



HISTORIC CHICAGO
BUNGALOW ASSOCIATION



In 1968 when James and Barbara Anderson came across a certain real estate sale ad in the newspaper they quickly realized it just might be the find they'd been looking for. The ad for a three bedroom bungalow, located in the Avalon Park neighborhood, met specific requirements Mrs. Anderson was looking for in their first home, and included finer details that added to its desirability. The yellow brick octagonal bungalow was graced with stained glass windows of simple geometric line and shape. The spacious floor plan, formal dining room, and a spare bedroom for her teenaged son were just a few features the Andersons found most attractive. It had it all and it became their first home.

Forty-one years before in 1927, a young couple, Petro and Ortensa Malito, bought this very same house from a contractor named Joseph Cachy. It was the first home for their family, too. Petro and Ortensa both emigrated from same town in Italy in 1907 and 1911 respectively. They married and went into the fruit and green grocery business and subsequently had three children, two sons and one daughter. Sometime in the next four years, the Malito family sold the house to Florence Anderson (no relation to James and Barbara) and the property changed owners several times before it came into the hands of James and Barbara.



It's been thirty-four years since Barbara's teenaged son moved out to go college; he is now married and has his own family. Presently Mrs. Anderson's fireplace mantle is decorated with family pictures. Pictures from her son's, daughter in law's, and granddaughter's college graduation are displayed where once there would have been its previous owner's family pictures. It's been a good home, said Mrs. Anderson. The neighborhood hasn't changed much; it's still a pleasant tree lined street within a row of bungalows in a diverse neighborhood. Barbara has several long-time neighbors that still live down the block.

She is about to rehab her roof and front steps with an IHDA Matching Grant made available through Historic Chicago Bungalow Association. And she is not stopping there. She is thinking about what her next project might be.

