



**15
North DuBois
Avenue**



**Homeowners:
Rick Clute & Manuelito Gapuz**

Originally constructed in 1925, the home was first mentioned in the November 1925 listing of new Elgin dwellings in the Elgin Daily Courier. The article notes Charles J. Smith buying a property on DuBois Avenue for the sum of \$6,000. Roughly one year later, in 1927, the home at 15 North DuBois Avenue is listed with Philip Schultz as the owner.

Schultz, who was a gardener by trade, and his wife, Lena, kept the house until 1934, when he sold it to Mary McMahon from Gilberts, Ill. This marked the start of a long consecutive stretch of one family owning the home at 15 N. DuBois Ave. Mary's daughter, Marie Floto, also lived in the home, moving in after Marie's husband, Elmer, died in an accident while at work.

Marie worked for many years as the secretary — and later treasurer — of H.L. Pierce Motor Sales for more than 50 years.

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She continued to live in the home after her mother's death in 1968, and by the time Marie sold the home, she and her mother had collectively lived in at 15 N. DuBois Ave. for more than 60 years.

Honoring the home's history is important to Rick Clute, the current owner of the home and a lifelong Elginite. After Marie sold the home to Dennis Roxworthy in the early 2000s, Roxworthy restored the original wood floors and applied for a city of Elgin Historic Commission plaque for the home, for which it was approved in 2003. When Rick walked into the home for his first view of the property when it was for sale in 2003, he recalls that he immediately fell in love. He wanted to be sure, though, and looked at the property seven more times. It appears "seven was the lucky number!" Rick joked. He has lived in and loved the home ever since.

Over the years, Rick has made a number of renovations and upgrades to the 92-year-old home. He has upgraded the bathroom, the furnace, and most recently the kitchen. The furnace was original to the home but had been extensively modified to continually meet demands for modernization. Both the front and rear doors are original, as well as the front storm door. Original woodwork is seen throughout the home, and Rick takes great care to buy furniture pieces that match or come close to matching the time period in which the home was constructed. Other period touches include the portraits of his great-great-great-



great-great grandmother and grandfather hanging in the living room. Family photos are featured throughout the rest of the home as well, with other pieces featuring art from Rick's travels.

Having grown up in Elgin, Rick moved away for a period of roughly 10 years. He lived in Oregon and Utah before moving back, and he eventually retired from McHenry County College as its dean of adult education in May of 2013. He grew up attending local schools Coleman Elementary

School, Larsen Middle School, and Elgin High School. His mother's side of the family has far-reaching ties to the Elgin and Rutland areas, extending back nearly 150 years.

15 N. DuBois Ave. is a nice example of a hipped-roof, Craftsman-style bungalow. The style appeals to Rick, who likes smaller homes made of brick. At his home, he also has enjoyed creating a garden that extends throughout the home's exterior that's

replete with native plants.

During the 14 years Rick has lived at 15 N. DuBois Ave., he has been active in the community, attending North West Neighborhood Association events like the Civil War Walk, as well as many GPA Elgin Historic House Tours over the years. He currently is a volunteer at the Literacy Connection in Elgin. Rick is happy to be the first homeowner to have 15 N. DuBois Ave. featured on this year's tour and hopes showcasing his home will inspire others to keep thinking about bungalows.



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ARCHITECTURAL NOTES



THE BUNGALOW EMERGED

in the early 1900s as part of a move away from the pretense and formality of the Victorian period, a renewed interest in the natural sciences and a reaction against growing industrialization. It embraced a new, authentic craftsmanship and simpler way of living. These homes could be built quickly and inexpensively, reflecting the changing times. At its simplest, a bungalow is defined

as a one- to one-and-a-half story house with a low, pitched roof and front porch. Many bungalows can be identified with an architectural style.

15 N. DuBois Ave. is a pristine example of the Craftsman-Style bungalow, which enjoyed popularity for only a limited time period: from about 1915 to about 1929. Craftsman features of this one-and-a-half story home include the side-gable jerkinhead roof, with a jerkinhead

front dormer having a return cornice; brick and cedar shingle cladding; projecting eaves. Other features of the Craftsman Style include the home's three- and four-over-one double-hung windows; grouped windows; and a deep, open porch with a tapered column that is inset into the massing of the home.