

BUNGALOW

By Ruth Hultz

Herald-Whig Staff Writer

Rick and Becky Meehan believe you just can't beat a bungalow.

What they love about their Craftsman bungalow at 2055 Vermont is the many original features that have been preserved, including:

- The original crafted cypress trim and the hardwood floors that are in good condition throughout the house.

- The kitchen that previous owners renovated to make more usable while keeping its 1920s feel. They are glad the cypress built-in buffet, original fir flooring and exposed chimney are still part of the new kitchen.

- The bathroom that still has its "full apron" cast iron bathtub, brass shower curtain ring and porcelain fixtures. It also has built-in medicine cabinet, linen cabinet and drawers.

- The original light fixtures and the old damper for the coal furnace in the bedroom.

The Meehans believe the tiny upstairs front bedroom is charming because of its seven casement windows and its cozy feel.

One of the reasons Becky wanted the house was the elegant front porch, the large living room and the double and triple windows that give it an airy feeling.

They particularly enjoy the upstairs family room/bed room combination that gives their teen-agers, Brandon and Molly, a place to hang out.

The master bedroom has its own sun room



H-W Photos/Michael Kipley
A look at the exterior, upper left, and interior of the Becky and Rick Meehan house at 2055 Vermont.

and is another reason the couple bought the house the first time they saw it.

The Craftsman touches throughout the house, the three-over-three windows and overall "woodenness" of the interior are other reasons the Meehans are proud of their house and

plan to send a picture of it to Rick's favorite magazine, "American Bungalow."

The house had been well maintained so the Meehans haven't had to do much work. They added central air upstairs, did some electrical work and plan to paint the exterior soon. They would also like to put stained-glass windows in the living room casement windows.

One job Rick attacked was fixing the 22 double-hung windows. Each window took hours because he had to dig out blown-in insulation from the tracks, restring and put weights back on. It was a tedious job, but he said it was well worth the time and patience it took to have working windows.

Bungalows were popular at the turn of the century because they combined simplicity, artistry and affordability. They were a reaction to opulent Victorian houses because bungalows only have features that are essential for comfort or convenience. Their beauty is in their simplicity and the hand-crafted wood features.

They were also popular because they were easy to find and they could be built by most carpenters using local materials.

Rick said they continue to be so popular because they are so homey.

"I have found that bungalow owners take great pride in the ownership of their bungalows," he said. "They are often the first home they can afford, but roomy enough to raise a family in. They are cozy but large enough to entertain in."

