



## HISTORIC CHICAGO BUNGALOW ASSOCIATION



Michael & Maureen purchased their Portage Park bungalow on West Pensacola Avenue in March of 1991. The neighborhood takes its name from a city park officially opened in the summer of 1916 by the residents of Jefferson Township. With improved transportation and the creation of the beautiful park, developers began building homes and urban dwellers flocked to the community.

Michael and Maureen's bungalow was built in 1924 by E. J. Warcliffe and sold for \$12,000.00 to the family of John & Violet O'Brien and their three children. Mr. O'Brien was in the automobile business. Michael and Maureen bought the house from Robert & Kaye Grossman who had lived there with their 2 children

since 1986. The Grossman's had purchased from William H. Bobsin, Jr. who had lived in the house with his wife and 5 children since the late 1950s.

Having been married for just a few years and yearning for a home of their own, Michael & Maureen started their house search in the summer of 1989. After many months of driving north side neighborhoods and over thirty walkthroughs, their search came to an end as they drove down Pensacola Avenue in January 1991. After spotting the bungalow, they immediately parked the car and walked up to the back porch of the house to peek in as best they could. That very next weekend, there was an open house and they were able to see things up close. Maureen vividly remembers her feelings of excitement as they walked through exploring each room. She remembers seeing for the first time upstairs all the tongue-and-groove knotty pine and gingerbread style railings, the front bedroom with the split door and black iron hooks and hinges, and the big rooms with ceilings almost ten feet high. She especially remembers how she first felt - "I belong here."



The Hantel's large corner bungalow features two shallow curved window bays with original windows, yellow face brick on three sides of the house with limestone detailing. The house retains its original tile roof and matching brick garage. Inside, the couple has retained original lighting fixtures and woodwork.

Maureen says, "We have all the family parties here. There is a lot of love and joy that went into this house."

