

## 150 Tillman Lane – A History

*Written by Stan and David Beasley who are volunteering as docents for the tour.*

### **Betty Little Beasley**

July 8, 1927 – April 5, 2007

Born in Athens Georgia

Resided on Barber Street

Graduated from Athens High School 1944

Graduated from University of Georgia 1948 with BS in Psychology

Employed by University of Georgia testing returning WWII veterans for advanced placement credits and testing rural school teachers for certification. Became “Homemaker” upon her marriage.

### **Harold Edwin Beasley**

February 12, 1922 – May 3, 1996

Born in rural Brooks County Georgia

Graduated from Dixie High School 1939

Graduated from Western Kentucky University 1943 with BS in Accounting

Inducted into Army Air Core in 1943 and remained state side for the duration of the war as a supply officer

Studied Accounting Law at the University of Indiana in 1945-1946

Moved to Athens in 1946. Employed by M.S. Cooley Accounting Firm in 1946 as a CPA.

Purchased the firm in 1973 with Lon Rice to Create Beasley & Rice CPAs specializing in the Textile, Banking, and Coca Cola Bottling businesses in NE Georgia.

Mom and Dad became engaged in 1954 and set their wedding date for March 5, 1955. They began building the house before they were married and moved in around July 1955. At the time, this side of Athens was not even considered suburban but rather “in the country” as much of the neighborhood was former farm land, the Beechwood Shopping Center was an airplane landing strip and the Alps Shopping Center was a Drive In Theater. The city limit at the time ran along Fortson Dr. and Tillman Lane was in the county allowing two families on the street to keep horses in their back yards.

Young families moving into this area considered themselves somewhat like “suburban pioneers” with many of them bucking tradition and embracing all things Mid-Century Modern. In the early stages of house planning my Mom found herself flipping through a magazine while waiting for her appointment at a Doctor’s office one day. She came upon an image of a façade of Mid-Century Modern home which she tore out of the magazine and which became the basis of the house.

Architects Legare Hoge and Gwen “Tickey” Long were employed and from the image of a façade the house was drafted. The contractor was Cecil Gunter who build many structures around Athens. An interior designer was employed to furnish the house which was decorated with many iconic Mid-Century Modern furnishings from such designers ay Jens Risom, Bertoia, and Eero Saarinen. Among the various blue prints drafted was one with a detailed placement of furniture with several of the pieces still in place to this day. The bricks for the house were recycled from an antebellum home which had been recently torn down on Prince Avenue.

Brickworks were one of Athens’ major industries in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and these bricks were made my hand in Clarke County from local clay. The first cool fall day in the home Mom and Dad attempted to have their first fire in the living room fire place but quickly discovered that it would not draw smoke. As a result, it was merely ornamental from that point forward. After the birth of their second child the building off the carport was added for additional storage space and the same Team of Architects and Builder were employed to ensure that the addition was in keeping with the original structure. In the early 1960’s steps were added in the back yard to the top of the hill that gave better access to a grape arbor that was planted in the woods. The steps were “gifted” to Mom and Dad by the Bobbin Mill Garden Club where my Mom was a longtime member and former President. Also around this time the Clark County Board of Education decided to sell off some of its property behind Tillman Lane at which time the back of the lot was extended to its current boundary. In 1992 the windows were replaced, central AC was added, and the back bathroom and bedroom were expanded. With this expansion and outdoor closet off the patio was eliminated.