



James F. and Katherine Dunlap House
2304 Hampshire • 1922
builder unknown

Trumpeted as a "charming mission bungalow with a floor plan of unusual merit," Dunlap's house boasts a very functional but rather unusual layout. This house closely resembles "Ready-Cut Home" number 557 from the Gordon-Van Tine Company of Davenport, Iowa. The perfectly symmetrical porch facade suggests a formal plan with a central hall and similarly sized rooms at either side, while in fact the main entry leads directly into a large living-dining area with two small bedrooms off to the side. These bedrooms are accessed only by a reverse hall entered from the dining room, creating an area of the downstairs that is as private as the living-dining area is open. The bathroom is placed between the bedrooms, so that each bedroom can enjoy light through two walls.

Dining and living rooms are connected by a broad neck, creating one virtual space. But each room maintains a distinct ambience, the living room through its simple brick fireplace and the dining room through its glazed "living porch" bay. The latter may have begun life as a screen porch; on any account, the casement windows are a modern improvement. The quarry tile flooring is original and matches the hearth.

James Dunlap was a traveling salesman. The downstairs bedrooms would have suited him and his wife well enough, so they left the upstairs unfinished. It remained that way until the 1950s. A few years after moving in, the Dunlaps relocated to a different address on Hampshire, then out of the city altogether. Later occupants included prominent local Democrat Charles Gnuse of Monroe Chemical Company and Walter Bernzen, President of Middendorf Brothers Lumber Company.

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS
OCTOBER 16, 1993
current owners: Scott and Beth Kniel