

Interview with Bill and Suzanne McIntosh of 66 Anson Street

Interviewed by Katherine Pemberton, Historic Charleston Foundation. (Also present from HCF were April Wood and Holland Williams, who asked some questions.)

Richard Almes, videographer

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Interviewer: We're here today with Mr. and Mrs. Macintosh at their house at 66 Anson Street. Mainly, we are going to talk about your experiences with the house and with the neighborhood. I wanted to go back a little bit though. Mr. Macintosh promised to tell me a little bit about his ancestor that came to Charleston in the early days.

Mr. McIntosh: Mary Fisher Bailey Cross. English, Quaker and ____ [00:00:36] and the Quaker's would find empty bottles and they would hit over the heads to show how empty the Anglicans were in their head. In 1660 she got on a boat in the Mediterranean in what we now call Turkey. Got off, walked through the mountains and found the Sultan. And he said, "What do you want?" And she said, "I feel that God wants me to tell you about Jesus." And he said, "Okay. I'll listen." So he listened for a while then he said "Well thank you I am not interested. Would you like someone to take you?" So she went back to England and got here in 1680 the same time the Huguenots did. Everybody loved her. They called her Mother Cross and three children that descended from ____ [00:01:41]. And that is my story.

Interviewer: That's great. So you have done some genealogy and I know Mrs. Macintosh will have some interesting ancestral stories for sure. Now I think the French maiden name that you have you were telling us led people in Charleston to think that you knew French, but you guys met in Louisiana. Tell me a little bit about –

Mrs. McIntosh: We were both in college at the time that we met. Actually I went to LSU then my husband unfortunately had to go to Tulane. His mother told people here that he had met this little [00:02:30] French girl and he was going to marry her. When I got to Charleston they expected me to be a little French girl. I did have a French name, but that was it. Maybe a little French blood. I did not speak French at all and I was stunned to be received that way.

Interviewer: Mr. Macintosh, you grew up in Charleston?

Mr. McIntosh: I did. On Greenhill Street, 33 New Street, 131 Broad Street and here. [00:02:30] Kraft School and High School of Charleston.

Interviewer: Great. Well, tell us a little bit about how you got here, which is 66 Anson street. How did you come to be a homeowner with Ansonborough Rehabilitation Project.

Mr. McIntosh: Well I had been a preservationist and on the – with the Preservation Society and I really wanted to – my parents also – I told Susannah I said I want to restore a house. This was in 1961. She said, well we want – we don't want to – we wanted a –

Mrs. McIntosh: We didn't want houses stuck together. I wanted a yard. In New Orleans you don't see as many houses that are just built right on top of each other and I didn't want that.

Mr. McIntosh: We bought it through Historic Charleston and Dan Ravenaugh[ph].

Mrs. McIntosh: He showed it to us after dark with a flashlight.

Mr. McIntosh: And it was sand all over the steps. Just deep.

Interviewer: Tell us a little bit about – what was the Ansonborough neighborhood like as far as you remember during those years when the Ansonborough Rehabilitation Project was getting started? I know Frances Edmonds and board members and some –

Mr. McIntosh: ____ [00:04:37]

Interviewer: He was one of the first ones to purchase on Anson Street in the neighborhood. Was that kind of person to buy into the neighborhood? Was that something that kind of – we have this idea that once he bought in the neighborhood it really kind of opened it up. A lot of people went oh well okay. [00:05:00]

Mrs. McIntosh: I think that was important. The funny story is that at that time I worked for the evening post and we invited the press club over here for drinks one night and they laughed themselves silly that we bought this house. They had just had riots in California. He said, "What are you going to do – put cannons in the back house?" "And ho, ho, ho. [00:05:30] We let them laugh and laugh and was in the next I'd say eight years about eight other people from the newspapers bought houses in Ansonborough – it was amazing. I had a whole list of them written down – the reporters bought them. The editors of the news of the morning paper bought it. It was wonderful because we were sort of a – we worked together, we lived together and everybody was very happy with it.

Interviewer: How is that – how do so many people – why was it so many buyers from the newspaper come in here – is it word of mouth?

Mrs. McIntosh: Well as you said Mr. Manago[ph] bought a house and that was impressive because he owned the paper and people saw this house they would have laughed their way home. Then they thought about how little we had to pay for it [00:06:30]. We paid \$10,000 for this house and got a yard where another house had been and it had been hit by a tornado in the late 50's. The front well fell so they tore the house down. They wouldn't have done that today. Then they just cleared the lot.

Mr. McIntosh: ____ [00:06:53] and –

Interviewer: Tom Bell.

Mrs. McIntosh: Right. Tom Bell was actually in that little house across the street when we bought. He was here before us.

Mr. McIntosh: You see it here. [00:07:08]

Mrs. McIntosh: Right. They listed that. Pierre Manago, Tom Bell, Charles Hunter, Bill Cheshire who was an editorial writer and ____ [00:07:20] who was the editor of the evening post.

Interviewer: I'm not that familiar with how Ansonborough looked. Can you describe how it [00:07:30] looked if you were just driving down Anson Street what would I have seen back then?

Mrs. McIntosh: Well you wouldn't see my mother-in-law. She wouldn't come visit me in the day time by herself.

Interviewer: Why?

Mrs. McIntosh: Because she thought the neighborhood was so terrible.

Mr. McIntosh: She was too scared.

Interviewer: What made it terrible? The architecture or the residents who were living here or the lack of people?

Mr. McIntosh: The people. The people.

Mrs. McIntosh: This is before Gilliard was built and that area was [00:08:04] pretty bad.

Interviewer: I guess Gilliard the construction of that cleared out a lot of – a lot of buildings.

Mr. McIntosh: That is correct.

Mrs. McIntosh: And this used to be Anson Street was the main thoroughfare for young, black men heading down to the market and back. It didn't look so good, but we have been here 50 something years now and the worst crime that was committed was [00:08:30] one year the Easter Bunny stole my little girl's bicycle. It was a tiny little bicycle and you will never convince her that it wasn't the Easter Bunny who took it. We've been threatened, had any crime, anything. And we don't know of any neighbors that ever had a house broken into. It was just something that people – they didn't see the neighborhood for really how nice it was. We have had a lot of house tours here and we have [00:09:00] worked in other houses. The houses next to us. I've had to warn people to not say that Ansonborough was a former slum because it wasn't. The people here were poor, but it was not a slum area. After World War II they didn't have any money and they

couldn't repair their houses and so they've just slowly disintegrated. It was not a slum area.

Interviewer: When you moved here were there a lot of empty houses or?

Mrs. McIntosh: A lot of what?

Interviewer: Empty houses, boarded up windows? [00:09:36]

Mrs. McIntosh: I don't think so.

Mr. McIntosh: Well, yes. Not a whole lot, fortunately. Like the one on the corner was a grocery store, this was a grocery store. Up there, down there. Now those are houses mostly right now.

Mrs. McIntosh: I think they were [00:10:00] corner grocery stores because people in this neighborhood didn't have cars. They had to be able to walk to a grocery store. A lot of them opened in these little neighborhoods. You will find that in other areas of the city. [00:10:12]

Mr. McIntosh: Mr. Kessler was right there on the corner. The meat man.

Interviewer: I was going to ask about that sort of mixed use zone. In the early days there were a fair amount of corner stores and everything. Did that sort of [00:10:30] just completely disappear with Ansonborough rehabilitation project – kind of all went residential.

Mr. McIntosh: It became houses. That took care of that.

Interviewer: When we talk about sort of first waves of people coming into Ansonborough during the rehabilitation project and a lot of folks ____ [00:10:56] mostly young families? Were there [00:11:00] lots of kids or?

Mrs. McIntosh: There were mostly young families. Some pre-kids.

Mr. McIntosh: We were all young in those days.

Interviewer: Had the energy to tackle these.

Mrs. McIntosh: We all got together – this is how Ansonborough's historic Ansonborough Neighborhood Association started. And I think we were the first neighborhood association in the city.

Mr. McIntosh: I think 1972.

Mrs. McIntosh: We started meeting together. You found a carpenter? Where did you find him? How good was he? You know? [00:11:30]How did you get your house painted? How much did it cost? We exchanged facts and it helped each other. That association is still going. I think now it is more social and occasionally if something is coming into the area that they consider disruptive they vote against it or for it or whatever. That way we got to know all the neighbors – knowing immediately if anyone moved into the neighborhood they joined the association [00:12:01].

Interviewer: It's funny now I feel like Ansonborough in a way is sort of pressured from the college from one side, the market ____ [00:12:14] there is that – how much has tourism sort of impacted or when did that kind of start out with the area? I know you all had a major carriage route here.

Mr. McIntosh: 30 a day sometimes. Yes.

Interviewer: And [00:12:30] they changed a lot since you first moved in?

Mr. McIntosh: Who was that? Mr. Warner from Austria? That was the first man to have a – excuse me just a minute – had a coach that he would take people around. I said, if I had known that I would have shot him and that would have ended it.

Mrs. McIntosh: It gets pretty bad with the carriages.

Mr. McIntosh: Funny little hat and everything. I wouldn't have shot him. [00:13:01]

Interviewer: How is it dealing with historic trust - -actually you said you dealt with Dan Ravenaugh. Do you know – did you ever deal with anybody at the foundation in purchasing the house or just with folks like April?

Mrs. McIntosh: Actually, tell them about you father's partner.

Mr. McIntosh: Oh yes. Matt Barkley – and my father – at Southern Corporation [00:13:32] on East Bay Street. He was furious – Matt Barkley – he tromped over to Frances and he could do it – one of the few people. She said, how dare you live in that awful neighborhood. You can't live here. You're a terrible for that – sell that house to them. [00:14:01] And he went on and on and on and on. Also we had a letter, which I lost unfortunately, about Frances talking to me would I have enough money – because we were just what? 23, 22 something like that. She wanted to make sure that I had enough money to do it and to do it correctly, etc. In hindsight that is really a smart thing to do. [00:14:32]

Interviewer: Did you think she was being a busy body?

Mrs. McIntosh: We can't tell you how much we think about that lady and what she accomplished as one individual. She saved - -what are we like an eight block area with like a 130 something pre-civil war houses. When we moved here except for those corner

grocery stores – we didn't have anything [00:15:00]. If you lived south of Broad you had one drug store.

Mr. McIntosh: With rats.

Mrs. McIntosh: And when you got into this neighborhood –

Mr. McIntosh: It was the entertainment for at night.

Mrs. McIntosh: When you got into this neighborhood we had nothing. And we sat here ____ [00:15:15] the grocery store opened.

Mr. McIntosh: Kessler's. That was the only one.

Mrs. McIntosh: Well that was the corner grocery store. Then ____ [00:15:21] and Savara Square opened. We got a drug store, we got everything in Ansonborough Square. A dry cleaners that is only two [00:15:31] blocks further. We can walk to nearly any facility we need to walk to today. And when we moved in here there was nothing around us.

Interviewer: What do you think would have happened if Frances Edmonds and the Historic Charleston Foundation not stepped in?

Mr. McIntosh: I'm sorry.

Interviewer: What do you think would have happened to Ansonborough had Frances Edmonds and the Historic Charleston Foundation not stepped in?

Mr. McIntosh: We'd have hotels or whatever. Exactly.

Mrs. McIntosh: What she did was absolutely remarkable [00:16:01] and I hope Historic Charleston honors her with some kind of tremendous memorial.

Interviewer: We actually – Charter Day is at our big anniversary and that is next week. We have a Frances Edmonds award that we give out once in a while. She is our inspiration for everything. As a woman to ____ [00:16:25] she had so much going on. She had family connections, she knew the city and knew the people. She also was a born just [00:16:32] self-taught preservationist who really understood preservation just innately. We think she is fantastic too. It's funny though – when people talk about her a lot of times they will tell you – she got so much done, but she had a very strong will.

Mr. McIntosh: Yes. Yes.

Interviewer: She could be a little controversial here and there, but she got things done.

Mr. McIntosh: I never heard that.

Interviewer: What was she like? [00:17:00]

Mr. McIntosh: She was very strong and she would say what she – no matter what she said she was going to say. People might like it and they might not like it. She was going to get it done. Just like that.

Mrs. McIntosh: I think another thing we have to add is we used to get so excited when another house sold in the neighborhood. Because if the whole neighborhood didn't come together with us [00:17:31] then we were going to be sitting alone. The word would spread – 33 Society Street just sold. "Oh, who bought it?" We would all get excited. And we made up the most unbelievable things. A family named Kellogg bought a house and we were like those are the Kellogg's that make the cereal. They bought a house in the neighborhood. We are really moving along. Now why on this earth we thought that I don't know. That is what we wanted to believe. [00:18:01] But it was exciting when somebody else moved in the neighborhood.

Interviewer: When you bought this house and you saw it by flashlight at night - -what was the first thing you tackled when you bought it? Did you move in right away?

Mrs. McIntosh: We had to have a roof put on.

Mr. McIntosh: We had to take the sand – as I told you out of the hall. And there was a tombstone in the den where [00:18:30] Frances put it to store. People would come in and say, "Why do you have this?" And I'd say well Historic Charleston has it and they are going to bury somebody under it.

Mrs. McIntosh: You told them that we had to put flowers on it every year on the death –on the date the person died and leave it there. That was part of the deal in buying the house. Eventually Frances took the tombstone elsewhere. I don't know where it went. [00:19:00]

Interviewer: Do you know who's tombstone it was? Do you remember the name?

Mrs. McIntosh: I don't even remember. I mean we knew it was just being stored here so it didn't bother us.

Interviewer: You got sand out. You ____ [00:19:17] a tombstone and you did the roof.

Mrs. McIntosh: We had to have electricity put in, we had to have plumbing put in. We moved in with his parents for what, two months?

Mr. McIntosh: Yes. We loved it.

Interviewer: Who did the work?

Mrs. McIntosh: [00:19:30] Perfect Decosta[ph] his name comes up right after Frances Edmonds. He was one of the most fantastic contractors the city ever had. He worked with us hand in hand. He was not only our contractor – he was our interior decorator. We had just been to Italy and had these beautiful tiles in the bathrooms in Italy. Scenic pictures on the tiles. We immediately wanted to have an Italian bathroom and he said oh I don't think so. [00:20:00] He said, "When you've looked at that bathroom for about five years you are going to be real sorry you put that in." In the den we were going to put in fake paneling. Oh no, not with the good wood in this house. No you don't put fake paneling in. I mean he really was our – we were young and stupid.

Mr. McIntosh: Yea. He said, "No. That's tacky. Don't do it." You know and he was right.

Interviewer: He is a real sweetheart of a man too.

Mrs. McIntosh: He really walked us through the whole thing.

Mr. McIntosh: ____ [00:20:30] [00:20:30]

Interviewer: Did you?

Mr. McIntosh: Yes.

Interviewer: That's great.

Interviewer: Are there any other early HCF people that you remember fondly from that period when you first bought it? Helped you out? Was Peter ____ [00:20:47] involved?

Mr. McIntosh: No, no.

Mrs. McIntosh: They moved –

Mr. McIntosh: ____ [00:20:49] 30years. A newcomer. I hope he heard that.

Interviewer: He worked a lot with the foundation on the ____ [00:20:57] [00:21:00]

Interviewer: There were a number of individuals who made significant contributions to Frances with the revolving fund so that she could continue the foundation and continue to purchase homes and to help save the architecture. If you could meet one of those early donors to the program – that was the sell. We were the ____ [00:21:24] of all you can find in the country. People didn't really understand what we were doing. If you could meet one of those [00:21:32] donors that accepted Frances' vision - -what would you say to those people?

Mrs. McIntosh: I didn't understand the question. I don't think you did either.

Mr. McIntosh: No, I didn't.

Interviewer: So with the revolving fund which is how we purchased – the foundation purchased – Frances went out and raised a substantial amount of money to do that. She was asking people to give her money for a program [00:22:01] that was new in the country – in the world really. No one had a fund where they would go and purchase architectural houses with the effort of saving them from destruction.

Mr. McIntosh: Yea. Like ____ [00:22:17].

Interviewer: Exactly. Those donors are no longer with us, but it is a – some of them never even saw their vision realized. [00:22:30] if you could meet one of those early donors what would you say to them?

Mrs. McIntosh: Thank you. Charleston thanks you.

Mr. McIntosh: Exactly. Exactly.

Mrs. McIntosh: This neighborhood I think is – I think it is one of the most desirable in the city. You can eliminate south of Broad. As I said you can't walk anywhere from south of Broad. I have a friend who was here in the early beginning and remarried in [00:23:01] Hilton Head. She and her new husband want to move back to Charleston and they won't consider any other neighborhood. She drives up here about every two weeks to see what is on the market and look at houses.

Interviewer: Do you think in today's world with property values the way they are and almost anywhere on the peninsula is so expensive – do you think that the project like Ansonborough [00:23:30] could conceivably happen again or do you think it would need to be really changed?

Mrs. McIntosh: I don't think you are going to find this many yellow houses in one neighborhood. And they are all basically intact. No, I don't think it could happen again. What do you think?

Mr. McIntosh: No. No. Never happened again. I don't think. And it is so sad like the Hawk House on Meeting Street – what was that [00:24:00] 8 million something like that and when you get people like that the workman will only work on people with 6, 7, \$10 million. Then I consider me – like me. It has changed – like Venice a lot of Venetians are leaving the city like Charleston is going to become. [00:24:33] We have that big new – not – the one Crosby Seafood Place that is going to be a –

Interviewer: Publix.

Mr. McIntosh: They didn't say that, probably what it is going to be. In three years from now we won't have a True Value and that will be a hotel. [00:25:00] It just goes on and on and on. There is going to be a hotel across from St. Philips church. It just is changing so much. Nobody knows anybody. They don't care about anybody. I don't know.

Interviewer: Do you still feel that sense of neighborhood though –

Mr. McIntosh: No.

Interviewer: -- that you used to feel in Ansonborough? Has that [00:25:31] changed?

Mr. McIntosh: No. Most people in – I shouldn't say most, but a lot of people are here just part-time. I don't know who is on Hazel Street – maybe one person. Maybe there is something wrong with me, but that is the way I feel.

Mrs. McIntosh: We really don't know many people in the neighborhood anymore. That is – that house just sold recently. The house to the north with Peter Magee owned – sold [00:26:02]. Those people haven't even been able to move in because of damage done by accident to the house. You can go up the street and I can't tell you who lives in most of the houses. Manago's house has a lovely couple in it, but it is on the market for a very large price because the maintenance is so tremendous. They said we can afford it, but then we can't do anything else. We can either spend the rest of our lives fixing the house up or [00:26:32] we can sell it and travel and do whatever else we want to do.

Mr. McIntosh: And make \$10 million.

Interviewer: The prices do seem to keep going up and up and up. What – tell me a little bit about Macintosh Travel, which was right around the corner.

Mr. McIntosh: Well it was the best one in the United States.

Interviewer: Of course.

Mr. McIntosh: I started it in – I told you from Broad Street [00:27:00] and then came up here across and it was very prosperous and I enjoyed it very much. I did a good job, most of the time.

Interviewer: How did you end up coming to that building?

Mr. McIntosh: My father gave it to me. Isn't that nice?

Interviewer: Did he buy it from the Foundation?

Mr. McIntosh: No.

Interviewer: That is not one of our covenant properties.

Mr. McIntosh: No.

Interviewer: Then I guess there was quite a lot of ripple effect [00:27:31] from the Foundation purchasing and then other people kind of getting interested in purchasing. Have you been a long time owner of the building or?

Mr. McIntosh: Since about 72.

Interviewer: And now it is in your daughter's hands as a business, which is great. Do you think your kids will live in Ansonborough after you guys go? [00:28:00]

Mr. McIntosh: No. I don't think so. I don't think they can afford it. They're not poor, by any means, but I don't think that they could get it.

Interviewer: I guess one of the things that we worry about is gentrification and that term comes up a lot with Ansonborough. Sort of the first wave of coming into Ansonborough seem to have displaced a lot of those poor folks. Then prices started to rise [00:28:32] and it sounds like it has never really stopped.

Mr. McIntosh: Down on Anson Street there was a black man and he had a little wooden bed and he said I'm sorry – and he had a little bed in a window. That's where he lived. [00:29:00] Right where the Summeralls live now. He lived there for a long time and again with the Summeralls someone took down their – I'm sorry – took down their tub. It was hanging on the wall.

Mrs. McIntosh: It was on the porch. It was a bath tub out on the porch.

Mr. McIntosh: No. It was hanging [00:29:31] on the wall. We disagree on this one.

Mrs. McIntosh: The older you get the dimmer your memory gets. It was hanging on the porch I wondered if anybody ever bathed in it.

Mr. McIntosh: That was your cousin. Didn't you all – the bath tub on the roof where he could take a bath.

Interviewer: That is a great spot.

Mrs. McIntosh: You are getting away from the subject.

Mr. McIntosh: Oh, sorry.

Interviewer: Do you have a favorite memory of this house or of this neighborhood [00:30:05]?

Mr. McIntosh: Well, I see lots of memories. It is just you know we are so intertwined in it. So I don't know if I can say that in a particular – except that we have been very happy here and –

Mrs. McIntosh: And it has taken us years to get the house to where it is now. [00:30:32] We finished the kitchen, then we start on the den, then you move to a bedroom and it is continuous. I mean when we moved in the house our dining room the previous owners had used as a kitchen. They told us that every Sunday they had spaghetti dinner and everybody came here after church and they had spaghetti. [00:31:00] And then they took their dishes out on the porch and washed them in the sink. Can you imagine washing cold spaghetti in a sink on the porch which didn't have hot water? So we cut through the dining room wall and got into an enclosed area that had previously been a storage area. We put in a brick floor with bricks we took down from a fence that had divided our property from the house that is no longer there. [00:31:31] Put the floor in and turned that into a little kitchen. But by the time we had three children a dog and a cat and I am in there trying to cook that wasn't enough, so we cut through the next wall and put the kitchen back into the original kitchen building. You know, it is – it is a story in progress continuously.

Interviewer: Now do your girls growing up in a house that was probably always being improved [00:32:00] did they catch the renovation or rebuilding bug?

Mrs. McIntosh: Oh yes. Oh yes. One daughter has restored a house on Ashley Avenue that you wouldn't think is in a great neighborhood. It is right below the Crosstown –

Mr. McIntosh: At Bogart.

Mrs. McIntosh: But the house is so far back from the street you can't even tell there is a house in the lot if you are on Ashley Avenue and it is beautiful little house. And they had a lot of work to do.

Mr. McIntosh: Let me tell you [00:32:32] as soon as we bought this house we scraped and we had –

Mrs. McIntosh: Blow torches.

Mr. McIntosh: Blow torches.

Mrs. McIntosh: Bow torches with water.

Mr. McIntosh: To get the paint off the woodwork. And we were ____ [00:32:45] painting we did 90% of that, plus going to work.

Interviewer: If you had it to do all over again?

Mrs. McIntosh: Oh yes.

Mr. McIntosh: Yes. But not at that age. But we didn't Buford – we had a house in Buford we told you about [00:33:02] 1717 – and we got out there and in Buford they didn't paint. They painted with what do you call it?

Interviewer: ____ [00:33:20].

Mr. McIntosh: Yes. We just got a – 20 years ago we started doing that. Not as much as we do here.

Mrs. McIntosh: We use heat guns there. We didn't use blow torches. But I can tell you right now it is a big [00:33:35] difference using a blow torch in your 20s and using a heat gun when you are in your 60s. It is a lot harder.

Mr. McIntosh: We didn't complain. We wanted to do it, you know. And there were a lot of funny stories. Some of the furniture we had to use and our dining room we had plywood over those -- [00:34:00].

Mrs. McIntosh: Sawhorses.

Mr. McIntosh: That's how we ate.

Mrs. McIntosh: It was very attractive.

Mr. McIntosh: Yea.

Interviewer: Did you throw a table cloth on it?

Mrs. McIntosh: What?

Interviewer: You throw a table cloth on it you barely would notice.

Mrs. McIntosh: Nobody would know, right?

Mr. McIntosh: We didn't have a tablecloth.

Interviewer: Are you guys the last original buyers?

Mrs. McIntosh: We think so.

Mr. McIntosh: We think so, yes. I like that – not the oldest.

Mrs. McIntosh: That was well-phrased.

Interviewer: Now from whom did you buy the house? [00:34:32]

Mrs. McIntosh: Historic Charleston.

Interviewer: Okay. I thought you had talked about the previous owners who had lived here.

Mrs. McIntosh: Well, we – that was another interesting story we are forgetting to tell. When we bought the house – I guess it is when I quit working for the evening paper when we had our first daughter and I decided I would freelance. What better story to tell. So I wrote a story about buying the house and what we were doing. [00:35:01] I sent it – I had met this man on an airplane and he was a new editor at Southern Living, but that was a new magazine. He said he would love to read a story about somebody restoring a house. I sent him a copy. My husband said you can put anything in that article you want to because no one has ever heard of the article and no one will ever read it. He said you can tell what we paid for it and what this cost and everything. So I did. Well, not only [00:35:33] did the article get published the previous owners read the articles. There had been two families that lived in this house. You had the Chazelles[ph].

Mr. McIntosh: And the Pintos.

Mrs. McIntosh: Wait tell me the first people that built it? Chazelles, right. And then there was a family named Pintos. The Chazelles owned it for about 50 years. The Pintos owned it for about 50 years. [00:36:01] Historic Charleston bought it from the Pintos because when their grandfather died they thought they had owned the house. Found out he had been renting it all those years and they didn't own it and they could not afford to buy it. So they sold it to Historic Charleston. Well, both of these families read the article. The doorbell started ringing. They would say this was our ancestor's home. Can we come in and see it? [00:36:30] Well of course you can I would give them a tour. One day we had a little girl from the college of Charleston her family had told her her family had owned this house at one point and she should ring the doorbell because we were very friendly and let people in. Well, she wanted to know if all the furniture in the house had belonged to her family as well. I said no, honey it did not. I wish it did.

They still come. We have had people within the last month [00:37:01] ring the doorbell. I don't know how these people had passed the word down.

Mr. McIntosh: Well it says Chazelle right on the front.

Mrs. McIntosh: We had one young man from France. He said, "My name is on your plaque." His name was John Phillip Chazelle. He said, "Why is my name on your plaque?" We said we can't explain that to you. I don't know how you could be related. Well he came in with a Swedish girlfriend. They sat in our den and read the whole history of the house which had been sent to us [00:37:31] by a lady in Florida who read the article and she came up and she rang the doorbell. She was probably in her e80s and she said, "You have got to let me come in and see the house. I have been trying to get here since I read the newspaper – I mean the article in the magazine." She said, "Do you know that I had to ride in a bus with a bunch of Baptists? Actually, they're not bad peoples. They are very nice. " So we let her in. And then she sent [00:38:02] us a history of this

house. She was related I forgot to which family now, but we have that history. We have photographs of people who built the house. We have an insurance policy on this house if it was issued –

Mr. McIntosh: 1840 something I think.

Mrs. McIntosh: And it said that this – it reads like a modern day insurance policy except it has a little phrase that said if we store more than six pounds [00:38:31] of gun powder on the property it voids the insurance coverage. We do not keep gun powder on the property.

Mr. McIntosh: You can see it when we go in.

Mrs. McIntosh: All of these things have been sent to us and mailed to us.

Mr. McIntosh: We are like the Mormons with the genealogy people. The only – these people –

Mrs. McIntosh: One lady had left a book everybody that comes to look at the house is supposed to sign it and put their relationship to the family and their current address. [00:39:02] We give them the book and they sign it. I don't know what we are supposed to do with the book in the end of the time.

Mr. McIntosh: That worries me. Where –

Interviewer: You can always give it to us. We have an archive.

Mrs. McIntosh: Alright. We can do that.

Mr. McIntosh: Really?

Mrs. McIntosh: And we do have the pictures of the people who built the house you know.

Mr. McIntosh: Are you the archivist? No. That's Karen.

Interviewer: Karen Edmunds.

Mr. McIntosh: Give her something.

Interviewer: She'd love it. That's all the questions I've got.

Interviewer: Is there anything like thoughts you wanted to share – so considering that we are going to share this for a 70th anniversary is there anything [00:39:37] you want to be able to put in the video that you think is important to come from you or to share?

Mr. McIntosh: I'll think about it.

Mrs. McIntosh: I can't think of anything else.

Mr. McIntosh: No. Not really.

Interviewer: I guess you know, a very broad question would be obviously you are preservationist – both from [00:40:05] your families and love of the past and of your active work yourselves.

Mr. McIntosh: Yea I was president of the Preservation Society when we had the huge fight at the Omni place. Oh yea people didn't speak to each other 30 years. A long time.

Interviewer: The battle of Charleston. [00:40:34]

Mr. McIntosh: I was there.

Interviewer: What do you think about Charleston ____ [00:40:42] now?

Mr. McIntosh: It's like Joe Reilly says – he says, "You'll get used to it." He has said that previously.

Interviewer: Do you think the ____ [00:40:52] do you think it was a bad move?

Mr. McIntosh: In hindsight. I miss the brothels on Buthane Street. And I never worked at one [00:41:02].

Interviewer: We cannot use that.

Interviewer: That has got to go in there.

Interviewer: Charleston has definitely lost its seedier side and New Orleans still has some of – I feel like New Orleans is grittier than Charleston.

Mrs. McIntosh: Are you saying greedier or grittier?

Interviewer: Grittier.

Mr. McIntosh: Grittier.

Interviewer: It has got some parts to it – I feel like Charleston [00:41:32] is very kind of scruffed up and New Orleans still has a little –

Mrs. McIntosh: When you talk about New Orleans you are talking about the French Quarter. You are not talking about the Garden District because there are so many parts it is such a – much larger city. But I lived several years in the French Quarter and I

loved it. I lived with my grandparents and I went to school – we call it Uptown rode the streetcar back and then I would walk through the corridor and I'd stop [00:42:00] at these bookstores and buy all those girly magazines and love story – they don't even publish them anymore. I loved living in the Quarter. I thought it was terribly exciting.

Interviewer: Mr. Macintosh, I wanted to ask you to describe what it was like going to the Charleston High School up here?

Mr. McIntosh: No, no, no.

Interviewer: ____ [00:42:22]

Mr. McIntosh: No. Here on Society Street?

Interviewer: No where the – wasn't Charleston High School where [00:42:30] George and the College of Charleston?

Mrs. McIntosh: It's the High School of Charleston. It's the High School of Charleston.

Mr. McIntosh: Yea it's the High School of Charleston on Rumwich[ph]. There was one in 1839 I didn't go to that one.

Interviewer: My bad. I thought the –

Mr. McIntosh: There was another one on Joy Street I think.

Interviewer: So where did you go to school?

Mr. McIntosh: I went to Kraft School [00:43:01].

Interviewer: Which was?

Mr. McIntosh: Legree[ph] it is a condominium. And I went to the High School of Charleston. Graduated in 1957.

Interviewer: And then headed to Louisiana.

Mr. McIntosh: Yea, Tulane.

Interviewer: Found romance.

