

**P**opularized in the early 1900s, the bungalow is as American as apple pie.

Bungalows are homey, functional and affordable houses, which is exactly what Julie Aamoth wanted when she bought the Herman J. and Nellie Gerweler house at 2044 Vermont.

This was her first home and Aamoth, director of health promotions for the Adams County Health Department, said buying the 74-year-old bungalow was a little overwhelming at first.

"Actually I was petrified," she recalled. "I never had even mowed a lawn; I worried that something major would break."

She also knew she had some major renovating ahead of her.

Despite all the mess and hard work, Aamoth enjoyed the challenge of redoing her home.

"The actual process can be tedious but getting a big piece of tile off, for example, and knowing I did it myself is rewarding," Aamoth said.

Aamoth tapped into her pool of family and friends who willingly helped her out with project after project.

Aamoth especially credits Mark Shepard, his father Dick Shepard, and stepfather Lee Walton for taking over major projects such as redoing the bathroom, pulling out the overgrown shrubs and



building a fence for her dog, Pancho.

In the past two years, Aamoth herself has become "expert" at redoing floors.

Every floor required some kind of work. She spent four months of weekends and evenings prying up layers and layers of old tile and linoleum, sanding floors and polyurethaning them.

Many evenings Aamoth put on her knee pads and mask and "polyurethaned myself out the door."

Aamoth enjoyed redecorating the eat-in kitchen and making cafe curtains to replace heavy draperies that hid the oak window trim.

Luckily for Aamoth, previous owners maintained the character of the Craftsman home. It still has its ribbon windows with the vertical upper panes and the original light fixtures. Most of the original elegantly simple oak trim that Craftsman homes are known for is still in place and unpainted.

One bedroom still has what is believed to be the original wallpaper, which Aamoth kept because she thinks it adds to the house's character.

Aamoth likes everything about her bungalow. She likes a formal dining room

## BUNGALOWS

Bungalows gained popularity in the 1900s as the "architecture for the masses." Before World War I, a small bungalow cost \$900 and a larger one was \$3,500.

Herman Gerweler, a Quincy College instructor, built his for \$4,800 in 1926.

and she likes the openness of the main rooms, with the bedrooms tucked away in the back of the house. She is especially fond of the cheery sun room where she spends most of her time. The Craftsman tapestry brick fireplace and built-in bookcases also are favorite features.

Aamoth is taking a breather from redecorating but has plans for the next few years. She needs to do more kitchen work, add a new roof and possibly finish the attic bath and bedrooms that were

