



#### 950 WEST HIGHLAND

The residence located at 950 West Highland was constructed around 1915. The original occupants of the home were Dr. Lawrence Hughes and his wife Eldora. In 1981, the current owners bought the home from Mrs. Eldora Hughes' estate. The wide-roof overhangs and window banding on the exterior of this home demonstrates the Prairie Style sense of horizontality. Also characteristic of the Prairie Style is the exterior stucco finish and strong, splayed-corner piers.

Before entering the home, note the matching leaded glass side porch lights which feature the stained glass motif found throughout the house. The arched entry way's glass is composed of clear, ripple-finished heart shapes intertwined with stems to depict a flower-like halo.

Entering this home, one is immediately impressed with its functional simplicity, another element of the Prairie Style. The living room fireplace carries the horizontal exterior expression to the building's interior. So do the small, stained glass windows on both sides of the fireplace.

Throughout the home are the "modern" conveniences of its day, many of which are patented. One such convenience, a refrigerator-like shut-off button, operates the front hall closet light. Also in this closet are pull-down hat racks. In the baseboard at the top of the hall stairs is one of the several outlets for a vacuum hose which led to a central vacuum system in the basement. In addition to the bathroom's original pedestal sink and Bombay tile flooring, note the deep tub with its silent, recessed, no-splash water inlet in place of a faucet. While in the dressing room of the master bedroom suite, note the multi-position handle locks which allow each casement window to be locked open at any angle along a 90-degree arc. One of the built-in closets in this room is equipped with rods that slide out so that clothes are clearly visible. Clearly seen in the kitchen exit door is a device built in to the bottom of the home's exterior doors. When the doors are closed, the insert bar lined in felt is forced against the floor to create a draft seal. In one of the basement rooms can be seen the solid terra cotta bricks which form the exterior, stucco-covered walls of the house. Note also the steam-heating system and slate washtubs. In the garage is a gas pump for the gas tank buried beneath the floor.

In the back yard is a garbage receptacle with a foot-operated lid and a removable 7-gallon bucket. While outside, note also the original tile roof and copper gutters which drain into a tiled system which collects rain water and pipes it back into the house for domestic use.

Juxtaposed with the Wing home next door, this 8-room house truly reflects the dramatic change in architecture that occurred during the early 20th Century.

