

TIMELESS

BY KARA HUMPHREY



photos by Molly Kendrick

This historic English Brick Tudor home was built in 1935. The architect, Lambert DeKoning, also built St. Edward's Catholic Church in Texarkana in 1922. The home's current owners, Summer and Cory Floyd, were a wealth of knowledge about the rich history of their beautiful home and were happy to share it with us.

The main house on this property is 3,200 square feet and has three bedrooms and two-and-a-half baths. This property also includes a one bedroom, one bath, fully equipped carriage house. Originally, the exterior featured diamond style windows, brick, stucco, and timber facade with a stone wall enclosing the perimeter. "In 1935, the world was in the middle of the Great Depression," said Summer, "so, it's quite impressive that a home of this style was being built while so many Americans were struggling."

The Weigel family was the original occupant of this timeless beauty. Mr. H.T. Weigel was a local bank president. According to word-of-mouth accounts passed on to the Floyds, "Mrs. Weigel oversaw the daily building process and sat out in the yard watching the workers." They had one daughter, and Summer shared that they have been told that "she used to sneak out of her bedroom window to meet her suitor, whom she later married in front of the fireplace in our living room." She, JoAnn Weigel Little, recently passed away in her nineties.

The property comprises the main house, along with a separate carriage house and summer house. In the 1900s, the carriage house contained horse-drawn carriages, which were used before automobiles controlled the roads. Now, it is a fully renovated guest house with a full kitchen. An attached two-car garage was later

added to the main house. The sunroom was originally a screened porch. "When it was enclosed, we've been told that Mrs. Weigel had a pipe installed to filter her husband's tobacco smoke out through the ceiling." The Summer House, which was an outdoor cooking and relaxing area for families during warm summer months before central heat and air was common, is still in use. "We had the roof removed due to damage but kept the original fireplace. We use the patio area for entertaining and it is also a basketball court for our son," said Summer.

"In 2019, we did a complete exterior update and had a mortar wash applied over all exterior brick, fresh paint, new lighting, and new garage and front doors." Crown molding can be found throughout the home, along with ten-foot ceilings that are illuminated with natural light from original double-hung counter-weighted sash

windows. "We love our old windows and have kept them all, except for a new set in our family room upstairs."

Cory said, "although we have maintained much of the original home, some fixtures have moved on. The original chandelier was so loved by a previous owner of the home that, when they moved north across the street, they took the light with them. The fixture now at our home was then moved south across the street to fill the vacancy—a chandelier swap, if you will. We're happy with the end result; we have an antique light in our dining room with its own unique story."

The Floyd family is only the third to occupy this special home, so it has been well loved and well cared for since the 1930s. There are a multitude of things to love about it, but when asked what their favorite parts are, they shared, "Texarkana has a rich history





and our neighborhood is a treasure of the past. We love that all the homes in our neighborhood tell a story. We live around the block from Ross Perot's childhood home, for instance, and the Temple family once lived just down the street. Despite being 'in the city,' we have a large yard and we also love the close proximity to the children's school, and Cory's work and our church, St. James Episcopal Church, which are both downtown. Our neighborhood is eclectic and fun, and we have wonderful neighbors."

The Floyd's design aesthetic is coastal with a mix of modern and traditional elements. Their collected items, artwork and color schemes all stem from their love of the beach. "It's calming and comforting to us and reminds us of our many happy memories spent there. Cory is from the Texas coast and our children and I all share

his love of the beach. His background in sailing and racing sailboats also influences our decor."

The beautiful woodwork and attention to detail the original builders put into this home have stood the test of time. It is full of old character and charm. "As we update and add new features, we want to honor the history but add modern functionality where we appropriately can." Since buying this property, several renovations and remodels

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have been completed, including a complete exterior renovation, carriage house/guest house renovations with a full kitchen added, and a second-floor family room restoration. Currently, plans are in the works for a full kitchen and dining room renovation, and the master bath will follow. "It goes on forever!"

Structural changes have been few. "This house is so well built from the craftsmen of the time," said Summer. "We love that our home is uniquely ours and no other home has all the same elements and features. The ups and downs of owning a historic home are all worth it because it's ours and we love it for all the joy it brings." 🏠



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