

1326 MORDECAI DR. The Newsom-Jones House 1924

1326 Mordecai Drive is a classic Craftsman-style bungalow. Characteristic features include the deep eaves, supported by diagonal knee braces, and the exposed rafter tails. The engaged front porch is supported by battered square-section wooden posts on brick piers. The Craftsman-style six-over-one windows are particularly fine.

There are 1760 square feet of heated living space. The downstairs has a living room, dining room, kitchen, bedroom and bathroom. The upstairs has two bedrooms, one bathroom, a sun room, and an office/studio. There is a small attic. There is a basement under about two-thirds of the house. Part of the floor is concrete, and part of it is dirt. It is accessible from a stairway on the first floor. It is fairly dry as basements go. There is a 7' by 9' storage shed attached to the back of the house.

1326 Mordecai Dr. was ordered from the Sears Catalog; it was known as the Elmwood or the Sunbeam. <http://pinterest.com/pin/5559199510395272/> It is the fourth house pictured and described in this blog entry by Rose Thornton: <http://www.searshomes.org/index.php/2011/02/09/abundance-of-kit-homes-raleigh-nc/> The house was built with optional extra rooms in the rear, and a larger kitchen. It was ordered and built in 1924 by developer Bolling S. Newsom of Newsom Brothers Real Estate. It was one of the early homes in the Mordecai Place development. This development was carved out of the property of the Mordecai Estate in 1922. It was designed and platted by Dan Allen, who also designed the Cameron Park development.

Bolling Newsom sold the house to John V. Jones, a partner in Crystal Dry Cleaners and a salesman with Nowell Brothers Furniture. Jones and his wife Violetta moved in that year. By 1926, the Joneses lived in the house along with four unrelated adults who boarded with them. Nevertheless, the Joneses defaulted on their mortgage in 1930 and lost the house.

In 1972, the house was acquired by F. D. & Eula Edwards. They divided the house into two apartments. They added the downstairs bathroom and the kitchen bumpout at this time. They lived next door at 1324, and the two houses formed their kingdom for several decades.

Karl Brown bought the house from their daughter in 2002. He sold it to his brother Matthew Brown in 2006. Matthew Brown restored it to a single-family house for his sister Clare and her children to live in. The copper standing-seam roof was installed by Christian Nonino in 2007, who specializes in traditional metal roofing, and was asked to repair the copper on the Biltmore House. The downstairs bathroom was also re-done in 2007. It features white subway tiles on the walls, and colored tiles on the floor. The stained glass windows are from England, of the same period as the house. The HVAC was installed in 2007. There are two separate systems: a gas furnace in the basement for the first floor and a heat pump in the attic for the second floor, with an air conditioner that cools the whole house. The water heater was installed in 2005. The exterior was painted by Edouard Root in 2007-2008, using Benjamin Moore paint; any wood that had any rot was replaced with top-quality pine from Capitol City Lumber. The front porch decking was installed by Mark Coppedge in 2009. It is Brazilian walnut, also known as ipe (pronounced ee-pay), a very hard and durable wood that does not need to be painted. The shed on the back of the house was added by Mark Coppedge in 2010. The interior was painted in 2009, and some rooms were repainted in 2012. SO, while the renovation of the house is not complete, that which is done is of the very highest quality.

The driveway between 1324 and 1326 is a shared drive; the property line goes down the middle of the driveway. There is a deeded easement created in 1931, found at book 616, page 20 at the Wake County

Register of Deeds, allowing use by the residents of 1324 and 1326. The driveway on the left side of the house belongs solely to 1326. The back yard had been a concrete parking pad, connected to both driveways. The concrete was removed in 2008, along with seven dump-truck loads of gravel and clay under it. Then six dump-truck loads of compost were brought in. There are two stacks of antique bricks at the back of the yard, salvaged from old houses. They were intended to be made into a brick patio, but this was never done.

The trees on the curb strip are a redbud and a crepe myrtle. On the slope behind the sidewalk are a hackberry and two redbuds, and some yuccas. The ground cover is vinca major and minor. The large trees behind them are a pin oak and an eastern white cedar, or juniper. There is a lantana at the base of the cedar tree. There is a Scotch tea rose between the cedar and the driveway; it has tiny pink blossoms in May. There is a small white oak tree planted between the cedar and the house. The huge bush in front of the front porch is a forsythia; it has yellow blooms in February. In front of it is an oak-leaf hydrangea; it has white blooms in June. Between the oak and the house are a peach tree and a red bud. Against the left side of the house are a loropetalum and several nandinas. Along the fence between 1326 and 1328 is ornamental grass, mulberries and ligustrums. In the back of the back yard is a magnolia, a pine, and a shrub with fragrant white flowers. The large tree in the neighboring yard is a willow oak. The small trees between 1324 and 1326 are Japanese maples and cryptomerias. In the corner beside the shed is forsythia. The large shrub by the air conditioner is a euonymus. There are two turk's cap hibiscus plants – one by the air conditioner unit and another near the chimney. They have brilliant red flowers in the summer. There is a small gardenia also on that side of the house.

1326 Mordecai Dr. deeds:

12068:2180 7/19/2006 Karl Brown to Matthew Brown

9727:1631 11/12/2002 Carol E. Jackson to Karl Brown

1995 By will to Carol Edwards Jackson

2114:152 1/1/72 Estate of Annie Thompson to FD& Eula Edwards

1151:549 5/31/54 Roland G. Viverette to E.L. & Pauline Culbreth

968:053 4/30/47 Blanche W. Viverette to Roland G. Viverette

915:696 1/25/45 Wm. W. & Cora Parker to G.G. & Blanche Viverette

827:414 6/11/40 Tenvacar Realty to Wm. W. & Cora Parker

621:245 6/30/31 Guarantee Land & Title to Tenvacar Realty

616:020 4/16/31 Driveway easement between Guarantee Title & Land and N.E. & Mishew Edgerton

595:20 4/11/30 Geo. U. Baucom Jr., trustee to Guarantee Land & Title (Joneses default on loan 3/15/30; Guarantee Title was high bidder at \$4,000)

509:203 12/1/26 Deed of trust between Joneses and Geo. U. Baucum Jr., trustee

451:220 9/24 B[olling] S. Newsom to J. V. & Violetta Jones (Rev \$2.00) Bought subject to deeds of trust of \$3500 and \$2300

Newsom was a developer, vice-president of Newsom Brothers Real Estate. That deed refers to land as lot 46 as specified on plat map on page 110 of Book of Maps 1920 (BM1920), dated Sept 11, 1922.

Directories:

1924 RCD: No listing

1925 RCD: John V. Jones (salesman Nowell Bros. Furniture) & W. I. Powell

1926 RCD: J. V. Jones, G. A. Cox, Mrs. M. E. Thornton, Mrs. S. V. Parker, Miss India Edmunds