



HISTORIC CHICAGO BUNGLOW ASSOCIATION

Jay Lenn and Greg Diercks were looking for an older house in the Rogers Park area, where they had owned a condominium for years. They liked the character and quality of the bungalows they saw in the area and they wanted to participate in the Historic Chicago Bungalow Initiative. In 2003, they found just the house they wanted in the West Ridge neighborhood.



Jay and Greg like the fact that the neighborhood is ethnically and culturally diverse. "We can walk to the local markets and butchers, and we are doing more and more of their shopping here. We're close to the parks [Warren and Indian Boundary], and we're still close to our other favorite neighborhoods, like Lincoln Square and Andersonville."

The couple's side entrance bungalow was designed by architect William Presto and built by contractor Anton Vachtschal in 1922 for \$6,000. Mr. Vachtschal immediately sold the house for \$12,000 to a young couple, Frederick and Florence Gnad and their two young children. Frederick and Florence were born in Illinois, but their parents were European immigrants, from Germany and England, respectively. Frederick was a salesman for a dairy company.



The house is built with red brick and features a simple front bay with curved bargeboards and continuous, deep overhanging eaves. The previous owners had made several upgrades, including a new

boiler, roof, and garage, just before Jay and Greg moved in. Although the house is relatively small compared to other bungalows in West Ridge, the couple feels the coziness complements the old family furniture they like so well. They have started refinishing some of the home's original woodwork, including the mantel, the frames around the stained glass



windows over the fireplace, and one of the bedroom doors. They have replaced most of the original windows with energy-efficient, wood-frame windows that match the original style, staining and varnishing them to match the refinished woodwork.



The next big project for Jay and Greg is fixing up the baby's room, currently the guest bedroom, because they hope to be adoptive parents within the next year. They see their home as "comfortable and welcoming," the perfect place to host visits from family and friends and to raise their child. They plan to stay "until one of us can't climb stairs". Their three cats—Domingo, Charlotte, Addison, and Mimi—seem to approve. So many windows, so many napping sites!

