# THE CARTER FAMILY HOME
## 126 Grannis Ave. Titusville, Florida 32780

(Roz Foster 6/7/15)

Built a block from Main Street about 1915, the two-story wood house constructed in the Cracker Vernacular style reflects Florida living at the turn of the century.

Patricia and Brig. Gen. Ellerbe Winn Carter moved into the house in 1946 after General Carter's retirement from the Army at the end of World War II. The couple left Fort Bragg with three young children – Robert (Barker), Mary Winn and Patricia. In the next dozen years or so, the family grew to nine children with the arrival of siblings Winifred, Molly, Lila, Ted, Clare, and Douglas.

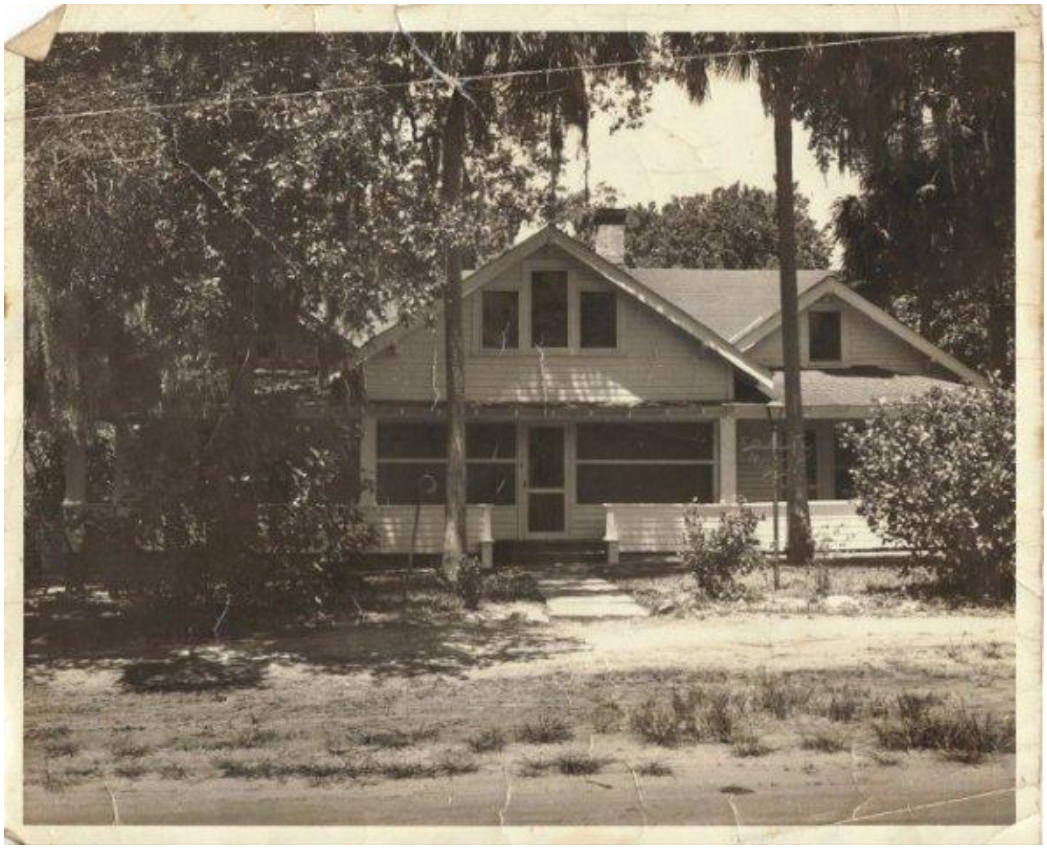
The following is a description of the Carter Family Home as remembered by son Ted Carter and daughter Molly Carter Calhoun.

Wide open porches extended across the east and west sides of the house. Breezes from nearby live oak trees gave relief from the heat, and those same breezes passed through a wide screened porch that kept the mosquitoes away. An inside porch (still there today) is bordered by the two open porches on the east side. Large roof over-hangs provided protection from the sun and the steep pitches of the roof provided quick drainage.

A wide driveway made of coquina gravel extended from the west side of the house to the east side opening on Grannis Avenue. Sidewalks made of coquina ran alongside the front of the house, and an extension of the walkway ran from the porch entrance on the front of the house to Grannis Avenue. Open porches were reached by slate stone steps.

For three-quarters of the house's 100-year life, orange groves, live oak and magnolia trees fronted two sides of the house, and Bougainvillea and poinsettias covered the north and south sides.

In the early 1960s, the Carters installed white aluminum siding on the entire exterior of the large house. The west porch was removed to extend the dining room and the roof was replaced at that time.



Inside the house, windows and open areas are situated to take in the summer breezes and the crisp coolness of fall. The three fireplaces were located in the living room, the large entry room and dining room. The tiles around two of the fireplaces were made from native Florida materials and the fireplace in the dining room was surrounded by brick. Molly recalls that the children would get dressed for school on the few cold winter mornings around the dining room fireplace.

Eventually, central heat using two furnaces was installed by Mr. Carter.

A trio of high-ceiling living rooms with wood floors served as a central hallway leading to the dining room, which at one time the Carters enclosed with French doors on two sides. One set of the doors remain, leading into a room next to the kitchen. The formal dining room had built -in cabinets with lead glass doors. The doors leading into the house from the front and back porches (later closed in to make a larger breakfast room) are old lead glass almost floor to ceiling.

Facing the front of the house you will see a door on the right side of the porch. That door leads to the room that was used as the library and inside the house are two other doors that lead to the library, with floor to ceiling shelves.

The large chimney built on the outside of the house and located on the south side is constructed of native coquina rock. Molly remembers, "That chimney was so nice to look at. I would climb out onto the roof, go to the far gable end of the roof to get a close look at the chimney. The top side of it had a cross made of brick, and I always took comfort in this taking it as an outward sign God took care of the house."

Until the late 1960s Grannis Avenue and Blanton Street (located on the south side) were 2-way dirt streets. The streets were improved through the City of Titusville's "Project Betterment." The paving of Grannis Avenue required lowering the roadway and the city installed a sidewalk that extended much of the length of South Grannis Avenue.

Lila Carter replaced the stairway in the early 1990s. They lead upstairs to a small bedroom on the left and another larger bedroom on the south side of the house. Each bedroom has closed passageways leading to the roof. A pair of rooms are situated on the east and west sides just

before the entrance to the larger bedroom. Fire escapes that were below the main windows of the upstairs bedrooms are now gone.

In May 1995, The Brevard Heritage Council presented a Brevard Register of Historic Buildings Plaque and certificate in recognition of outstanding preservation and maintenance of a historic building to Lila for “Carter Manor”.

In many years, the home was a gathering place for social occasions that ranged from dinner parties, teen parties, weddings and large family reunions. Current and former Titusville residents recall their visits to the house with much fondness.

April 2015



# 126 Grannis Ave, Titusville, Florida 32796

***Parcel ID: 22-35-04-AU-00006.0-0022.00  Tax Acct: 2201149***

***Note: Brevard County Tax Records have the following information for property history:***

Plat Bk 2, page 12 – Park Addition to Titusville 1913
DB 58, page 462 Robbins & Graham Addition to Titusville,
sold to John F. Bishop & wife Louisa
Plat Bk -505 sold to Ida E. Glenn 1915
DB 52 page 288 sold to Ida E. Glenn 1921
DB 83, page 287 sold to George H. Alderman
DB 90, page 108 sold to Adelaide L. Winslow 1929
DB 296, page 1 &7 sold to Eliaby (Ellerbe) Carter 1943
Probate death certificate 25-50 page 104, wife Patricia 24-14 page 1357, 2518 page 153
DB 2720 pages 1806 thru 1809 probate & exchanged hands from family members
Foreclosures 2958 page 196 2978
DB 3249 pages 3424 & 3425 Lila D. Carter & Paul Sanders, Jr.

