

Graham-Carrol House History

The Graham-Carrol House. The land was originally purchased for \$55 by William P. Fite during the land rush. Fite was underage at the time and had to petition for the right of majority in order to purchase the tracts of land. This lot was then purchased by Otis and Hattie Graham for \$7,000 and the original structure, complete with carriage house and servants' quarters, was constructed. The Graham family had to mortgage the home in the 20s, and eventually could not make the payments.

The home was purchased by a new owner and within a year, burned to the foundation. It is commonly believed this was intentionally done for the insurance money. Rebuilt in 1935 by Edna and Fred Carroll, one of the founders of Texaco. The Carrolls simply took the bricks from the original structure, cleaned them, and used them to create the home as it stands today. Using railroad steel for the foundation and infrastructure, hand-cut marble for the hall and solarium floors, blue slate shingles from the nearby Fort Gibson commissary, a cut crystal chandelier, as well as a rooftop patio attached to the attic for sleeping during the warm months.

Over the years, the Carrolls added a home elevator running between the 1st and 2nd floors as well as a home laboratory (now a handicap-accessible bedroom and bathroom). Upon Fred's death in 1972, the home was in the sole possession of Edna Carroll who faithfully maintained it until she sold it to Harold and Betty Dealy, descendants of her and Fred, in 1981. Edna is said to have boasted that the floors and floorboards all still had their original varnish! The Dealys promptly sold the property to the Leflers, who first opened the home as a Bed and Breakfast and added the whirlpool tubs, expanded the solarium, and added a wraparound patio complete with Koi pond.

The Graham-Carrol house operated as a Bed and Breakfast until the current owners purchased it in 2020. The carriage house and servants' quarters which were part of the original property still stand. The servants' quarters were very recently reconsolidated with the main home's lot in order to preserve and potentially restore it for use as a mother-in-law suite, or air bnb location.

--With Regards,

Adrian J. Whitaker