

# *John L. Frizzelle House*

BUILT IN 1926, THE JOHN FRIZZELLE HOUSE stands at 2103 Englewood Avenue, Durham, North Carolina, in what is recognized by the National Register of Historic Places as the Watts-Hillandale Historic District. This front clipped-gable bungalow features an engaged porch, bracketed eaves with exposed rafter tails, 4-over-1 sash windows, original glazed front door with sidelights, original clapboard siding, and Craftsman porch posts built with deep red wire-cut bricks. Around 1940 a back porch and front-gable garage with exposed rafter tails were added.

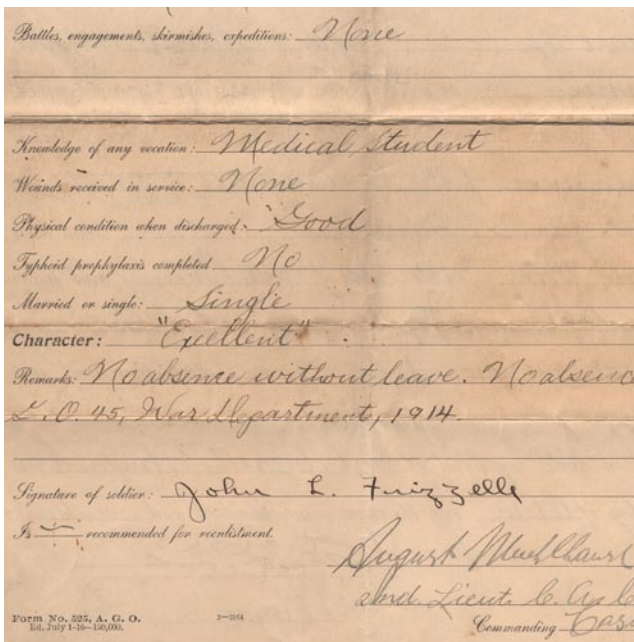
# John L. Frizzelle House

2103 Englewood Avenue

Durham, North Carolina, 27705



COURTESY OF JENNIE FRIZZELLE ANDREWS



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## TO DURHAM AFTER WWI

**TOP RIGHT:** John Frizzelle and his older brother, Mark, of Ayden, NC, as John was heading off to serve in World War I. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Dr. and Mrs. Frizzelle, standing in the driveway of their home. **BOTTOM LEFT:** John Frizzelle's 1917 certificate of honorable discharge from the Army.

**F**JOHN LLOYD FRIZZELLE, a native of Greene County, bought the land for this house in 1926. A successful chiropractor with a practice at 128 West Main Street, he served in the Medical Corps in WWI, and studied chiropractic medicine in Pittsburgh. He and his wife, Jennie, decided to make Durham their home in 1922, thinking it would be good business. Their daughter, Jennie Frizzelle Andrews, who was born that same year, provided much of the family history and many of the photographs here. 🌿



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**H**ILL'S CITY DIRECTORY includes its first entry for 2103 Englewood in 1927, suggesting the family moved in a year earlier. Andrews does not know who designed or built the house—only that her father's father paid for it. She also remembers that her brother, John Frizzelle Jr. (Jack), born in 1925, was still a baby when the family moved into the 1,300 square-foot white bungalow.



COURTESY OF SANDRA SHAW REAVES

Andrews quickly got to know her neighbors and their children. The neighborhood consisted of working class families—teachers, clerks, salesmen—who lived in close proximity and looked after one another. “Children were just as careful of the neighbors as their parents,” Andrews said. Sandra Shaw Reaves, who lived next door to the Frizzelles at 2105 Englewood, said that tradition continued well into the '40's. Reaves remembers eating flapjacks at the Frizzelle's Saturday mornings. “We were just like family,” said Reaves.

Durham was a growing town, whose population nearly doubled between 1920 and 1925, jumping from 22,000 to 42,000 people. Tobacco was the town's chief industry. According to Hill's

Directory, the year Frizzelle bought the house, Durham had 9 banks, 74 churches, an up-and-coming university, Duke, and a college for blacks, known as Durham State Normal College, the predecessor to N.C. Central University.

**E**NGLEWOOD'S FIRST residents included an insurance agent, a minister, a grocery store owner, a pharmacist and a schoolteacher. The insurance agent was Grover Cleveland Glymph, of 2040 Englewood. He knew the neighbors well since he walked up and down the street each week collecting payments on the life insurance policies he sold them. G. C. Glymph Jr., who was born in 1925, remembers playing hockey on the street with the neighborhood children, using a tin can as a puck. "We could play for an hour and never see a car," he said.



COURTESY OF SANDRA SHAW REAVES

**L**IKE MANY OTHER WIVES, Mrs. Frizzelle stayed home and took care of her children, though she had been a school teacher before her daughter Jennie's birth. Her favorite spot was a rocking chair by the door in the living room where she would read or do embroidery. She liked to play bridge with Mary Glymph, and held neighborhood book club meetings. According to Sandra Shaw Reaves, neighbors and friends of all ages affectionately called her "Frizzie" and her husband "Doc." Jennie and Jack attended E.K. Powe School on Ninth Street. They walked to school and often stopped on the way back to buy candy at a grocery store at Carolina and Green Streets. Five Hershey kisses cost one penny, Andrews remembers. The children attended Durham High School, now the Durham School of the Arts on Duke Street. Each morning, Frances Woolworth, who lived at 2108 Englewood, gave



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**AN EARLY UPGRADE**

**TOP:** The house did not have a back porch when it was built; only a small covered entranceway to the kitchen. In the foreground are Foy Shaw and his daughter, Sandra, relaxing on a blanket next to the Frizzelle home. **ABOVE:** Eventually, a larger enclosed porch, covering one of the back bedroom windows, was added. After the back porch was built, the Frizzelles furnished it with an icebox and a table and took their meals there when weather permitted. The house shown in the rear is the Neal-Ford House at 2101 Englewood, a two-and-a-half story Neocolonial, now known as "Big Red" for its color. Its current owners are William and Katharine Whitmore. **LEFT:** The Frizzelle family at the old St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Raleigh with two of Jennie's children. Dr. Frizzelle remained a lifelong Methodist. He attended Asbury (United) Methodist Church on Markham Street in Durham.



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the neighborhood kids a ride to Durham High. She taught home economics at the school and was a close friend of the Frizzelles.



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## GATHERING PLACES

**TOP LEFT:** The Frizzelle's 50th wedding anniversary, December, 1969, celebrated at the Angus Barn in Raleigh. The Angus Barn is still a landmark restaurant in the Triangle. Seated to the right is their son, Jack.

**BOTTOM LEFT:** Jennie Frizzelle, top, with her Duke classmate, Sarah Cole Alexander, and the Frizzelles' dog, on the front steps of the porch.

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** John with his two granddaughters, Elizabeth Andrews, left, and Jennie Andrews, right, early 1950s. To date there have been five generations of women in the family named Jennie.

**W**ITH A FEW EXCEPTIONS, the house has changed little since Jennie grew up here. Dr. Frizzelle, although not a handy man himself, took good care of the house, calling in "his people" when something needed fixing. The Frizzelle's bedroom was the middle one. Jennie had the front, master bedroom; her brother the rear one. A telephone hung on the wall in the hall. The family rarely used the fireplace in the living room, reserving it for special occasions such as Christmas. In later years, the Frizzelles kept the house toasty warm with an oil furnace that replaced the original coal furnace. An upright piano, played primarily by Jack, stood in the dining room. Sandra Shaw Reaves remembers Mrs. Frizzelle and Jack used to love listening to the opera Saturdays on the radio.

*Who added the asbestos shingle siding and painted the exterior brick-work remains a mystery.*

Museum of Art. Scant information is available about the house during these years. The asbestos shake siding, the white paint covering the brickwork, and the iron porch railings, all of which were removed in 2005-6, seem to have been added during this time. Neighbors who live on the street have been unable to supply information about these modifications.

**B**OTH CHILDREN RETURNED HOME to bury their mother, Mrs. Frizzelle, who died in 1975 at age 82. Three years later, they buried their father, who died at age 87. The house was sold for the first time in 1980. Tragically, Jack died shortly afterward in 1981. John, Jennie, and Jack are buried in Durham's Maplewood Cemetery. ❧

## Thanksgiving, 1961 (above)

**COUNTERCLOCKWISE (RIGHT TO LEFT):** Richard Andrews, husband of Jennie Frizzelle Andrews; Jennie Frizzelle; Elizabeth Andrews, (standing); Ms. Frances Woolworth, neighbor at 2108 Englewood, and home economics teacher at Durham High School; Jennie Andrews, daughter of Jennie Frizzelle Andrews; Jennie Frizzelle Andrews; Dick Andrews, son of Jennie Frizzelle Andrews; John Frizzelle Sr.; John Frizzelle Jr. (Jack); and Kitty Andrews, mother of Richard Andrews, hand folded in lap. The Andrews family enjoyed spending time at the Frizzelles. When they were courting, Jennie and Richard would sit outside on the front porch glider swing until late at night. Richard, an engineer, said he thought the house was "solid and well-built."



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## Views from Next Door

**T**HE FRIZZELLES WERE CLOSE to their next door neighbors, Foy and Naomi Ruth (Nola) Shaw, whose home at 2105 Englewood Ave. was built the same year, 1926. Foy Shaw had various occupations but eventually came to own a paint and wallpaper store, first on West Chapel Hill Street, and later on Guess Road. The Shaws had two children, Sandra, born in 1934, and Foy Jr., born in 1936. Although the Shaw children were younger than the Frizzelle children, they were good friends. “I thought anything Jennie did, I should do too,” said Sandra. The two spent many hours on the glider swing on the Frizzelle front porch sipping Coca Colas. Reaves said her first sleepover was in Jennie Frizzelle’s bedroom. When Reaves was 10, Jennie Frizzelle married her college sweetheart, Richard Andrews. Reaves was a bridesmaid. Later, when Reaves married, a “cake cutting” was held at the Frizzelle home. ❁



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### THE FOY J. SHAW HOUSE

**TOP:** The Shaw children, Sandra, middle, and Foy, right, running across the Shaw front yard at 2105 Englewood, Easter, 1941. **TOPRIGHT:** Foy Jr. on his tricycle in the Shaw backyard. To the left is the W. F. Mansfield House at 2109 Englewood. **MIDDLE RIGHT:** Foy and Naomi Shaw in their front yard. The Frizzelle house is visible in the background. **BOTTOM:** Foy Shaw with Sandra and Foy Jr., on the driveway connecting the Frizzelle and Shaw properties. In the rear is the E. F. Callahan house at 2102 Englewood, built in 1925. After WWII, two brick houses were built on the empty lots next to the Callahan house. **ABOVE:** An early photo of the Foy J. Shaw home, now owned by Barrett and Nancy Robbins, who have built an addition in the rear. Sandra Shaw Reaves still lives in Durham, and her brother, Foy Jr., lives on Ocracoke Island off the North Carolina coast.

### “Where y’all been?” THE FRIZZELLE-SHAW SHARED DRIVEWAY

The homes at 2103 and 2105 Englewood share a driveway. For years it was unpaved. Later, concrete was poured, with two thin strips extending into each backyard from the main section in a style sometimes called a “Hollywood driveway.” The families were so close that Mrs. Frizzelle used to go to the bathroom window overlooking the driveway when she heard the Shaw car rolling in. “Where y’all been?” she would holler. Although the Shaws moved to a bigger house in Trinity Park in 1950, the families remained close. In 1980, when Jennie Frizzelle Andrews was preparing to sell her father’s house, she had a joint driveway agreement drawn up with C.E. and Olive Shepherd who lived next door.