

128 North Drive

This was the home of Harry E. Crassweller (B.21 Jul 1911; D 21 Mar 2002) from 1960 until his death. He is the son of Lena and Harry G. Crassweller, grandson of MaryAnn and George Crassweller, and was married to Mary Kalman from 1960 until her untimely death (cancer) in 1965. They had no children. Keeping his home well maintained was subordinate to his *first love* of fishing and small game hunting.



Front Entry in 2002



Front Entry in 2009

The home was originally located closer to the street, and the neighbors on each side, when it was built in 1924. It likely had a crawl space type of foundation and wood clapboard siding.

In 1953 the then owner (Mary Leonard, per Abstract of Title), as told to me, decided to move the house back approximately 70 feet and convert it into a boat house. A concrete block foundation was placed. The frame home was relocated and fitted with asbestos siding. There is no evidence the home was ever used as a boat house after this relocation.

The home was purchased from the estate in 2002 by Harry's nephew Duane Denny and his wife Lorraine, and subsequently sold after renovation to their son Michael.

After the home was acquired, Duane began a major renovation. The front entrance at this time was through an enclosed aluminum patio which led to the basement door. Upon entering the basement, one would climb the stairs to get to the first level. This was completely abandoned with an entry to the first floor by a new front porch with steps placed on a new elevated driveway pitched to the street. The concrete driveway was highlighted with the look of embedded pavers.

With the home situated along the Ecorse Creek and close to the Detroit River, a nautical theme was applied to many details. The front and the rear hip roofs were converted to pointed gables reminiscent of a bow of a boat.

The house was surveyed for lead-based paint. All proper precautions were taken for the abatement of the lead-based paint. The asbestos siding was also removed and legally disposed. The house was entirely gutted of all systems and plaster. Exterior walls were reconfigured for

door walls and windows. Highly efficient foam insulation was placed to exterior walls and the attic ceiling. Some interior walls were reconfigured to create a dining room to receive the morning sun and overlook the marine atmosphere. The home had all new electrical, plumbing and HVAC systems. The kitchen now had a dishwasher, disposal, and microwave oven, along with all new cabinets and countertops. New bathroom fixtures were installed and new flooring throughout. The exterior received vinyl siding. The new electrical system and cable conduits were underground. A seawall and dock were constructed.

While contractors were used in some specialty services, the majority of the work was designed and completed by Duane Denny and was aided by his sons Aaron and Michael. The home received a Certificate of Occupancy in 2009.

Duane Denny

Following are more before and after pictures of 128 North Drive.



East Elevation 2002



Rear of Home 2002



Dock & Seawall 2004



Rear of Home 2008
(before the steps to the porch were built)

NOTE: To do the work the dock and seawall I had to remove the enclosed aluminum covered patio, and hold off all work on the driveway and new covered porch so the backhoe could access the neighbors rear yard to complete the work. These lots are only 25 feet wide.

Following are pictures inside 128 North after the remodel.



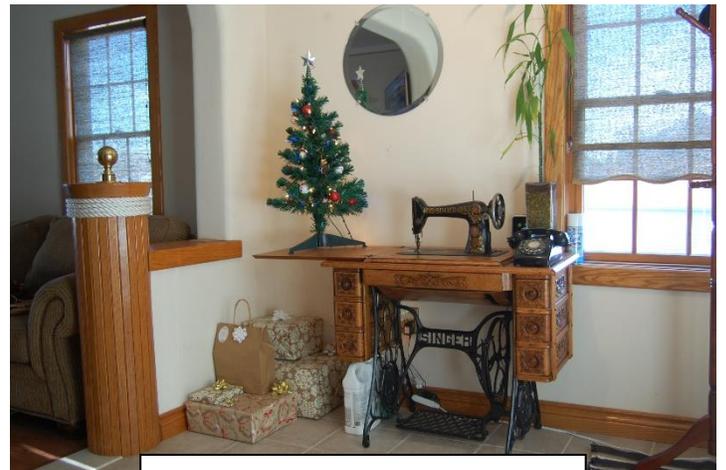
Foyer Entrance



Foyer Coat Closet and Bench



Foyer & View of Livingroom



Foyer with Restored
1911 Singer Treadle Sewing Machine

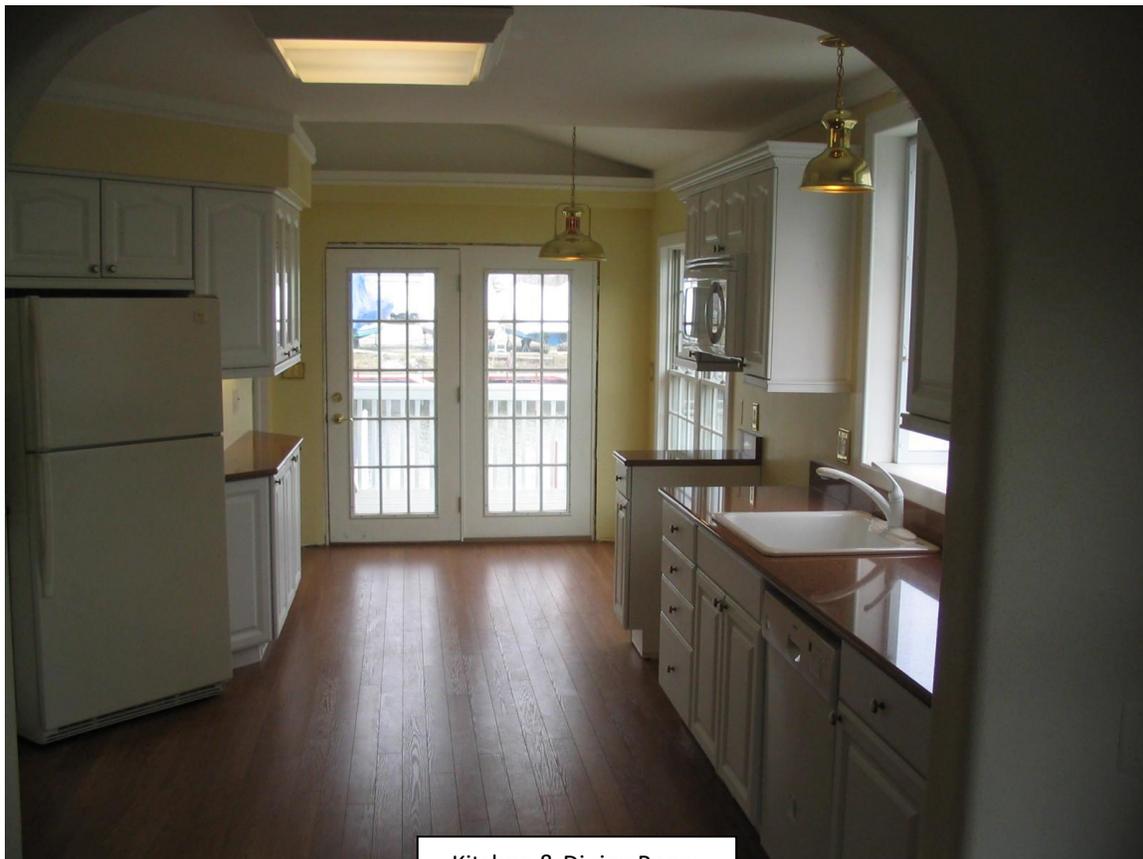
And here are a few more picture inside the home at 128 North Drive.



Bathroom Entry



Bathroom Lavatory



Kitchen & Dining Room