

10 1415 Park Street
Shingle — 1909



The Des Moines architectural firm of Hawlett and Rawson was busy in Grinnell during the early 1900s. In addition to designing this Shingle-style house at 1415 Park Street, the firm also drew up plans for the houses at 1414 Broad and 1103 Main as well as numerous buildings on the Grinnell College campus.

It's not hard to imagine W.J. Rusk, who was building at 1415 Park, comparing notes with H. L. Beyer, who was building at 1414 Broad, right across the alley. Both houses are similarly styled and went up in 1909-1910. (Both sets of architectural drawings are still in existence.)

Rusk, a faculty member at the college, chose a one-and-one-half-story bungalow style instead of the more typical two-story design like 1414 Broad. Notable interior features include a beamed ceiling in the living room, built-in bookcases, a dining room plate rail, and lots of nooks and crannies to explore.

The main-floor master bedroom has a back staircase that leads to a sleeping porch on the second floor. A window at the top of the stairs looks in on the nursery — a way to check on baby before the days of monitors!

Outside, notice the pergola porch and storage boxes on both sides of the entrance, once used to store firewood or hold milk deliveries.

Present owners Jim and Wendy Ramsey bought the house in 2000. In the future they plan to build a garage on the alley to replace the tandem garage and convert the second-floor sleeping porch and landing into a four-seasons den/study.

11 1327 Park Street
Prairie — 1919



Attorney J.G. Shifflet built the Prairie-style house at 1327 Park Street in 1919, with the design direction of Waterloo architect Mortimer Cleveland.

The current owners, Jack and Diane Robertson, have the home's blueprints, which specify oak woodwork, classic green foyer tile, and several sets of double French doors. (The French doors between the living room and dining room were literally falling apart when the Robertsons bought the house and are in storage for possible future restoration.)

In their 20-plus years of ownership, the Robertsons have replaced the first floor's maroon wool carpeting (which they think was original, since it was laid in 18-inch strips and nearly threadbare), re-tiled the deteriorating tile on the fireplace hearth, replaced a high window over the kitchen sink with casement windows, and in 2001 renovated the kitchen. The kitchen project involved replacing cabinets and countertops, and exchanging radiators for a hot water heating system under a new tile floor.

Until now, the Robertsons have made no effort to furnish the home in authentic Prairie style. They say, however, that the tour has sparked their interest in the design, and they are looking into adding some appropriate furniture and fixtures.

The house is surrounded by extensive landscaping designed and carried out by Jack. A backyard shade garden is a special feature. Come back in June for a garden tour!

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