Beatrice claimed that he “demeans, vilifies, and berates” her “in beer joints, grocery stores, beauty parlors, drug stores, etc.,” painting himself as a martyr and depicting Beatrice as a flagrant adulteress. These supposed indiscretions, Beatrice insisted, were but figments of John’s alcohol-soaked imagination.

Ironically but perhaps not surprisingly, it was in actuality John who had broken the marriage vows during his sales trips. Beatrice claimed she discovered “contraceptives and prophylactics” in John’s pockets when he returned home. Handwritten notes penned by other women arrived in the mail, including two from a woman named Pat. Other paramours called the house asking for John. When Beatrice complained, John warned her that one of his lovers “was going to come and scratch her eyes out.” John also had an affinity for pornography. Beatrice described finding “some of the most salacious and vulgar literature that could be conceived . . . of naked men and women . . . indulging in perverted and unnatural acts.” John enjoyed sharing these illicit publications with male friends who visited the house. Indeed, when subsequent owners renovated the home in the early 2000s, they found some of John’s magazines stashed inside the walls.

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature reads "John E. Spears" on the top line, followed by "By W. F. Atkins" on the second line, and "atty." on the third line. The ink is dark on a light-colored paper background.A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature reads "Beatrice Somers Spears" on a single line. The ink is dark on a light-colored paper background.

John and Beatrice
Spears's signatures
from their divorce
papers in the Knox
County, TN Archives.

Most frightening, however, was John’s violent, alcohol-fueled rage, which flared nearly every weekend when he returned from his out-of-town sales trips and drank to relax. Beatrice reported that John:

frequently threatened to kill her, and on one occasion threw a knife at her, and drew a gun upon her, threatening to take her life. He has . . . repeatedly told her that if she sued for divorce, he would kill her, if it was the last thing he ever did, and that he would burn down the house and see that she got no property and no alimony from him, and hoped some day [sic] to see her when she was a beggar on the streets, subject to public charity.

John once boasted that he would have another woman living with him in the house within two months after the divorce was finalized.

In May 1940, John threatened to kill Beatrice's father and brother if they ever set foot in his house again. This outburst resulted from his embarrassment at being found by them "lying in bed in a drunken stupor, vomiting all over himself," after Beatrice had driven to Morristown to beg them for help. During her short absence, John stumbled around the neighborhood loudly proclaiming that Beatrice had finally left him and that he planned to rent the house out to a business.

Beatrice did everything within her power to save the marriage, even consenting to drink with John in an effort to keep him at home. When his salary was cut during the depression and John feared that they would have to sell their home, Beatrice operated a bed and breakfast for roomers in the house. She begged John to stop spending all of his income and allow her to help manage their finances. At one point, Beatrice went on the road with John to work as a salesperson to augment their income.

JOHN E. SPEARS
 John E. Spears, of 126 Island Home Boulevard, a representative of a St. Louis hat company for 22 years, died at 1:40 p. m. yesterday at Fort Sanders Hospital. He was 55.



Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Beatrice S. Spears; his mother, Mrs. J. H. Bailey, Bayleyton, Tenn., and a cousin, O. K. Spears, Maryville.

Mr. Spears Funeral will be at 1 p. m. tomorrow at the home, Dr. Clifford Barbour officiating. Burial at Morristown.

Pallbearers: W. S. Fowler, Evan Cate, E. G. Elliott, H. B. McCall Jr., E. V. Cullum and George W. Crisp.

Honorary pallbearers: Sam Brabson, J. J. McSween, E. G. Stooksbury, Lester Bates, Paul Moore, John Langenberg, W. M. Bailey, J. J. Bayless, W. A. Vandergriff and Frank Richmond.

The body has been taken from Mann's to the home.

Beatrice filed for divorce on June 8, 1940, and the decree was issued in her favor just ten days later. Judge A. E. Mitchell found that the charges of cruel and inhuman treatment were true, making it unsafe for her to live with John. However, "the charges of habitual drunkenness are not sustained by the proof," and were dismissed. John was forbidden to come near Beatrice at her home or anywhere else, and from calling her on the phone. Beatrice received the house and all furnishings, as well as their 1938 Plymouth. John paid off the \$325 which they owed Park National Bank for the car. He kept their 1939 Dodge, TN license No. 3-13540, which they owned in full. John also signed over to Beatrice his 1918 life insurance policy with Massachusetts Mutual, worth \$2,000. John even paid court costs plus the fees for both attorneys. Beatrice had won everything she sought in the suit except monthly alimony payments of \$100.

John Spears's obituary from the Jan. 22, 1943 *Knoxville News-Sentinel*.

Shockingly, just over six months later, on December 12, 1940, John and Beatrice Spears were remarried in McMinn County, Tennessee, 62 miles southwest of Knoxville, with a Rev. Kuyendall presiding. We can only guess at Beatrice's motives for taking John back, since repeated attempts to contact her surviving relatives have been unfruitful. Possibly the couple remarried in a nearby county because the Knox County restraining order against John was still in effect.

John only lived a few years afterwards, suffering a fatal heart attack and dying at Fort Sanders Hospital on Thursday afternoon, January 21, 1943, at 52 years old. His funeral took place inside the couple's home on Island Home Boulevard, at 1pm on Saturday, January 23. Dr. Clifford Barbour, the longtime pastor of Knoxville's Second Presbyterian Church who later rose to national prominence in his denomination, presided over the ceremony. Church records from the period have been lost, so it is unknown whether John and Beatrice were members of the congregation. Beatrice moved back to Morristown, where she passed away on April 14, 1994, at 98 years old.

4885 CERTIFICATE OF DEATH 934
 DEPT. OF PUBLIC HEALTH STATE OF TENNESSEE DIV. OF VITAL STATISTICS
 COOPERATING WITH DEPT. OF COMMERCE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

REG. NO. 76
 REG. DIST. NO. 24801

1. FULL NAME *John E. Spears* 2. DATE OF DEATH *Jan 21 1943*

3. PLACE OF DEATH
 A) COUNTY *Knox* CIVIL DISTRICT
 B) CITY OR TOWN *Knoxville*
 C) NAME OF HOSPITAL *Fort Sanders*
 D) LENGTH OF STAY IN HOSPITAL
 E) CITIZEN OF FOREIGN COUNTRY

4. LEGAL RESIDENCE
 A) STATE *Tenn.*
 B) COUNTY *Knox* CIVIL DISTRICT
 C) CITY OR TOWN *Knoxville*
 D) STREET NO. *126 Island Home Blvd.*
 E) IF YES, NAME COUNTRY

5. MEDICAL CERTIFICATION
 20. I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I ATTENDED THE DECEASED FROM *Jan 14 1943* TO *Jan 21 1943*
 AND THAT I LAST SAW HIM ALIVE ON *Jan 21 1943*
 AND THAT DEATH OCCURRED ON THE DATE STATED AT *11:40 PM*
 IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF DEATH: *Coronary Occlusion*
 DUE TO: *Coronary thrombosis* 74A

6. AGE *52* YEARS *23* MONTHS *23* DAYS
 7. SINGLE MARRIED WIDOWED DIVORCED

8. DATE OF BIRTH: MONTH *April* DAY *29* YEAR *1888*

9. PLACE OF BIRTH: CITY *Hawkins* STATE OR COUNTY *Tenn.*

10. HUSBAND OR WIFE OF *Beatrice Spears*
 AGE OF HUSBAND OR WIFE, IF LIVING YEARS

11. USUAL OCCUPATION *Salesman*

12. INDUSTRY OR BUSINESS *Harris-Palk Halted*

13. FATHER: FULL NAME *H. S. Spears* BIRTHPLACE *Hawkins* STATE OR COUNTY *Tenn.*
 MAIDEN NAME *Ma. J. Bailey*

14. MOTHER: FULL NAME *Ma. J. Bailey* BIRTHPLACE *Hawkins* STATE OR COUNTY *Tenn.*

15. INFORMANT *Mr. J. E. Spears*
 ADDRESS *Knoxville*

16. BURIAL, REMOVAL OR CREMATION *Burial* DATE *Jan 23 1943*
 CEMETERY *Harrison* PLACE *Morristown*

17. UNDERTAKER *E. B. Mann*
 ADDRESS *Knoxville* BY *E. B. Mann*

18. DATE FILED *1-21-43* *M. Ryle*

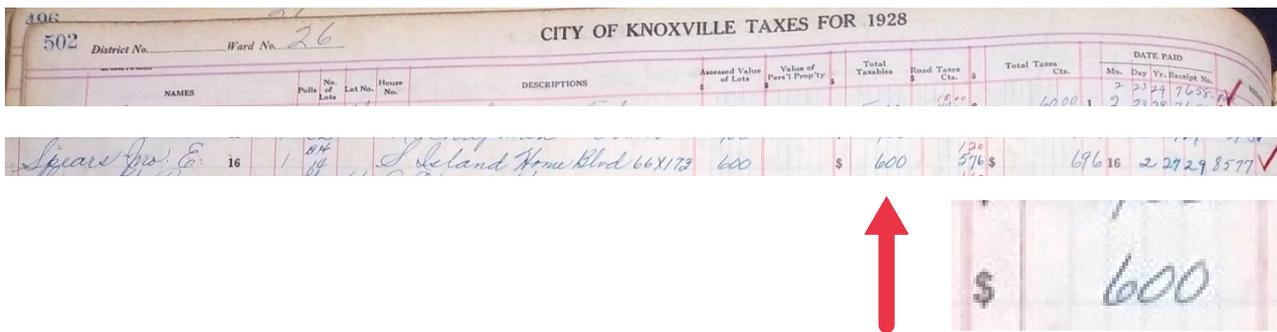
19. SIGNATURE *Edmond S. Clayton* M.D.
 ADDRESS *607 W. Main* DATE SIGNED *Jan 21 1943*
Knoxville Tenn.

20. OTHER CONDITIONS (INCLUDE PREGNANCY WITHIN 3 MONTHS OF DEATH)
 OPERATIONS FINDINGS
 AUTOPSY? FINDINGS

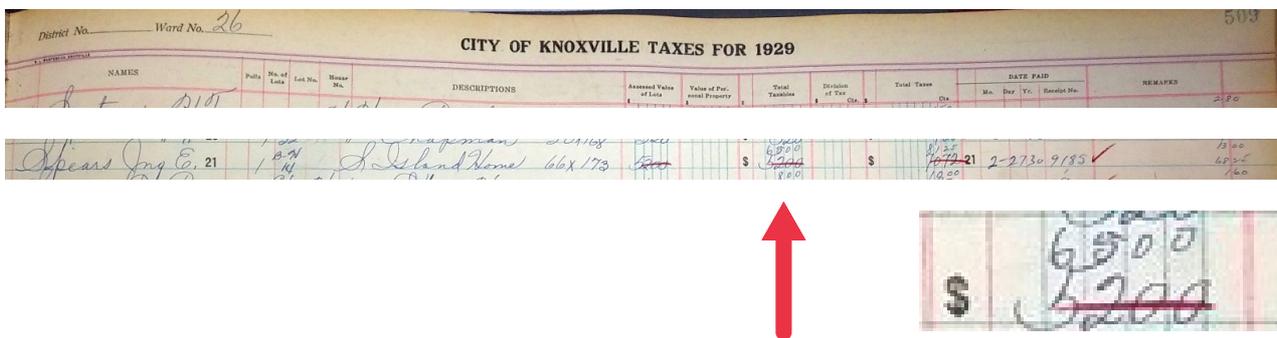
21. IF DEATH WAS DUE TO EXTERNAL CAUSES, FILL IN THE FOLLOWING:
 A) ACCIDENT, SUICIDE OR HOMICIDE (SPECIFY)
 B) DATE OF OCCURRENCE
 C) WHERE DID INJURY OCCUR CITY COUNTY STATE
 D) DID INJURY OCCUR IN OR ABOUT HOME, ON FARM, IN INDUSTRIAL PLACE, IN PUBLIC PLACE?
 WHILE AT WORK MEANS OF INJURY

94 FORM 105
 Clayton

John Spears' death certificate, dated Jan. 21, 1943, listing the cause of his death as a heart attack.



The 1928 tax entry for Lot 14, Island Home Park, lists an assessed value of \$600 for the land.



By 1929, the value of the lot had jumped more than tenfold to \$6,500, proving that the house was constructed in the intervening year.

Thanks to Knox County, Tennessee Senior Archivist Eric Head for the images above.

BOCOCK FAMILY: 1943-44

Several months after John's death, Beatrice rented the house at 126 Island Home Boulevard to Morris and Anne Bocock (pronounced "BO-cock") and their children George, born in December 1940, and Durinda, born in June 1942. Morris was a wage and hour inspector for the U.S. Department of Labor, and both he and Anne earned master's degrees in political science from the University of Alabama, where they were first introduced. The couple married late in life and did not have children until Morris was in his mid-forties and Ann was in her late thirties.



Morris, Anne, Durinda, and George, pictured a few years after they left the house in Island Home Park. Courtesy of Durinda Bocock Kelly.

In a postcard dated July 28th, 1943, Anne described the rental property to Morris, explaining, "we can have it Aug. 1st at \$100 per month. Furnace but no stoker. Guess we're lucky to have any place. They haven't told the landlady that we have children; don't know how she will react to that."

The Bococks lived in the house for one year from August 1943 to August 1944. Durinda's first memory is sitting on the bare, polished hardwood floor in the living room. She also remembers Morris pulling her and her brother down the boulevard in a wooden crate on a snowy day.

Over time, the Bococks' relationship with their recently widowed landlady grew tense and acrimonious. In a letter penned in the house on Island Home Boulevard on July 16, 1944, Anne wrote to George, who was working in Kingsport, Tennessee, complaining:

Mrs. Spears has been over several times. I think she's afraid you won't sign a year's lease and unless we do we might as well start packing. The best I can gather is that she either wants a year's lease or to sell. I believe she doesn't know which she wants. I told her that that was for her to decide and then we would try to fit in the best we could . . . Personally I believe she'll find it hard to find a buyer at her price.

Think she will rent if she can get the lease. She says she'd as soon have us as anyone. She was pleased with the yard, etc. So far as we know, we'll be here a year.

Anne was worried the Labor Department might require Morris to relocate. She was in favor of signing Beatrice Spears' lease, provided they could break it if needed. "This may sound like dishonesty to you," she told Morris, "but I don't see it that way."

Apparently, Anne was worried Beatrice Spears might not share her interpretation of the situation. "Now for once take my advice and ask a lawyer," she urged Morris, though she warned him to seek counsel in Kingsport rather than Knoxville, lest "Jenkins or some other person will get wind of it and relay the message." Jenkins & Jenkins were listed as the attorneys on Beatrice's 1940 divorce pleadings, so presumably she retained their counsel in real estate matters after she reconciled with John.

Before Anne could mail her letter to Morris, Beatrice Spears made the Bococks' decision for them, notifying them curtly that their time on Island Home Boulevard was up. "Had a letter from Mrs. Spears this morning from Maryville," Anne wrote in an addendum to her letter of July 16th. "She wants the house August 15th. Plans to be here long enough to sell. So that's that." It was an unwelcome surprise for the mother of two young children. "I'm sick over all the work I'll have to do in packing and cleaning," Anne grumbled, "for she [Beatrice Spears] will be critical of how it's left. Thought I [would] start packing and clean when I've done that."

Beatrice wasted no time selling the house, and apparently set the right price, for she found a buyer two weeks later on September 1st, 1944.

Sun. 2 P.M.

MRS. MORRIS B. BOCOCK
126 ISLAND HOME BOULEVARD
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

I met Leat -
We were sorry you didn't
make it home last night.
We're just had our dinner
& the children have gone to sleep.
As soon as I finish this I'm
doing the same.
George went to Sunday School
with the Peckinpauzhs. He had
a wonderful time & according
to reports acted like a little man.
I think it's good for him to go.
Mrs. Spears has been over several
times. I think she's afraid you
won't sign a year's lease & unless
we do we might as well start
packing. The best I can gather
is that she either wants a year's
lease or to sell. I believe she
doesn't know which she wants.
I told her that that was for her
to decide & then we would try
to fit in the best we could.
As for the lease - if ~~3~~ we're here
it's all right for with the extra

Anne Bocock's
July 16, 1944
letter to her
husband Morris,
penned on
letterhead
bearing the
address of the
house on Island
Home Blvd.
Courtesy of
Durinda Bocock
Kelly.

BEAUTIFUL, 7-room brick modern home with tile roof. Located at 126 Island Home Blvd. Completely furnished or unfurnished. Call 3-3554 for appointment.

Ad ad Beatrice Spears placed in the Knoxville News-Sentinel on Aug. 19, 1944 advertising the house for sale.

GEORGE FAMILY: 1945-47

On Sept. 1, 1944, just two weeks after she pushed the Bocock family out the door, Beatrice Spears sold the house that she and her late husband built in 1929 to Howard George, a Maryville native, and his wife Ruth for \$9,000. Howard was a sales executive with H.T. Hackney, a wholesale grocer in business to this day in downtown Knoxville. Howard and Ruth had a five-year-old son named Thomas and a three-year-old daughter named Harriet. A second daughter, Donna, was born the next year.



Young Harriett George, approximately 5 years old, pictured behind the house on Island Home Boulevard ca. 1947. This photo is the first known image of the house. Courtesy of William Hutchinson.

The George family lived at 126 Island Home Boulevard for three years. I was unable to speak directly with any surviving family members to hear their recollections, but Harriet George's son William Hutchinson remembers his mother telling him stories about riding the city bus from Island Home Park to downtown Knoxville with her older brother. Harriet was four or five years old at the time, and her brother was seven. William shared a photo of Harriet standing outside the house circa 1947, which is the earliest surviving photo of the home or any of its inhabitants.

Howard and Ruth George sold the property to Gordon and Elizabeth Carlson on July 9th, 1947, for \$13,500. Howard moved his family to Morristown, where he founded a successful Five and Dime store and became a leader of the local business community.

For Sale by Owner
7 Room Brick Home
With Tile Roof

First floor has entry hall with guest wardrobe, sun room, living room 16x26, dining room, kitchen and 2-piece bath. Second floor has master bedroom same size as living room, 2 additional bedrooms, all with ample closet space, large hall and bath with tile floor, has hardwood floors and venetian blinds throughout, full concrete basement with Holland furnace, G. E. water heater. Lot is 75x175, well drained and is beautified with dogwoods, redbuds, crepe myrtle, many other shrubs. This house was built before the day of "please don't rain" construction and will please the particular home seeker. Price \$15,750. Drive by 126 Island Home Blvd. Call 3-1330 for appointment.

Howard George placed this detailed advertisement in the May 13, 1947 issue of the *Knoxville News-Sentinel*.

Realty Transfers

Westwood Corp. to D. L. Vise, lot, District 8, \$1150.
Alice Broyles Dublin to Mr. and Mrs. James N. Henderson, house and lot, District 1, \$4500.
Mr. and Mrs. O. V. Barker to Mr. and Mrs. Walter S. Burnett, acreage, District 3, \$3500.
lot, District 2, \$8500.
and Mrs. Lawrence V. Gibney, house and Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Rook Jr. to Mr. and Mrs. Walter S. Burnett, acreage, District 3, \$3500.
Herbert D. Aston to Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd J. Ogle, house and lot, District 2, \$8000.
Mr. and Mrs. William Howard George to Mr. and Mrs. J. Gordy Carlson, house and lot, District 3, \$13,500.

A July 18, 1947 newspaper notice of the transfer of the house on Island Home Blvd. from the George family to the Carlsons.

CARLSON FAMILY: 1947-2007

Gordon Carlson, his wife Elizabeth (“Lib”) and their daughters Shirley, age five, and Bette, age three, moved into the house at 126 Island Home Blvd. in the summer of 1947. They purchased the home, which Gordon described in his memoir as “a brick house with concrete tile roofing . . . built in 1929 by John Spears,” from William Howard George for \$13,500 on July 17, 1947. The Carlsons paid half of the price in cash and financed the remainder with a loan from Hamilton National bank at 4.5% annual interest. On the day the Carlsons toured the house for the first time, they stepped outside to find another couple waiting to go inside. Realizing that they needed to act quickly, the Carlsons went to the realtor’s office that evening and made a deposit, beating the other potential buyers, who tried to make an offer the next day.



Lib and Gordon Carlson in 1954. Courtesy of Shirley Carlson Bowen.

The Carlsons moved to Knoxville from Chevy Chase, Maryland, where Dr. Carlson had been working as a researcher in a lab operated by the U.S. Public Health Service. He accepted an offer to become the head of the Department of Zoology and Entomology at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, and remained there until he retired in the summer of 1978. Lib, who had earned a masters degree in mathematics at the University of Alabama, where she and Gordon met, also taught at UT as an adjunct professor from 1954-1978. Two and a half years after their arrival, the Carlsons welcomed a third child, Jimmy, in February 1950.



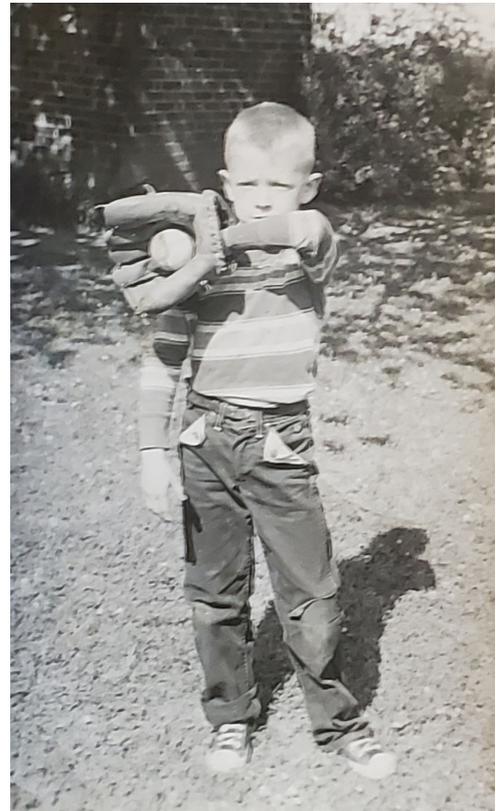
The three Carlson children, Shirley, Jimmy, and Bette, outside the house on Island Home Blvd. in 1951. Courtesy of Shirley Carlson Bowen.



Bette and Shirley outside the house in 1950. Courtesy of Shirley Carlson Bowen.



Bette, Shirley, and Lib Carlson, dressed in their finest, outside the house in 1950. Courtesy of Shirley Carlson Bowen.



Young Jimmy Carlson suited up to play football (above left) and baseball (above right) outside the house in 1958. Courtesy of Shirley Carlson Bowen.

Gordon enjoyed carpentry, and he built and installed the bookshelves in the sunroom, which the Carlsons referred to as the den, as well as a set of cabinets for the kitchen. During the 2006-2007 renovation, these cabinets were removed and reinstalled in the garage. The Carlsons situated their refrigerator on the south wall of the kitchen, where the tall pantry cabinet stands now, and they had a table in the kitchen along with a built-in sitting bench on the wall separating the kitchen from the dining room. The doors, baseboards, and trim in the house were dark brown when the Carlsons moved in. Gordon painted them light green, and Bette later had them painted white in the early 2000s. Gordon and Lib's granddaughter Elizabeth Schrader remembered, "when I was a child, the house seemed like a museum. There were all different types of artwork throughout from all over the world—mostly paintings." Elizabeth added:

My grandmother had a strawberry theme in the kitchen—strawberry curtains, dish set, butter dish, salt and pepper shaker, sugar bowl, etc. There were strawberry canisters for sugar, flour, etc., and also a strawberry light switch plate and little strawberry stained-glass figures which hung from suction cups on the kitchen windows.

Elizabeth has many of these strawberry-motif items in her own kitchen in her home in Corryton, Tennessee, near Knoxville.

During the Carlsons' six decades at the house, there was only one full bathroom—upstairs on the second floor at the end of the hallway against the south wall—and one half-bath just inside the front entry. Bette Carlson Borgmeier muses, “I can't figure out how we ever survived with one and a half baths with five of us, but you know, it wasn't even an issue. I don't ever remember having to wait. I think my father brushed his teeth and shaved downstairs.” Bette's older sister Shirley adds, “I sometimes wonder how we all managed growing up with only one bathroom upstairs. My mom would have liked to have made some changes, but her ideas never got much traction.” Shirley Carlson Bowen recalls that her father also installed an electric heater in the wall adjacent to the toilet in the 1960s. The blue tiles that line the bathroom walls just past the height of the sink and toilet were added in 2005 or 2006, after a leak in the bathroom caused the ceiling of the dining room below to cave in.

The configuration of the second story of the house was significantly different when the Carlson family lived here. Originally, there was a doorway between the two bedrooms on the east side of the second floor. Gordon removed this opening and walled it up. Gordon and Lib used the bedroom on the southeastern corner of the house, which boasted a balcony with a view of the backyard and was closest to the full bathroom, as a master bedroom, and Jimmy slept in the adjacent smallest bedroom on the northeastern corner of the house. Shirley and Bette shared the large bedroom that extended the full length of the western side of the house. A closet adjacent to Jimmy's room opened into the hallway, as did a linen closet positioned above the living room in the west side of the hallway near the bathroom. A third closet was located in the southeastern corner of the girls' bedroom, opening into the room. The Carlsons' only television set was located in this hallway for many years, though Gordon and Lib eventually added a second television downstairs in the living room.

The Carlsons made substantive changes in the basement over their years in the house, starting with the equipment which heated the entire structure. “When we first moved into the house, we had a ‘stoker’ (coal furnace) in the middle of the basement,” remembers Bette Carlson Borgmeier. This furnace sat in the middle of the large room in the basement. Shirley remembers a big coal truck making an annual delivery, dumping coal into the basement. “We had to clean the cinders out of the furnace every so often and I helped do that,” she recalls. At some point, the Carlsons replaced the coal-burning furnace with a natural gas-powered model. It is likely that this coincided with the installation of HVAC ducts into the house in 1956. The current owners possess the original hand-drawn plans for this installation.

The Carlsons also made cosmetic improvements which allowed the family to enjoy the subterranean space. “When we moved into that house the basement

was completely non useable. In the 1950s it was remodeled into a more pleasant place,” remembers Shirley Carlson Bowen. The Carlsons had a thick layer of smooth concrete poured throughout the basement except in the in the northwest corner room, where the modern furnace is located, and the low-ceilinged storage room beneath the sunroom in the northeast corner of the basement. In these two rooms, the older, rougher concrete subfloor is still exposed. The other, newly finished spaces boasted a ping pong table and a stereo, and a shuffleboard court was painted onto its smooth, red-painted concrete floor. Traces of the shuffleboard court remain today in one of the storage rooms.

The basement was a workspace for the adults in the family. Bette Carlson Borgmeier recalls, “My mother had her sewing on one end, and the lady that came and ironed and cleaned the house used the little room where the furnace is [for ironing clothes].” Gordon kept a small office in the basement as well. It was here that he typed his 1992 memoir, using a Tandy 1000 TX personal computer which he had purchased in November 1987. Gordon also used the room in the northwest corner of the basement as a workshop. Gordon and Lib also kept a large electric freezer plugged in in the basement to store frozen food. To this day, Bette Carlson Borgmeier wonders how her parents managed to get the large appliance down the narrow, shallow basement staircase.

Unfortunately, then as now, the basement sometimes flooded during periods of heavy rainfall. “You had to keep everything you were interested in at least a foot off the floor.” Bette Carlson Borgmeier remembers. “And we never could do anything about it.” Bette says her parents installed the sump pump that remains in the southeast corner of the workshop room.

The Carlsons added the existing covered back porch onto the house in the fall of 1984, hiring the Cate Construction Company to pour a new concrete base and construct a sloping roof supported by brick columns. Prior to that, remembered Bette Carlson Borgmeier, “our ‘patio’ out the back door was nothing but a rough concrete slab . . . “ Gordon and Lib hung birdfeeders around the new outdoor addition and spent many happy hours watching birds in their backyard. The Carlsons had a metal chainlink fence, which still stands, erected around the backyard in the 1960s to keep their dogs from escaping. Gordon mentioned in his memoir that his four-year-old grandson, Doug, was able to open the gate even when it was locked.

Gordon and Lib Carlson took pride in the appearance of their yard on Island Home Boulevard. Gordon planted Zoysia grass shortly after the family moved in, and also maintained a perennial flower garden around a dogwood tree

alongside the driveway in the backyard. Shirley Carlson Bowen remembers, “He enjoyed working in the yard and we always had nice bushes and flowers. Bette Carlson Borgmeier remembers an old fence that originally ran across the backyard from side to side, splitting the backyard in half. Gordon removed this fence shortly after the Carlsons moved into the home, giving his children access to the entire backyard as a play area.

A redbud tree growing outside the dining room window had branches that extended over the balcony in the southwest bedroom. In his teenage years, Jimmy occasionally climbed this tree and clambered onto the balcony to enter the house when he did not have a key. On one occasion, another neighborhood boy did the same—allegedly planning to steal part of Jimmy’s coveted coin collection when he thought the Carlsons were out of town. The young would-be intruder was surprised when Gordon Carlson opened the balcony door and came face to face with him. Dr. Carlson promptly escorted the boy through the house and out the front door, politely withholding the young man’s name when he recounted the story in his memoir. Bette Carlson Borgmeier and Shirley Carlson Bowen also recall a neighborhood teenaged boy and his two sisters who had a habit of climbing into the tree and staring at the Carlsons while they ate dinner—apparently waiting for them to finish so the Carlson children could come out and play. Bette remembers that Gordon, understandably irritated, would simply get up from his chair and close the blinds. Shirley, on the other hand, has the impression that her parents were amused by these arboreal peeping toms, and got a laugh out of the dinnertime interruptions.

The redbud tree no longer stands, nor does a buckeye tree that Gordon and Jimmy planted to replace it around 1960. Lib loved the buckeye because it reminded her of her grown son, who lived in California and could not visit often. Also gone is a pecan tree that Lib had someone plant in the backyard sometime in the 1950s. The tree struggled for a few years and only yielded a few pecans, which Shirley Carlson Bowen claims “the squirrels got to before we did.” The large maple tree which towers over the northwest corner of the front yard got its start as a sapling which Gordon plucked from a wooded area on the nearby riverfront. This great tree is a living vestige of the Carlsons’ many years in the home. The white dogwood tree around which Gordon’s perennial flowers bloomed also served as an aerial launch pad for Shirley and her friends. Bette Carlson Borgmeier remembers the kids making improvised parachutes out of pillowcases and string and launching themselves off one of the branches. Shirley recalls, “My parents thought this was hilarious, but I didn’t see the humor in it until years later. We couldn’t understand why the sheets didn’t billow out like in the movies!”

The Carlsons lavished the same attention on the houseplants inside the house that they did on the trees in the yard. Shirley Carlson Bowen remembers:

My mother grew and nurtured many African Violets for years and they were lined up on the top shelf in the study where there was lots of sunlight. When we went on vacations, she would take them upstairs and put them in the bathtub and run water into the tub to keep the plants watered while we were away.

Like Durinda Bocoock Kelley, the Carlson children enjoyed winter snow days in Island Home Park. Shirley Carlson Bowen remembers her parents driving the kids up Fisher Place and dropping them off at the top of a steep hill on Island Home Avenue, so the youngsters could sled down into the grounds of the Tennessee School for the Deaf, which Shirley describes as “a wonderfully long sled ride.” A horse-drawn ice cream wagon heralded the arrival of summer in the neighborhood in the 1950s, with the driver announcing his approach by banging a hammer on metal to announce his approach. The kids could hear the sound from a quarter of a mile away. Shirley’s favorite treat was a fudgesicle, which cost five cents.

During warmer seasons, the Carlson children were joined by neighborhood friends for softball in the vacant lot behind their house—which is now the location of 2135 Maplewood Drive, constructed in 1960. Another popular game was “rolly-bat,” an informal game in which a group of players spreads out. The first player hits a softball with a bat, then lays the bat down on the ground. The first person to grab the ball rolls the ball toward the bat. If the ball touches the bat, that player is the next hitter. Otherwise, the first hitter takes another turn. The game has no winners or losers and no end.

The neighborhood children also played kick the can in the front yard, and jumped into piles of autumn leaves in the grassy median on the boulevard in front of the Carlsons’ home. At age eight or nine, as she was standing in the median, Bette was knocked unconscious by a softball tossed by the same teenage boy who habitually climbed the tree outside the Carlsons’ dining room.

Another favorite summer pastime was riding on the Number 10 Island Home bus, which passed in front of the Carlson’s house every hour or so. Shirley recalls:

One of the drivers we called Red sometimes stopped and chatted with us. He once asked us if we'd like to ride to the end of the line which was somewhere out Island Home Avenue and back again. We got all excited and he said to run home really quick and ask our parents if it was okay. We did and we took a free bus ride out and back, Red letting us off on the other side of the street about 20 minutes later on our return to the neighborhood. I believe the bus was empty with no passengers when we got these offers from Red as it was near the end of the line for that bus route. This event happened several times during one summer and we always kept an eye out for that bus.

Bette Carlson Borgmeier recalled that she and Shirley had two favorite drivers on the Number 10 route—Red and Curly—and that both men would give the girls candy when they rode the bus. Bette and a neighborhood girlfriend rode the bus downtown every Saturday.



Bette Carlson Borgmeier holds her mother's dinner bell, used to summon the Carlson children back home for dinner, during her visit to the house on May 25, 2021.

No matter how far they occasionally roamed, the Carlson kids usually stayed within earshot of a bell Lib rang every evening to call them in for dinner. Apparently, Lib's cooking was exceptional, for Gordon recalled in his memoir that even "the ever-hungry dog and cat also came on the run!" The dinner bell remains in the family and is in the possession of Bette Carlson Borgmeier's daughter, Jennifer Bjornstad, who lives in Knoxville.

As the children and their friends grew up, the Carlsons' two-story brick Tudor house was the setting for bridal celebrations, three of which were covered in the local newspaper. On Sunday, Aug. 4, 1968, Lib and Gordon hosted a party for their daughter Shirley and her fiancé, Jeff Bowen, so Knoxville friends and loved ones could celebrate the couple's upcoming nuptials in Jeff's hometown of Denver, Colorado the next month. The Carlsons also hosted bridal teas in the house for friends Charlotte Sue Anderson in 1964 and Stephanie Baynes in 1975.



Shirley, Lib, and Gordon Carlson stand in front of the house with Shirley's fiancé Jeff Bowen in this clipping from the Aug. 7, 1968 *Knoxville News-Sentinel*.

Gordon and Lib Carlson were seasoned world travelers, and once brought a serious souvenir back home to Knoxville. On a 1966 trip to Germany, the couple picked up a Porsche 912 roadster from the factory in Stuttgart, drove the vehicle around Europe for a month, and then had it shipped back to the States. This logistical feat was accomplished by their daughter Shirley, who was working as a Pan Am flight attendant and arranged to have the vehicle flown to the U. S. in the cargo hold of a 707. Gordon learned how to tune up the speedy little German sports car, and enjoyed taking care of it himself.

The Carlsons considered leaving Island Home Park on several occasions, after friends and colleagues moved to new housing developments in the western part of Knoxville. Shirley remembers, "my dad always came back from those new house excursions saying that he didn't want to drive east into the sun in the morning and west into the sun in the evenings on the way to and from work at the university. So they stayed in Island Home." Elizabeth Schrader repeated a family story she heard over the years: "When my Grandparents were looking at new houses just west of Knoxville, my Grandmother would say as soon as they got back to 2134 Island Home Blvd., 'It feels good to be home.'"

After Gordon died on Dec. 17, 2001, Lib moved to an assisted living facility for a couple of years, then returned to the house on Island Home Boulevard with round-the-clock professional care coordinated by her granddaughter Elizabeth, who came up from Atlanta to live with her in the house. Lib passed away on Jan. 24, 2007—her late husband's birthday—at the age of 94, ending six decades of Carlson family presence in Island Home Park.



Lib and
Gordon
Carlson in their
front yard on
Island Home
Blvd. in 1994.
Courtesy of
Shirley Carlson
Bowen.

Lib and
Gordon
Carlson's
granddaughter
Elizabeth
Schrader
poses after
preparing the
house for sale
on Sept. 16,
2007.



RENOVATIONS BY JEFF AND KAREN WILLIAMSON: 2007-8



Jeff and Karen Williamson and
their children Cooper and
Meridieth in 2019.

On Sept. 18, 2007, the Carlson family sold the house at 2134 Island Home Blvd. to architects Jeff and Karen Williamson, who had recently purchased the historic bungalow down the street at 2103 Island Home Boulevard. Karen initially wanted to move into the Carlson's former home, but with a nine-month-old son and a daughter on the way, the couple decided to live in the house down the street. The restoration work the couple performed in that house earned

them a 2002 Residential Restoration Award from Knox Heritage as well as a feature in the July/August 2007 issue of *Cottage Living* magazine.

Work proceeded on both houses simultaneously. The Williamsons' extensive renovation of 2134 Island Home Boulevard significantly changed the interior of the house. The project included gutting the kitchen and replacing all of the appliances, cabinets, and counters as well as removing the built-in table and bench. The Williamsons opened the wall and installed a new doorway between the dining room and the front foyer, using original moldings from elsewhere in the house. Upstairs, they built in a full bathroom in the southwestern corner of the house, partitioning off part of what had been the long master bedroom stretching from the front of the house all the way to the rear. A new master bedroom double closet was created by closing off the closet that had opened into the middle of the upstairs hallway, and the closet in the small, northeast corner bedroom was rearranged so that it, too opened into the bedroom rather than the hallway.

The Williamsons replaced every ceiling light fixture in the house, and moved the washer and dryer from the entryway off the driveway behind the kitchen downstairs into the basement. Wallpaper was removed and surfaces repainted throughout the house, including the master bedroom in which walls, windowsills, and the mantle had all originally been painted the same shade of blue. The exterior trim, which had been salmon, was repainted in beige, as were the garage and garden shed in the rear, which had been painted red. The old, 1940s kitchen cabinets found a new life in the back of the garage.

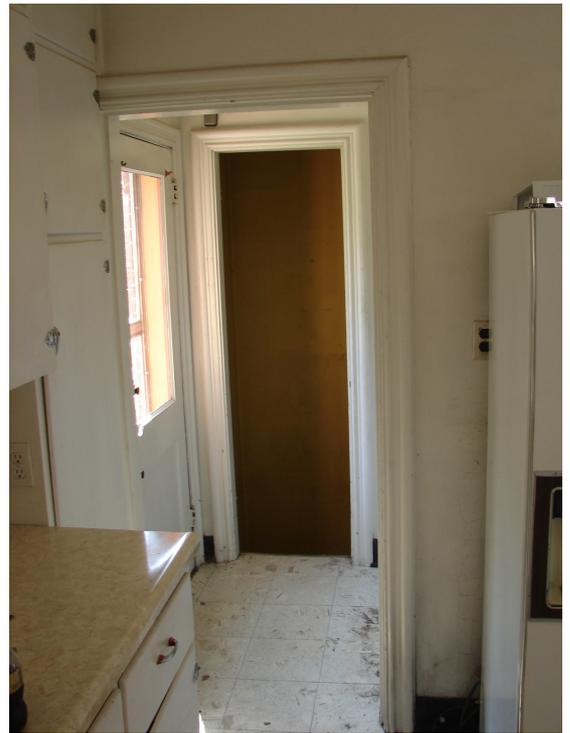
The Williamsons found an unexpected reminder of the original inhabitants of the house. Inside an access panel in one of the basement walls, they discovered pornographic magazines from the 1930s. Presumably, these were John Spears' prurient publications about which Beatrice complained in her divorce pleading.



Jeff Williamson took this photo, and all the subsequent images in this chapter, on Sept. 23, 2007, prior to the restoration of the house.



An old metal screen door hung on the kitchen entrance off the driveway (left).



Gordon Carlson built the white-painted kitchen cabinets during his time in the house. The Williamsons moved some of these cabinets to the garage after they renovated the kitchen. They also rebuilt the entryway off the driveway and moved the washer and dryer to the basement.



The living room (at left and above) originally featured white shutters in the bottom of the windows.



There was originally a rectangular doorway with a door leading from the kitchen into the dining room (above), and only one opening between the dining room and the foyer.



The walls of the foyer (above) were papered at some point during the house's first eight decades.



Originally there were only two bathrooms in the house: the full bath upstairs off the hallway and the half bath in the foyer (above, pictured with its original ceramic sink).



The front door was painted a light green color.



Gordon Carlson used the sunken sunroom as his study. The window frames and shelving were originally a dark brown color.



The risers on the stairs were badly battered after decades of use.



Originally, two closets opened into the upstairs hallway: one located approximately where the master closet stands today (above left) and the one in the northeast front bedroom (above right).

The bathroom at right was originally the only full bath in the house. Lib and Gordon Carlson's granddaughter Elizabeth Schrader added the blue tiles in the early 2000s.





The master bedroom originally stretched across the entire west side of the second story, and the walls, window sills, doors, and door jambs were painted light blue by the early 2000s. Bette and Shirley Carlson slept here. The Williamsons added a walk-in closet on the east side of the room and built in a full bathroom on the south side.



Lib and Gordon Carlson slept in this bedroom on the southeast corner of the house.



The original stairs to the basement were bare wood.



A view of the west alcove of the basement (above), with the workshop/furnace room door on the right. Here the Williamsons added a half bath and storage room.



The Williamsons added a washer/dryer closet on the east side of the basement adjacent to another storage room (above).

The view of the north side of the basement at right appears to show that tiles originally hung from the ceiling.



The detached two-car garage with garden shed in the rear of the house (at left) was originally painted red.

WILSON FAMILY: 2008-14

Jeff and Karen Williamson finished their renovation of 2134 Island Home Boulevard in just over nine months and sold the house to Russ and Nicole Wilson on June 27th, 2008 for \$310,000, roughly forty percent more than the \$188,000 the Williamsons paid to buy the home from the Carlsons.



Russ Wilson was a financial advisor and Dr. Nicole Wilson was an educational consultant and later an assistant principal at South Doyle Middle School. The Wilson's twin daughters Caroline and Laura were two years old when the family moved to Island Home Park, and a third daughter, Meghan, was born in late 2011. The Wilsons had three pets during their time in the house, including a Saint Bernard named Abby, an Australian Shepherd named Denver, and a feline named Roo Cat. Roo Cat wandered the neighborhood much like a dog, and followed behind the family on walks throughout the neighborhood.

(Above) Russ and Nicole Wilson are pictured outside the house with their infant daughter Meghan and twins Caroline and Laura on the day of Meghan's baptism in July, 2012.

(At right) Russ, Nicole, Caroline, and Laura sit in the backyard of the house in early fall, 2008.



On July 5, 2012, lightning struck the tree on the northwest corner of the yard, breaking the trunk and causing it to fall into the master bedroom while Russ and nine-month-old Meghan were home. Later, the family was startled to see their damaged house featured on a live local television news report, as they watched on TV in the living room. The Wilsons had noticed the bright lights outside their window but did not realize in advance that their home would serve as the backdrop for a live shot. A short time later, the family had to have the 83-year-old tile roof replaced and opted to remove the remaining tree in the northeast corner of the yard to prevent another such incident.

Russ and Nicole enjoyed working in the front yard. They removed all of the decades-old shrubs in the yard and started over, hiring a landscape architect to help chart a new layout for the lawn.

The Wilsons loved living in Island Home Park, and their favorite events included the neighborhood potluck on July 4th and the crowd of trick-or-treaters who crowded onto the boulevard every Halloween. Nicole’s mother and many visiting friends enjoyed passing out candy to the costumed throngs each year, which grew from 500 children in 2008 to more than 900 in 2014. It was also a treat to cheer on the hundreds of runners who passed through the neighborhood every year during the Knoxville Marathon, and hand them bottles of water as they jogged past.

Russ and Nicole’s favorite room in the house was the sunlit library, which also functioned as an art room, in the northeast corner of the main floor. To this day, they enjoy periodic walks on the boulevard reminiscing about their time in Island Home Park.



Two large trees stood in the front yard in 2011 (above left), but the tree in the northwestern corner fell on the house in a thunderstorm in July 2012. Both trees were subsequently removed.



The house and yard blanketed by snow on Jan. 10, 2011, when the two large trees still stood in front.

The aftermath of a snowstorm on Feb. 13, 2014.



A for sale sign was placed in the front yard in March of 2014. Note the small, scrubby azalea bushes the Wilsons planted on both sides of the stone stairs.

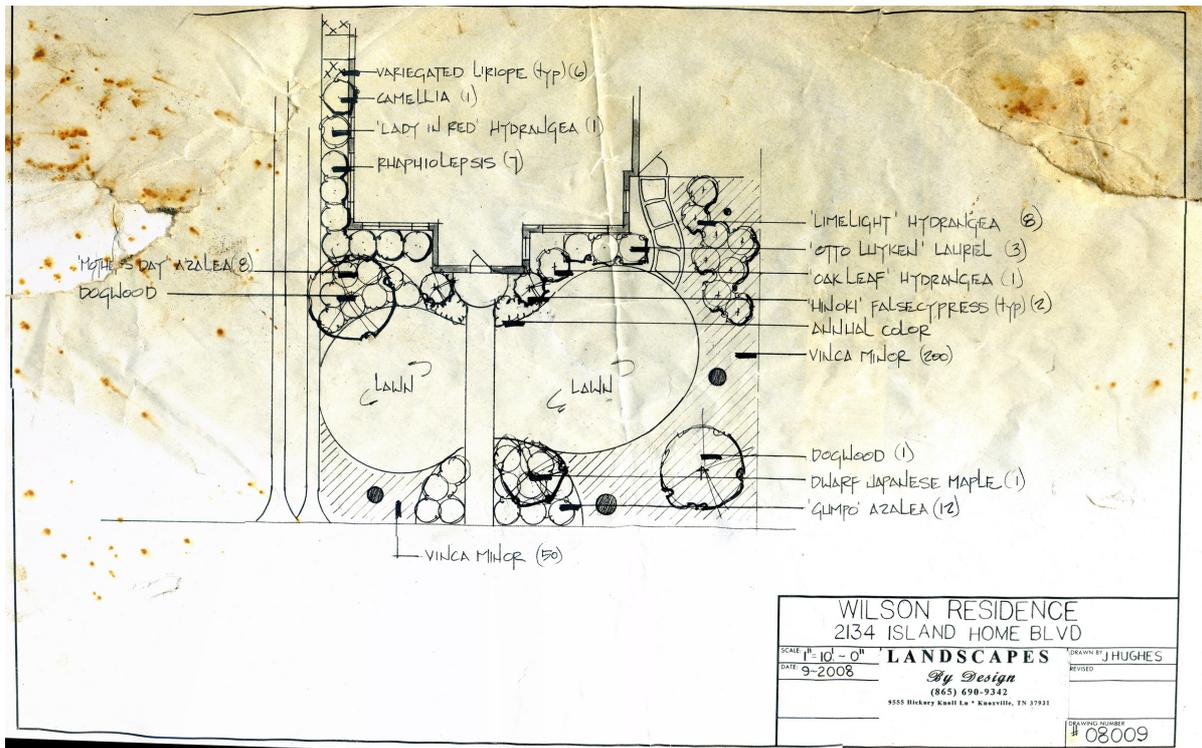
The living room is pictured in December 2010.



The Wilson's dog Denver relaxes in front of the fireplace in late February, 2014.



The Wilson's twin daughters, Caroline and Laura, play in the basement in January 2012. At this point, the basement floor was carpeted.



This landscaping plan was prepared for the Wilsons in September 2008 shortly after they moved into the house.

JORDAN FAMILY: 2014-PRESENT

Our family purchased the house from the Wilsons on June 2, 2014 for \$355,000. My wife, Dr. Krista Wiegand, had accepted a position as professor of political science and as Director of the Global Security Program at the Howard H. Baker, Jr. Center for Public Policy, both at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. We moved to Knoxville from Savannah, Georgia the next month along with our then 2 and a half year old son, Joseph.



The current owners of 2134 Island Home Blvd., Dr. Krista Wiegand and Michael Jordan, are pictured in front of the house in 2020 with their son Joseph and cat Tallulah. Photo by Amy Burgess.

The azaleas are in full bloom in this May 2021 photo.





The living room in January, 2021.



The foyer in January, 2021.



The sunroom (left) and dining room (right) in January, 2021.





The kitchen in January, 2021.



Another view of the dining room in January, 2021.



The front half bath in January, 2021 (left) and the former laundry nook (right), which the Jordan's refer to as the "mud room," as rebuilt by the Williamsons.





The master bedroom, facing southwest. The entrance to the full bath is in the back corner.



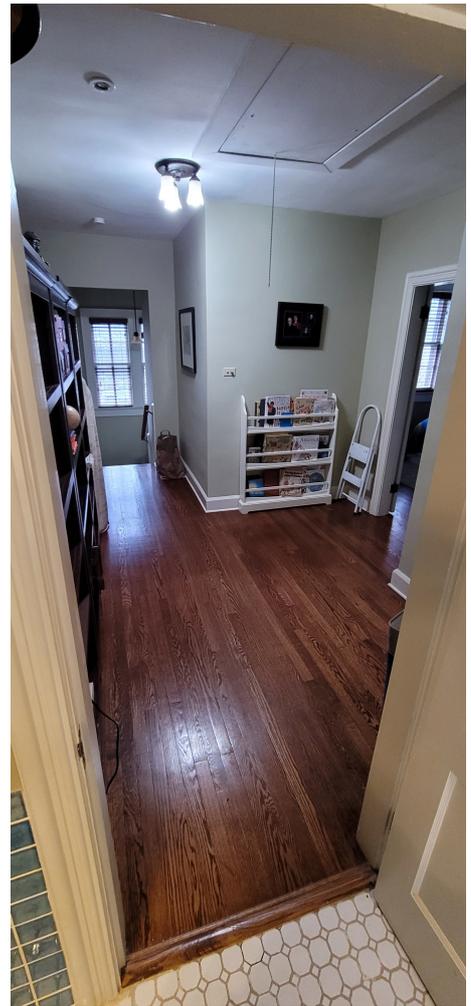
The master bedroom, facing northeast, showing the doors to the walk-in closet which the Williamsons built in.



The master bath, facing the shower.



The northeast bedroom (left) and upstairs hallway (right).



Owners and sale prices of 2134 Island Home Blvd.

Date	Parties	Deed Location	Amount	Value in 2022	
21 Aug 1915	Island Home Park Co. to L. H. Blankenship	Book 281, page 254	\$1,040.00	\$30,134.77	*monthly payments for land
12 Sept 1919	Blankenship to John Spears	Book 412, page 82	\$286.51	\$4,846.74	* and assumption of remaining debt to Island Home Park company of \$863.49
26 Apr 1928	IHP Co to John Spears	Book 468, page 78	\$0.00	\$0.00	*no cash changed hands; this acknowledges that Spears paid off Blankenship's original loan
01 Sept 1944	Spears to George	Book 677, page 160	\$9,000.00	\$149,653.00	
17 July 1947	George to Carlson	Book 749, page 3-4	\$200.00	\$2,624.71	Eric Head of Knoxville Archives thinks this is earnest money, reflecting that the Carlsons planned to make monthly payments to the George's until the house was paid off.
17 July 1947	George Carlson	Book 749, page 3-4	\$13,500.00	\$177,167.83	Sales price is verified in a newspaper clipping about property transfer. Bette Carlson Borgmeier remembers her dad saying once how glad he was that the house was paid off, and that it was \$13,000.
18 Sept 2007	Carlson to Williamsons		\$188,000.00	\$265,354.54	
27 June 2008	Williamsons to Wilsons		\$310,000.00	\$421,373.83	
02 June 2014	Wilsons to Wiegand/Jordan		\$355,000.00	\$438,853.93	

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