

## McCrorey Heights Research Project: House History Sheet

For the McCrorey Heights Neighborhood Association, president Natalie Kennedy Beard

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Person filling out this sheet \_\_Joseph A. De Laine, Jr.\_\_\_\_ email \_\_  
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### Address:

1706 Washington Avenue, Charlotte, NC

1<sup>st</sup> occupant:

- Joseph Armstrong De Laine, Sr. (retired clergyman) and Mattie Belton De Laine (retired public school teacher)

The venue for this home was created by purchase of a segment of land from Joseph and Marjorie Belton to the east and by land purchased on the west side owned by Charley and Evelyn Maxwell. Thus creating a legal size lot suitable for erecting a home.

Building completed and initially occupied in 1971 (approximately 20 years after the community was established).

### More about them, community activities, interesting accomplishments, where from, where educated.

#### Joseph Armstrong De Laine, Sr. (1898-1974)

- Born and reared in South Carolina

-Received a BA Degree in education and a Bachelor of Theology degree from Allen University, Columbia, SC. Awarded an honorary doctorate's degree from Allen University and from Monrovia College, Monrovia, Liberia.

-Served as a church pastor for approximately 45 years in South Carolina and New York States

-Founded De Laine Waring Church in Buffalo, New York

- Taught in segregated public schools in South Carolina approximately 16 years.

-Active in local South Carolina civil rights leadership roles from 1940 to 1955. Particularly a major role in the of school desegregation. His activities culminated in the destruction of his home by arson in 1951, the destruction of the church (also by arson) where he was assigned as pastor in 1955 and he was given to leave town and the state within ten days or die in October 1955. Upon his refusal to leave an armed

posse arrived apparently to implement the consequence of their demands. He returned their gunfire, escaped and ultimately found haven in New York State.

-He was posthumously awarded The US Congressional Gold Medal in 2004 for his local leadership role in civil rights efforts initiated in South Carolina that ultimately led to the May 17, 1954 US Supreme Court Decision referred to as *Brown v. Board et al.*

### **Mattie Belton De Laine (1907-1999)**

-Received a BA Degree in elementary Education from Allen University, Columbia, S C. Additional educational studies were completed at the University of Buffalo, Adelphi College and Hofstra College.

-Most notable of her activities other than family and profession was her supportive role in the civil right activities led by her husband during the 1940s and early 1950s.

-Taught in public schools of South Carolina and New York State for approximately 43 years.

### **Children's names? And where did they go on to do? Contact info?**

(Note-Children were adults and not living at home in 1971).

### **Joseph A. De Laine, Jr.**

-Born and reared in South Carolina

-Received Bachelor's degree from Lincoln University (PA). Additional graduate work in Biochemistry at New Your University.

-Korean War Veteran –US Army

-9 years experience in basic cancer research, and 20 experience in pharmaceutical industrial management.

- 8 years a volunteer member of Board of Trustees for the New Jersey Youth Correctional System

-Upon retirement moved to Charlotte from New Jersey

-Served two years as president of the McCrorey Heights Community Org.

-Served 9 years a member of the Board for the NW Corridor CD.

-Appointed by President George W. Bush as a Commissioner on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Presidential Board of Commissioners for *Brown v. Board el al.*

**Ophelia De Laine Gona, PhD**

- Born and reared in South Carolina
- Received Bachelor's degree from Johnson C. Smith University. Received MS, MA and PHd from City College of New York.
- First African American female to be admitted to the Peace Corp.
- Served three years teaching at the elementary/High School level.
- served approximately 40 years teaching at the college and university level. Including two years as an exchange Professor (one in Zimbabwe and One in China).
- Author of "Dawn of Desegregation."
- Two children born and reared in New Jersey

Shantha Gona Farris – Graduate of Dartmouth College .

One Daughter - Kira – Rising Senior at Dartmouth College

Raj. P. Gona – Graduate University Vermont

**Brumit Belton De Laine (deceased)**

- Born and reared in South Carolina
- Bachelor's degree from Johnson C. Smith University, MA degree from New York University and Certificate for graduate study in Education from UNC /Chapel Hill.
- 5 years as teacher in High School Driver Education
- 21 years Director Drive Education, CMS, Charlotte
- 5 years Director of Student Placement, CMS, Charlotte
- Volunteer activities included Habitat for Humanity of Charlotte, Second Harvest Food Bank, Swann Fellowship and Briggs-De Laine-Pearson Foundation (Summerton, SC).
- Three children born in New York State and reared in Charlotte, NC

Boris B. De Laine - Graduate of North Carolina University, Raleigh.

Son – Belton - rising junior University of Maryland/College Park

Brenna B. De Laine, MD - Graduate of Spellman College and Meharry Medical School

Daughter-Jai Brenay – Graduate Spellman College. Entering SC Medical college/Greenville, SC

Son – Matthew – Rising Sophomore Wofford College

Buane B. De Laine – Graduate of South Carolina State University, Orangeburg

Daughter- Graduate College of Richmond & PhD Univ. of Maryland

Daughter- Brittany – Graduate Towson University

**Are old photos available of the house? Its residents, Their community activities?**

**Later Occupant(s), including community activities, accomplishments and children:**

**Current occupant/owner**

Joseph A. De Laine, Jr.

**Builder**

Gulledge and Holmes, Charlotte, NC

**Architect**

Alexander Tudor, Nutley New Jersey

The only modification to the original plans was the enclosure of the rear porch, about 5 years after initial occupancy