

320 East Jones Street • Raleigh

A Raleigh family story spanning the late nineteenth century,
the rise of Oakwood, and more than a century of stewardship.

WHAT THE RECORDS SUPPORT

The Family	John Miller Monie was an established Raleigh grocer and merchant by the 1870s. City directories place his residence at the corner of North Bloodworth and East Jones by 1887.
The Daughter	The daughter connected to the family history was Mary Atkinson Monie, born in Raleigh in 1876. She married dentist Joseph Shawen Betts.
The Corner Parcel	The Monies occupied the Bloodworth and-Jones corner decades before the present house was built, supporting the tradition that 320 East Jones emerged from a larger family holding.
The House	The present residence is consistently dated to about 1910 and retains high ceilings, pocket doors, heart- pine floors, decorative fireplaces, a slate roof, projecting bay, and broad wraparound porch.
The Building Trade	John M. Monie Jr., of the next generation, was associated with Oldham & Monie, a Raleigh firm dealing in lumber, shingles, sash, doors, blinds, roofing, and related building materials.
Historic Status	The property stands within the Oakwood Historic District, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. The house should not be described as individually listed unless separate documentation establishes that status.

A MONIE FAMILY HOUSE IN HISTORIC OAKWOOD

Long before 320 East Jones Street looked out from its elevated corner toward downtown Raleigh, the land beneath it belonged to a family whose own story was intertwined with the city's growth.

By the 1870s, John Miller Monie was an established Raleigh merchant, first appearing in city records as a grocer and later operating a broader dry-goods and general-merchandise business downtown. By 1887, Raleigh's city directory recorded his home at the corner of North Bloodworth and East Jones Streets.

The Monies would remain associated with this corner for generations.

Their original family residence appears to have faced Bloodworth Street. In 1906, John Monie's daughter, Mary Atkinson Monie Betts, returned to her Raleigh family home for the birth of her son. Family history remembered the setting simply and evocatively: a white house belonging to Mary's family, across Jones Street from the Governor's Mansion.

A few years later, around 1910, the character of the Monie property changed dramatically. On the Jones Street portion of the family's longtime corner holding arose the house now known as 320 East Jones Street.

It was built on a grand scale.

Set high above the street, the two-story residence was given the architectural features that distinguished Raleigh's finest homes of the period: soaring ceilings, a gracious center hall, heart-pine floors, tall pocket doors, multiple decorative fireplaces, a two-story projecting bay, and a broad wraparound porch designed for a very different era of Southern life, when a shaded veranda served as both outdoor living room and gathering place.

Its slate roof, finely worked interior details, and substantial proportions spoke not simply of fashion, but of permanence.

There was another intriguing connection. John M. Monie Jr., a member of the next generation of the family, was himself in Raleigh's building trade. His firm, Oldham & Monie, advertised rough and dressed lumber, shingles, laths, sash, doors, blinds, and roofing. Whether he was directly responsible for selecting materials for 320 East Jones remains to be documented, but his business places the Monie family unusually close to the construction industry at precisely the moment this remarkable house was taking shape.

The house also reflected what Oakwood itself was becoming. Developed slowly rather than as a single planned subdivision, Oakwood attracted many of the merchants, professionals, and civic leaders of a growing Raleigh. By the opening decades of the twentieth century, Victorian forms were being joined by Classical Revival influences: substantial homes with broad porches, commanding rooflines, and elaborate craftsmanship.

320 East Jones embodied that transition.

And unlike so many houses of its generation, much of what gave the home its character endured. Pocket doors, heart-pine floors, decorative fireplaces, high ceilings, and the sweeping porch survived more than a century of changes in Raleigh. The home's surviving period hardware, decorative woodwork, and remnants of its early lighting systems add another layer to the story, tangible reminders of a house constructed when domestic technology itself was rapidly changing.

In 1974, Oakwood was entered in the National Register of Historic Places, recognizing the neighborhood as one of Raleigh's most significant collections of historic residential architecture. 320 East Jones stands within that historic district today, only a short walk from the Governor's Mansion and still occupying its unusually prominent position above the street.

What makes the house special, however, is more than a collection of architectural details. It is the continuity of the place.

The Monie family established itself on this corner while Raleigh was still emerging from the nineteenth century. Their children grew up here. A grandson was born in the family home on the corner. A new generation of the property produced a grand residence as the city entered the twentieth century. More than a century later, the house still presents the same broad porch, tall rooms, old-growth floors, and imposing silhouette to East Jones Street.

320 East Jones is therefore not simply an old house in Oakwood. It is a surviving chapter in the story of Raleigh itself, built on a family homestead already decades old when the house was new and preserved through generations as the city grew around it.

Its next owners will inherit something increasingly rare: not only a beautiful historic home, but the privilege of becoming the next stewards of a place that has occupied this corner of Raleigh's history for well over a century.

RESEARCH NOTES AND SOURCE TRAIL

This document distinguishes documented facts from family tradition. The original floor plans and framed San Francisco telegram may allow the builder, exact commissioning story, and family relationships to be established more precisely in a future research pass.

- Raleigh city directories, including late-19th-century entries identifying J. M. Monie as a grocer/merchant and his residence at the corner of North Bloodworth and East Jones.
- Early-20th-century Raleigh street directories placing the Monie family at the Bloodworth/Jones corner.
- Oakwood Historic District documentation and City of Raleigh preservation materials describing the district and its National Register listing in 1974.
- Historic advertising for Oldham & Monie, identifying John M. Monie Jr. with a Raleigh lumber and building materials business.
- Family-history material identifying Mary Atkinson Monie Betts and recalling a Monie-family house across Jones Street from the Governor's Mansion.
- Prior property marketing materials describing surviving architectural features including heart-pine floors, pocket doors, fireplaces, high ceilings, slate roof, projecting bay, and wraparound porch.
- Library of Congress Sanborn fire-insurance maps for Raleigh, useful for reconstructing the evolution of the corner parcel.