



## HISTORIC CHICAGO BUNGALOW ASSOCIATION

### Old Irving Park

This Chicago neighborhood links its past to its present through the preservation of its historic houses. The neighborhood is described as having a grand display of historic architecture with Queen Anne, Victorian and Italianate homes, among vintage farmhouses and elegant bungalows, all of which are in various stages of renovation or preservation.

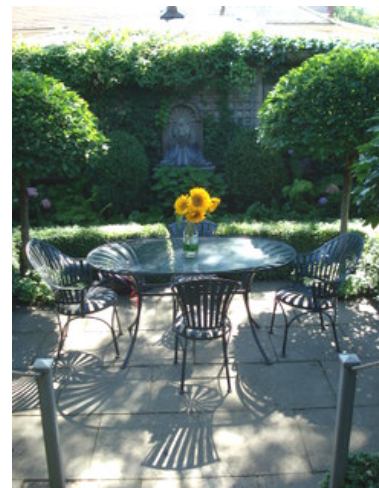


Charles Race, a farmer and real estate developer from New York, helped purchase 80 acres of this neighborhood before the turn of the twentieth century. The Race family sold this bungalow's particular lot to L.C. Klein in 1922. From the deeds records it is seen that the Klein and Race families were two of the primary developers of the block. These men, along with a small handful of others, divided the lots to build on, here and throughout the subdivision of Irving Park from 1918 and during the 1920's.

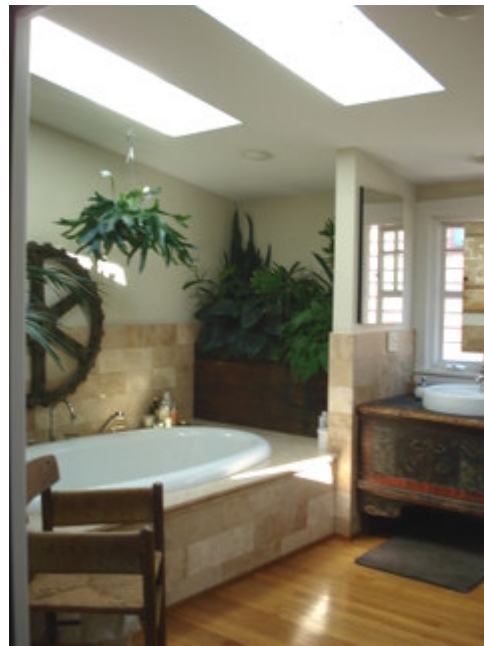
Construction started on this bungalow in June of 1922. Klein worked with the Doyen Brothers to build for an estimated \$4,800. Ivon Johnson, an immigrant from Norway, became the first owner. By 1930 he lived in this home with wife Christine and son Arvid. The value of the home at this time was \$9,000.

Various other owners had lived in the home before Robert DiDomenico moved here in 2000, along with Richard Ezgur shortly after. At first the house posed several challenges for them, the first being the recreation of the dull and recurring front yard. Robert and Rick wanted to create a "unique and relatively easy to care for" front landscape. They did so by planting an eclectic mix of all-season interest perennials, shrubs, and trees. They used short and tall plantings to accent the preserved exterior of the bungalow, while creatively combining landscaping of different shapes, sizes, and textures.

A year later they started on the project in the backyard. "We worked to create a garden in which we could entertain, relax, and be surrounded by beauty." The patio is now among a rhythm of greenery that gives the area a balanced sense of privacy and relaxation.



A lot of attention has been given to the needs and style of both the interior and exterior of the house. Interior remodeling included a master bed and bath on the finished attic level, complete with skylights to enhance the natural lighting for this level of the home. They also constructed a new staircase in the arts and crafts style and replaced all upstairs windows using identical grille patterns to match that of the period first floor windows. They received an energy efficiency grant from HCBA in 2003 for this as well as an appliance voucher.



By removing part of the bathroom wall and pushing back into what was a closet on the other side of the bathroom, they have made a new use of the space with a stand up shower on this first floor bathroom.

During all the renovations they maintained the original roof line in the front half of the house and completed the back half in a shed dormer style, creating space for the master bathroom and closet. While the interior appears quite modern in comparison to other bungalows it shows well maintenance and attention to the residents taste and flare of style, all while respecting the exterior traditional appearance. These homeowners have shown that the possibilities for the interior of your home are endless, while the exterior can be

preserved with a Chicago bungalow authenticity that flatters the streetscape and keeps the history of neighborhood alive.

