

TECH TERRACE U.N.I.T.

Home Tour 2022



2618 25th

Home of Steve Yandell

Construction on the home at 2618-25th was completed in 1945 and commanded an initial sales price of \$10,500. The McNeills were the first family to call it home. In 1945, Edwin B. McNeill and Maude Rivers McNeill moved to Lubbock from Waco when Edwin became manager of the Lubbock agency of Behen's Wholesale Drug Company. Edwin was a registered pharmacist and had previously operated a pharmacy with his brother in Valley Mills. The McNeills were members of the First United Methodist Church as well as other social and business organizations. Edwin and Maude were blessed with two daughters, Jean and Luanne. Both were graduates of Lubbock High School. With a growing family, they added the current master bedroom in 1953. They called on Forrest Lumber Company to be the contractor for the new 18'X21' addition.

Having always loved the Tech Terrace area, the current owner purchased the home in 2008 for his children while they were at Texas Tech. Upon graduation, the house was a rental for a period of time. The owner decided he wanted to live in Tech Terrace and began renovating and updating. His game plan was to "leave it better than you found it." He has indeed fulfilled his plan. The kitchen and bathrooms have been completely renovated, moving some walls, adding period updates and modernizing for the way we live today. You'll notice new doors, kitchen cabinets, moldings and tile as period updates. Several of his family's collectibles are part of the décor. An antique candy dispenser, red fire call box, liquor cabinet, the kitchen island butcher block and old coke box only add to the specialness of this home.





3315 21st

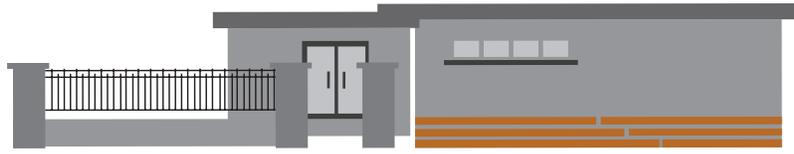
Home of Suzanne & Brad Blake

Built in 1940, this Mid-Century, traditional home has three bedrooms, 2 full baths with 2 half-baths. The owners have lived in this house for 25 years and raised their children here. Every piece of artwork, every item sitting around has a story that this writer hopes the owners will be present to tell you about. When you first walk in, notice the painting hanging to your right on the blue wall. This painting was the first piece of art that the couple purchased during their first year of marriage 35 years ago. They had always loved cycling together and this painting was perfect for their first acquisition.

In 2017, after the children were up and grown, the couple moved to the back house, which you can also tour today, to allow for a total gutting and remodeling of the house by MCR Custom Home Builder, Craig Roberson. The owner and Denise Pope collaborated on the interior design to incorporate the extensive art accumulated by the owners. Of note: the painting in the dining room was painted by Dr. Leesa Condry, the owner's sister, who served many years on medical missions in Africa. She often painted portraits of her patients. The kitchen was actually designed around the spectacular wooden kitchen island which lies beneath three unique French dragon light fixtures. Denise Pope cleverly designed and organized the huge, blue cabinet, which houses appliances, spices, and cooking necessities for the owners to cook and bake. When you proceed to the back living room, you'll see a wall full of large landscape photographs. These are scenes from the couple's home at Sand Creek Ranch, Southland, TX. Many years ago, the Lockney Train Depot was moved to this site. See the coffee table book that shows the building process and the completed home. In this back living room, notice the light fixture crafted by Lubbock metal artist, Noah Wakefield, and notice the upright piano. This impressive Steinway piano is over 125 years old and belonged to Brad's mother.

The master bedroom is remarkable. Keep moving through the room full of art into the bathroom that houses Brad's study. Again, hopefully the owners will be around to tell you about all the artwork and photographs. Every piece in this eclectic home goes perfectly with the room it inhabits and has a history unique on its own. When you enter the daughter's (now 30 years old) bedroom, you'll walk through a chalkboard entrance. Here, her many friends over her life have drawn symbols, pictures, and autographs. This is the same daughter whose childhood, award-winning drawings are displayed in different rooms. So much to say about so many things in this house. Please ask questions!





3211 19th

Home of Doug & Lori Rice-Spearman

Built in 1956, this Mid-Century/Modern home has four bedrooms, three baths, a 3-car garage and a huge lot adorned with some of the largest pecan trees in the city. Most Lubbockites with children growing up in the 70s, 80s, 90s and early 2000s, will immediately recognize this home to be the home of now deceased, Ms. Gene Hildreth, a long-beloved swimming teacher, who “taught Lubbock to swim” for many, many years. She coached the YWCA Swim Team and the Red Cross Swimming and Water Safety courses for 45 years.

The current owners purchased the home in 2021 and hired Craig Roberson of MCR Custom Homes to restructure and remodel the entire house. The home has literally come alive under the decorating talents of the home owners as well as of Craig’s mother, Debbie Roberson, who brought many of the pieces of artwork, sculpture, and design into the 3200 square-foot home. The home provides the visitor comfort as you walk through the particular harmony of soft grays, charcoal grays, whites, silvers and golds. Don’t miss the owner’s “man-cave” in the basement where he can enjoy good TV and the opportunity to exercise. The home now provides the couple with open, peaceful space to host parties and family. The home has been totally transformed to the Mid-Century beauty it deserves.

The backdoor invites you back to the 1900 square-foot pool house and pool where the owners boast about teaching their 6-year-old grandson how to dive the 11 feet in the deep end. The pool continues to provide good exercise and joy to the next generations.





3117 19th

Home of Scott & Kendra Burris

This unique home facing Texas Tech was built in 1949 by S.S. Forrest, who was the proprietor of Forrest Lumber Yard. The Forrests made extensive additions in 1967, adding a master suite, the Big Room and a lushly finished out basement. Curiously, Mr. Forrest documented his weight in the master closet, from the year of the new wing until 1982. The markings have never been painted over, so go take a peek to see how well he did on staying trim!

The home then went through a hand-full of owner changes including current Tech Terrace neighbor Don Richards, as well as Lance McIntosh of Robert Lance Jewelers and his wife Dr. Holly Haning, who built the lovely blue hutch in the kitchen herself.

John and Charlotte Huffaker then took the helm and gave the home's mechanical systems a much needed overhaul. In addition, Charlotte's passion for gardening is evident in the lovely and diverse landscape design.

The installation of the extensive landscaping brought about a heartwarming moment of two neighbors. When the Huffakers offered to take down a dying tree near the property line for the elderly, long-time neighbor next door, the gentleman declined, saying he did not want to have to water a new tree. The Huffakers replaced the tree, and ran their irrigation system into the neighbor's yard to share their water with him. Stories like this abound in our neighborhood, and it just felt right to pass this one along here!

Current owners, Scott and Kendra Burris moved in relatively recently and have added their own layer of personal décor to give this home a very up-to-the- moment feel. Eclectic finds from trips to Round Top mingle with family heirlooms, like the hats that hang over the mantel which each belonged to one of the men in Kendra's ranching family in nearby Idalou. The show-stopping large piece of art in the Big Room is by artist Jeff Wheeler, which depicts Kendra's father and great grandfather. But the real WOW moment is the dining room wallpaper, a nod to an early 20th century floral, but with a very decidedly modern feel.

This home is the perfect example of how the beloved and storied homes of Tech Terrace can be given an entirely new life, as a new generation takes them on and makes them uniquely their own. And, seeing as Scott is a professor at TTU, the location is pretty hard to beat!





2806 21st

Home of Leisha Womble

Driving or walking along 21st Street, this home has probably grabbed your attention over the past couple of years due to its current owner, who meticulously keeps the yard and lavishly decorates its porches year-round. Leisha Womble actually lives in another neighborhood, but her love of charming older homes led her to buy this and several others in Tech Terrace. Each one has been given her special brand of love and attention to historic detail. How lucky we, and these houses are!

Leisha refers to the home as The Bean House, as it was the long-time home of some of Lubbock's earliest and finest residents, Russell and Pauline Bean. Russell Bean's father, George R. Bean was one of the earliest pioneers here, and Roscoe Wilson Elementary's twin school, Bean Elementary, was named in his honor. Russell and Pauline Bean set a lifetime-long example to us all as avid volunteers, in almost every aspect of our community. Pauline was quoted as saying, "If I ever have anything said about me, I would hope it would be that I made a difference, that Lubbock is a better place because I was here." That she did, and so should we all!

The current owner takes this legacy seriously, as she converted this lovely, albeit dated home, into a true showcase of an earlier era. Though Leisha loves all things old, be on the lookout for whimsical twists on tradition and note her bold use of color. She proves that charm and vintage do not have to be stodgy. Instead it feels fresh, fun and vibrant.

Please take your time taking in every detail in this charming home. And soak up the good vibes from a house that has been occupied by some of Lubbock's most giving people, right up to today.





3311 21st

Home of Anne Harrell

The home at 3311-21st could be featured in a decorating magazine. The owner's sense of style is evident from the curb. New additions of the curved driveway, landscaping and copper accents welcome you into the interior. The home was built in 1940.

The owner kept many of the original components of the home. The kitchen did need some updating including moving the peninsula. She was offered advice to open up the kitchen to the dining room but chose to keep the original footprint of both rooms. The kitchen cabinets were updated with paint and hardware. New appliances and countertops modernize and now fit the needs of the owner. The marble countertops in the bathrooms were unique and were maintained. New cabinets, bathtub and shower were added to both bathrooms. The master bedroom was updated with French doors leading to the outdoor patio bringing in light and a view to the outdoor entertaining space. Refinishing the original wood floors, adding new lighting in most rooms and adding her unique and inviting decorative touches complete the remodeling. You'll fall in love with this small home updated in high style.





Gertrude Wolf Miller

Gertrude Miller is remembered fondly by the organizers of Tech Terrace UNIT Neighborhood Association. Gertrude was a skilled teacher who gave loving attention to her students and taught in one of LISD's first open-concept elementary schools. Later, Gertrude became an LISD administrator whose guidance helped other teachers succeed in many schools.

Gertrude and her husband Lon were gracious hosts in their home for the UNIT Holiday Home tours. She followed that by doing valuable research on tour homes and other volunteer work for many of the following tours. Her giving nature is best described by a member of her study club: "Even after she was diagnosed with cancer, as president she chaired our meetings and cheered us on with enthusiasm about the project we were doing."

Gertrude Miller's legacy continues as a model to inspire similar dedication of others to the ongoing future and preservation of this historic neighborhood.

