



374 Wellington Avenue

Susan and Bill Morehouse have proudly maintained the early 20th-century charm and craftsmanship of 374 Wellington Avenue since purchasing the home in 1976. Susan is a harpist who teaches privately and offers therapeutic music at Highland and Park Ridge Hospitals, and Bill is a physician specializing in family medicine at his nearby Arnett Boulevard practice, which he founded 30 years ago.

Built in 1915 in modified Tudor style, the house's grand architectural features are in near mint condition. Because of its wealth of architectural details, Bill believes that the house may have been designed as a "sampler" of what the builder could include in his homes in the Sibley Tract, a prosperous development featuring homes with stained and/or leaded glass, hardwood floors, gumwood trim, and similar elegant details, and within easy access via streetcar to downtown Rochester.

Surrounded by gardens and featuring a matching detached garage, the Morehouse home is entered from a spacious front porch through the vestibule that features an umbrella closet with built-in drain. The front

hall's floor-to-ceiling beveled-glass mirror and stained-glass light fixture decorated with parrots are original to the house. The stenciled border on the walls was recently done, using designs copied from original stenciling that was in other rooms in the home. The study, to the right of the hallway, has a working fireplace and may be closed off by pocket doors.

In the living room, to the left of the front hallway, is a baby portrait of Bill and Susan's longtime friend and next-door neighbor, Ann Kelly, who bequeathed the picture to the couple. The adjoining dining room includes a wood-beamed ceiling, built-in cabinets, and plate rail. The light fixtures in these rooms, several of which were originally gaslights, were converted to electric light by running wires through the gas lines. The far end of the dining room gracefully opens into a sunlit arboretum. In the middle of this space a bronze and glass fountain, originally piped to bring water from the basement, now is home to lush plantings.

The adjacent kitchen and pantry have a refinished tongue- and-groove floor. The pantry includes original glass-front cabinets; the icebox is now used for storage of dry and canned goods. Near the kitchen is a back staircase, which joins the front stairs at the landing. Along the front stairway are family photographs, including one of Bill's grandfather's bakery in Lawrence, Massachusetts. The landing is illuminated by a colorful stained glass window.

The bathroom on the second floor includes the original pedestal sink, which Susan and Bill found in storage in the basement, and a *pediluvium*, or footbath. Many of the bedrooms have fully operational intercom telephones. Bill proudly tells how his son Nathan's research located the wiring and tubing needed to repair the aging system. The large closets in many of the rooms are a popular feature of homes built at this time. During the 1980s and '90s, the Morehouse's four growing children occupied the bedrooms. Bill and Susan chose to refurbish the third floor, built as the maid's quarters, to include the master bedroom, an office, and a small kitchen space. They continue to use this space, and the second floor is still used by the children, Sarah, Nathan, Joel, and Johanna, when they come to visit.

The Morehouse family has a deep commitment to serving the people of the 19th Ward and to preserving the splendid residence to which they feel they were called.