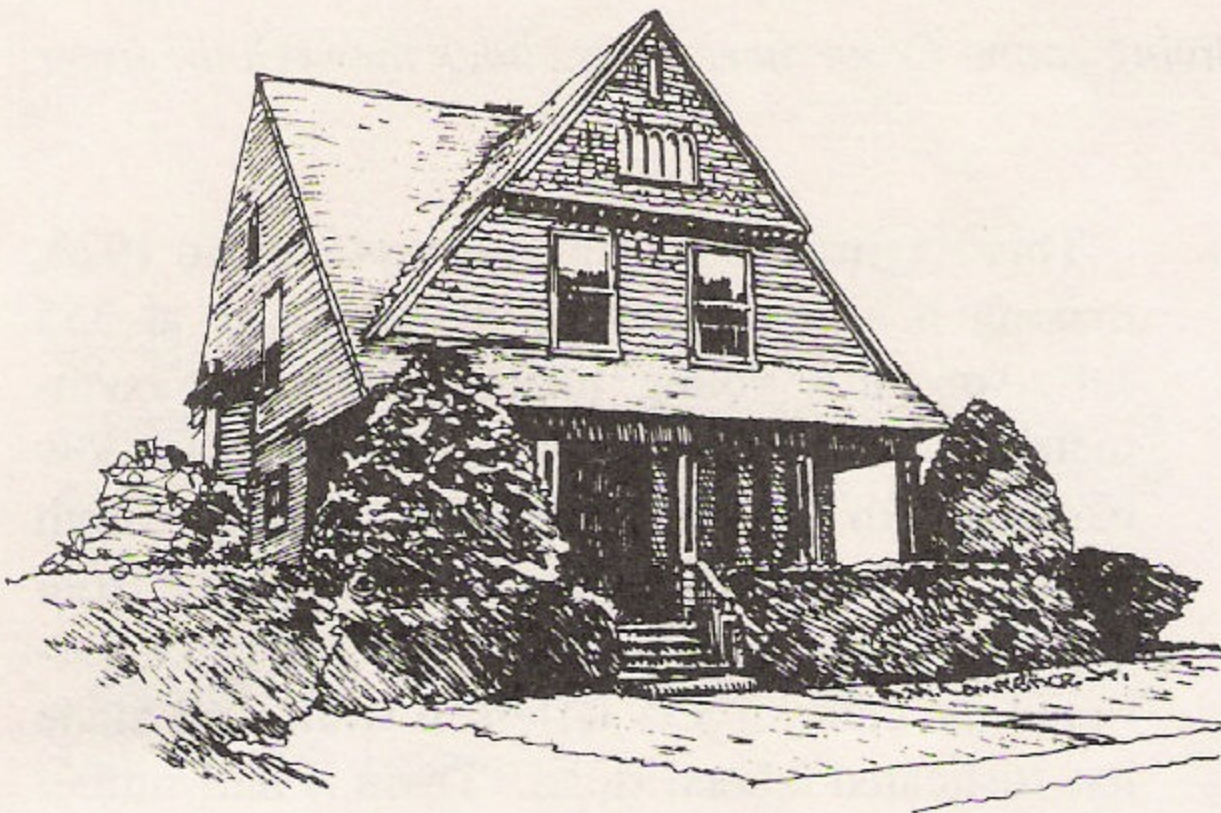


725 Spring



Historic houses do not remain unaltered throughout their lifetimes. Changes to houses occur because of changing fashions or different needs of the homeowners. This house is a beautiful example of an addition which is tasteful and compatible with the original structure, and yet satisfies the housing needs of a family of the 1980s.

Charles Hobrough Reid and Miss Carrie Mae Hammond attended Elgin Academy and went on to universities for further education. The young, well-educated couple was married on April 2, 1902, and evidently received this lovely newly-built house as a wedding present! Mr. Reid worked in his father's flour and feed store (Reid and Norton). Eventually he owned his own firm which proudly advertised in the 1913 City Directory "Charles H. Reid, Co. - coal, coke and wood - two phones (both the same number, 220)".

This Late Shingle house is similar in style to the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio in Oak Park. It has very massive lines accented with a powerful, segmented dormer. Although at first glance the exterior seems less detailed than some Victorian houses on the walk, there are many similar details which blend into the house rather than serving as accents including:

- narrow clapboard siding on first floor with butt shingles above
- lower porch is decorated with dentils
- porch column has bas relief inserts of rope and clay (owner is seeking advice concerning the repair of these columns)

- modillions in the upper gable
- front Palladian window

The current owners stripped the woodwork which was previously painted white. The foyer contains two beautiful stained glass windows. A simpler note (showing again the blend of styles between the detailed Victorian and plainer Prairie style) is the baluster design with square newel posts and flat cap. The coal burning fireplace in the living room is an elaborate decorative piece with its wood mantle, Ionic columns, ceramic tile, beaded trim, and egg and dart motif. The dining room's chandelier has an etched leaf design in the glass.

While the addition is still a "work in progress", it is evident how the owners have been sensitive to their 1902 house when changing it to fit 1980s needs. They have made a point to match and/or recreate the features from the original house to the "new" addition. The wainscotted ceiling, modillions, and spindles on the front porch are accurately recreated on the new back porch. The same care was exercised in the interior projects. Some features were kept and others added in such a way as to be unnoticeable. The panel doors in the kitchen are a combination of original and salvaged pieces. The Holophane light fixtures in the kitchen, while not original, are from the early 1900s. The leaded etched glass with a leaf design over the sink repeats the etched glass in the dining room light fixture. The special milling of flooring, window casings, and other trim maintain the integrity and "feeling" of this old house. See if you can distinguish between the "original" and "new" flooring.

The current owners have planned carefully and worked hard to preserve their historic home. Their only regret is their decision thirteen years ago to sandblast the exterior of the home, which they have said they would not do again if given the choice. There are plans to replace the clapboard portions of the house in the future. They maintained the design integrity on both the exterior and interior, while "gaining" a modern kitchen and family room. Charles and Carrie would be very pleased to see the changes made to their 1902 wedding present.