

BOYLAN HEIGHTS HISTORIC BUNGALOW

There's so much to know about 907 West South St. that an MLS listing couldn't possibly get across. So, we thought we would write a letter to prospective buyers so they could understand why we have loved to call this our home.

907 is a fully refurbished 1920 bungalow perfect for someone with a lot of books and art. First, the basics: It has two bedrooms (one with a loft), eat-in kitchen with dishwasher and disposal and two bathrooms, (one renovated and one with original clawfoot tub). It has a combination living room and library with built-in bookshelves covering the walls. The house has 10-foot ceilings and oversized windows and an oversized front door. Most rooms have a ceiling fan. It also has central air, and gas heat and stove. The total living area is about 1,400 square feet.

Now, a bit about some of its storied past, and its perfect location:

The interior:

The woman who owned our house before we did is an architect. She took down the walls in the front rooms, and in doing so, found that magnificent chimney that twists into the ceiling. Rather than cover it up, she made it the centerpiece of the room, an anchor to its heart pine floors and high ceilings. To the left of the chimney, you'll find the library, with its wonderful built-in shelves. There's also a built-in cabinet system underneath, equipped with holes throughout to hide the wires of your stereo system or TV sets. The other side of the main room was where we displayed our art and entertained. We kept a sleeper couch in there for guests when they visited, and relished living in that large open space. The kitchen, bedrooms and two bathrooms are all equipped with built-in and very functional shelves – something we have copied in the two houses we've lived in since.

The exterior:

As with most houses in the downtown historic districts, our bungalow has a big front porch. We decked it out with flowers, and ate many of our meals out there and always – no matter the season – enjoyed our morning coffee there (under blankets in the late fall and winter) on rocking chairs. In the summers, we threw house concerts off that porch. The musician would play on the platform as guests assembled on chairs and blankets in the front yard. It was magical. The back deck, strung with lights, was where we hosted smaller groups of guests for dinner. It was also our crafting and reading spot. The backyard is perfect for a pet or a gardener. Our tenants have not used the yard as we had. But when it was under our care, it had a lush lawn and a sprawling herb garden. One side is lined with beautiful Rose of Sharon bushes, and the back alley – where the trash is picked up – was always a favorite place for us to stroll on our way to Pullen Park.

The neighborhood:

Boylan Heights is one of the most desirable neighborhoods in Raleigh. Its beautiful historic homes and yards are a delight to live among. Many of the neighbors are artists or writers. (There are probably five potters on West South Street alone.) Kids play up and down the street, riding bikes and racing from yard to yard as they play. Every Halloween, everyone trick or treats together and at the end of the night, the neighborhood meets on the Boylan Street Bridge with lit pumpkins to display them in a long line. The neighborhood also has an art walk every year close to the holidays, when all the artists display their wares on their front porches, at discounted prices, for other locals to buy.

You are so close to so many wonderful things here. To name a few:

- The Performing Arts Center, with Symphony Hall – home to the North Carolina Symphony and an almost acoustically perfect space – is a quick ride or short walk away.
- Hillsborough Street coffee shops take about 20 minutes to walk to. The hip, thriving Glenwood South strip is closer, with fashionable restaurants and our favorite institution, The Char Grill.
- The Farmer's Market is a quick bike ride away and the Greenway walking/biking trail starts across the street on Western Boulevard.
- Raleigh's thriving center is walkable too. Get a slice of pizza, or peruse one of the antique or gift shops in City Market. Every year, you can walk to Artsposure – a free all-weekend, outdoor arts and music festival that takes places all over the downtown areas.
- Are you a trail runner or hiker? Umstead State Park is a short drive from the house, with miles and miles of paths to traverse. There is also a fantastic stretch of biking trails that can take you from downtown to the 150-acre plus campus of the North Carolina Museum of Art, one of the city's cultural treasures.
- And if you like to shop, North Raleigh is chock full of every store you could want.

These are just a few of the things that make this spot so wonderful. We lived there for three years, and in many ways, we didn't want to move. But, we needed to go back to our families up in Boston in 2002, and now, nine years later, we've decided it's finally time to let go.

Don't hesitate to email us with any questions:

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