



OAKLANDS

38TH ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT TOUR OF
HOMES

December 2021



Oaklands Mansion, 900 North Maney Avenue

A modest two-room hall and parlor brick home was constructed here around 1818 on land inherited by Sallie Maney from her father, and Murfreesboro's namesake, Col. Hardy Murfree. In the 1820s, Sallie Maney and her husband, Dr. James Maney began initiating improvements to their home with a refined two-story Federal addition. Further additions of a second floor, over the cabin, and a back wing were made in the 1830s. In his will, Dr. Maney deeded his "mansion, homestead and spring" to his daughter-in-law Rachel Adaline Cannon Maney. On the eve of the Civil War, Adaline, daughter of Gov. Newton Cannon, along with her ailing husband Lewis, commissioned the final addition of the impressive Italianate façade reflecting the great prosperity of their combined families.

It was their enslaved population who made their lifestyle possible. Today, Oaklands is restored to provide a glimpse into the lives of all the many individuals who lived, loved and toiled here.



**Laura and Tim Gossett,
512 East College Street**

The lovely cottage style home situated at 512 East College Street was constructed in 1930. Previous owners include Jesse C. Beesley, a local noted sculptor who was instrumental in forming the first humane society in Rutherford County (1976) and is the namesake of the current Beesley Animal Foundation. Wilkes Coffey Jr, lawyer and circuit court judge along with his wife, Mrs. Harriet Crutchfield Coffey, resided in the home from the 1980's onward. The property remained in Wilkes family until approximately 2017. At that time, the home was purchased by Eric and Michelle Lynch. Under the design direction of the Lynches, updates were completed to the floor plan to add a master suite upstairs and a finished basement on the lowest level of the home. Specific care was taken to modernize the functionality of the home's floor plan while still maintaining the charm of the original design features.

Laura and Tim purchased the home in December of 2020 and have continued minor renovations. They expanded the laundry room, added a back patio, and a new front door. The couple operates, "Tasty Table Events and Catering" and they could never have imagined that they would one day own both a business and a home in Downtown Murfreesboro!



304 East Lytle Street, Michael Graves and Doug Willard

The home at 304 East Lytle Street was built in 1871. There have been many owners over the years. One of the most notable was Mr. Sam Licker and his family who lived here from 1913 until 1919. Sam came to the United States from Lithuania and was a shop owner on the Murfreesboro Square for 55 years. Sam's three daughters continued his legacy and were known as the "Licker Sisters." They owned the highly acclaimed Cotton Patch clothing store. The James B. Freeman family owned the house from the mid 1930s to the 1970s. The home became a Fraternity House for MTSU in the 1970s, first housing the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity and later, the Beta Theta Pi Fraternity.

Michael and Doug purchased the home in 2000 and began a complete renovation. All walls and ceilings were removed as well as all bathrooms, kitchens, wiring and plumbing, and then rebuilt to today's standards. They paid close attention to preserving the structure's historical character and had much of the woodwork re-milled to match the original. The home has two built-in benches, a curved wall in the living room, and still retains 5 original mantels, along with a beautiful piece of woodwork in the front entry hallway. All walls and ceilings were restored to their original state. Michael and Doug only made minor changes to the back of the home to provide a more modern feel for today's living standard. The stained glass windows that you see during the holidays were hand-made by Michael and Doug and have become a downtown tradition during Halloween and Christmas. They temporarily install 11 custom made stained glass windows each Christmas.



First Presbyterian Church, 210 North Spring Street

First Presbyterian Church of Murfreesboro was founded on April 10, 1812, near Murfree Spring in what was to become known as the town of Murfreesboro. The original church building was erected in what is now part of the Old City Cemetery on Vine Street and was used during the Civil War as a hospital, first by Confederates and then Union forces. The original building was destroyed.

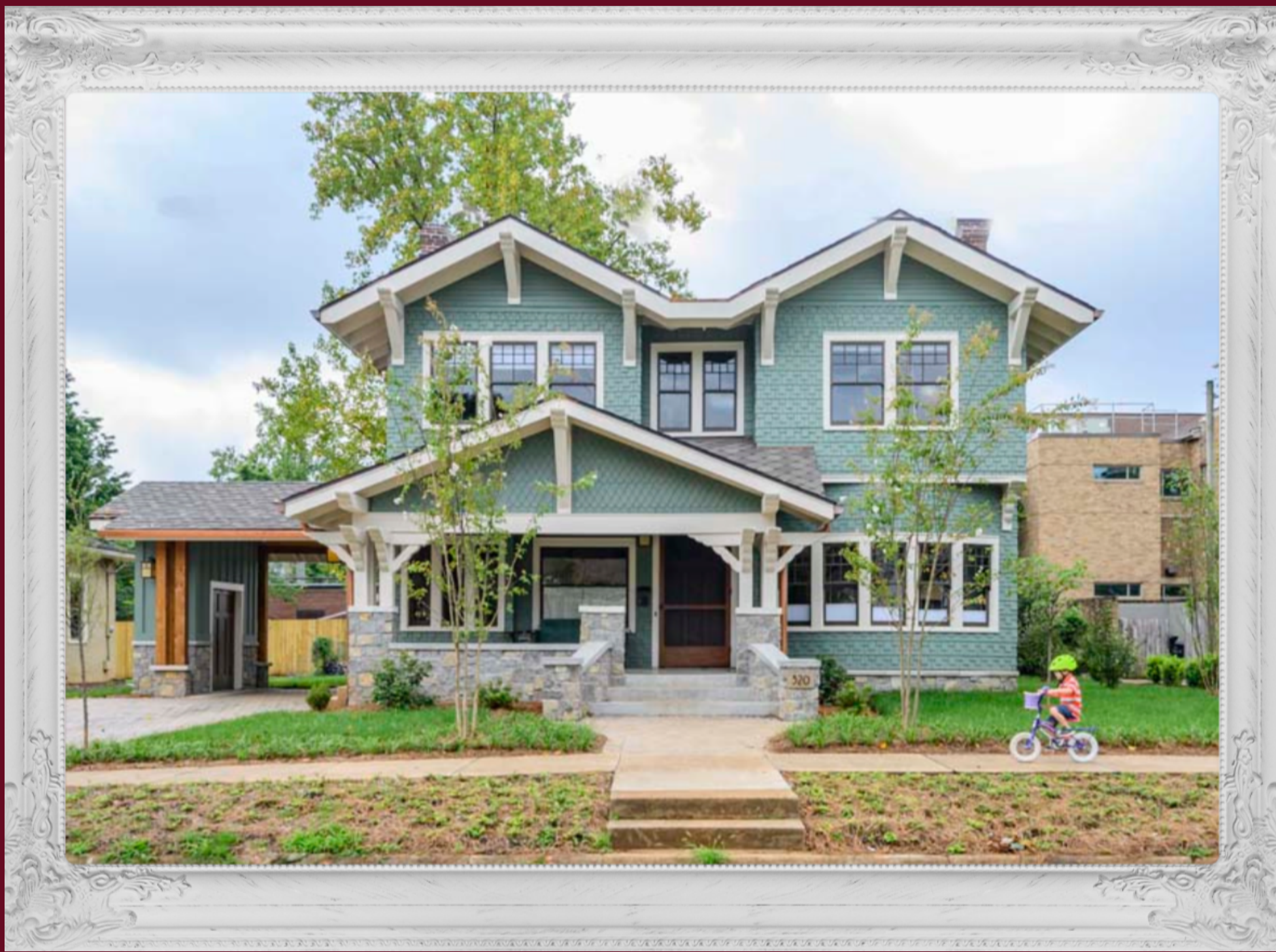
A new building site was chosen and a building erected in 1867. It was damaged in the 1913 tornado, and major repairs and design changes were made to the roof and structure. The work was completed by 1914. The office area and Sunday school rooms were added in 1959. A new common room with additional classrooms, parlor, elevator and kitchen was completed in 1998. The church held a Bicentennial Celebration in 2012 to commemorate its 200th year in Murfreesboro.



**Bill Jakes Realty,
305 North Highland Ave**

The old home place at 305 North Highland Avenue was built by the McCullough family between 1892-1893. After living in it briefly, they moved to Nashville and converted it to a duplex rental property. The old home saw many different tenants through the years until E.L. and Gladys McCarty purchased the home in 1947. The McCarty's lived out the remainder of their lives in the home and their daughter, Mary "Carty" McCarty Roberts, inherited it in 2009. Jim & Carty Roberts sold the home to Bill & Sarah Jakes in 2016. The Jakes decided the home could be best preserved by converting it to office use and in October of 2018 they officially opened Bill Jakes Realty in this location.

The style of the home is known as a 'Gable Front & Wing', which was a common style in Rutherford County around the turn of the 20th century. Most were built on piers made of cut or stacked stone. The framing lumber was often oak or other hardwood with floors made of heart pine and casings and moldings made from poplar. At the time of construction, these homes typically did not have indoor plumbing. Today, bathrooms are often located in shed-roof additions to the house. The structure at 305 North Highland Avenue displays all of these characteristics. Jakes' research has also revealed that the porch of this home was enlarged about the time plumbing was added, around 1915. The unique fluted square columns on this home would have been added during that time.



**Molly and Steve Poleskey,
320 East College Street**

When R. C. and Kittie Rose arrived from Arkansas in 1911 with the intention of building a Craftsman two-story bungalow-style home in Murfreesboro, they had no idea that almost 110 years later Steve and Molly Poleskey would fall in love with all of the efforts that went into their original design. While many Craftsman houses in the city have been razed, the Poleskeys bought the home with the idea of lovingly restoring it to its former state while updating it for a modern family.

Transplants from California, Molly Taylor-Polesky, PhD, is a history professor at Middle Tennessee State University, where she teaches Digital History and Steve left his job in management at Google to jump into the construction industry as a partner in Hedgewood Builders.

“When the real estate agent brought us to the house the first time,” said Taylor-Poleskey, “I was blown away. I had never really noticed the house before, but my jaw dropped when we walked through that four-foot oak door and glimpsed the treasures inside. The house felt grand, but also cozy. The woodwork was all original with small windows that still let in lots of light. It was amazing no one had ever painted over the old wood.”

The overhanging roof and large front porch are a defining feature of a Craftsman bungalow, which the Roses modified to create their home. The Poleskeys kept the decorative rafters and the original fish-scale siding, but they made design improvements to the original front porch, adding to the time-honored detail of the home.



Cynthia and Ronnie Martin, 401 East Lytle Street

From circa 1815 to 1868, the carriage drive from Oaklands Mansion extended to East Lytle Street where this charming frame house was constructed in 1902 by S. T. Dunaway. There have been five families to live in the home including the Dunaways, Pittards, Downs, Cottles and now the Martins. The Pittards' granddaughter was married in the home. The original lot was larger and the Dunaway family had a general store on the property. That building is still there today, but was deeded to the adjacent lot many years ago.

The American Foursquare was a popular architectural choice from around 1890 until the 1930s. American Foursquare homes can be found across the county in neighborhoods with small lots where taking advantage of every square inch of space is important. This house had no plumbing until a 1930s addition to the rear of the structure provided space for a kitchen and bathroom. The door to the primary bathroom downstairs is from the Divine Loraine Hotel in Philadelphia, circa 1892.

The original upstairs sleeping porch, later enclosed with windows, is one of the Martin's favorite spots for coffee and reading because of its perfect views of their courtyard and neighborhood. The courtyard, created in 2021, includes a covered living space with a wood burning fireplace, new landscaping, gardens, river stones, accent lighting, and a pool & spa. The swing on the front porch is where you can find the Martins on most evenings, recapping their day and talking to neighbors walking by.

The small building behind the house, facing North Maney Avenue, was the location of Johnny Matthew's store in the early 1900s. It was representative of the almost extinct neighborhood grocery, complete with cast iron potbellied stove and peppermint sticks. Winfred Dunaway, who lived next door at 310 North Maney Avenue, operated a grocery store there from 1921 to 1974. The Dunaway store provided grocery delivery to neighbors using a bicycle outfitted with dual baskets, both front and rear.





**Lindsey and Thomas Jennings,
449 East College Street**

"In 2018, we purchased 449 East College Street from Mrs. Mary Baughman. We wanted to honor and respect the rich history and rhythm of downtown Murfreesboro so we fell in love with the idea of an American FourSquare style for our home. Jamie Taylor helped us with the design which was later approved by the Historic Zoning Commission. Immediately following the outbreak of the pandemic, we were spending more time at home and we thought what better time to start building than now. We broke ground on May 1st of 2020 and moved our family of four daughters into the home on December 23rd of the same year. Just in time for Christmas!

As frequent travelers to the city of New Orleans, we knew we wanted to incorporate some of our favorite design styles that are common there such as copper lanterns, unusual artwork, and big front porches. We wanted our home to have a very traditional exterior with a more modern interior as you'll see when you enter our home.

It's not often that a person gets the opportunity to build in the historic district and we're so grateful we were able to do so. Living downtown has been such a joy for us and our children. In just this short year, we've already made so many wonderful friends from all different backgrounds that are just steps away. We wouldn't want to be anywhere else!"