



HISTORIC CHICAGO  
BUNGALOW ASSOCIATION

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**West Ridge and South Shore Bungalow Neighborhoods  
Join National Register of Historic Places**  
*Tax Breaks, Community Pride Result*

CHICAGO (March 10, 2009) – While all Historic Chicago Bungalow owners and buyers know their home is a unique part of Chicago history, two neighborhoods have recently gained official status on the National Register of Historic Places, a source of pride for Bungalow communities dedicated to neighborhood preservation, energy-efficiency and the restoration of a century-old housing icon that carries with it the possibility for property tax relief.

The status was granted by the National Park Service of the US Department of the Interior after a year-long process involving the dedicated research and documentation of both bungalow neighborhoods.

“While it was a long process that took the effort of an entire neighborhood, we are thrilled about the inclusion of South Shore among the Historic Bungalow Districts,” said Shirley Higginbotham, a resident of the South Shore Bungalow Historic District. “The national recognition of these districts is confirmation of what we already knew: the Chicago bungalow is a durable and timeless architectural genre.”

In seeking the designation, homeowners in both neighborhoods contacted the Historic Chicago Bungalow Association (HCBA), which worked with them to achieve state and national historic status.

“We learned a lot about the history of the homes in our area as well as their original inhabitants,” said Maribeth Brewer of West Ridge. “We are an ethnically diverse community, and it was interesting to see that this was the way we started out. We all have a greater sense of neighborhood pride than ever before.”

Pride, however, is not the only benefit for bungalow owners in these neighborhoods. Homeowners in a National Register historic district are also eligible for an 8-year property-tax relief should they undertake renovations equal to 25% of the market value of their homes.

In gaining National Register designation, South Shore and West Ridge join seven other Chicago bungalow communities that have won that status due to the work of the HCBA. In an effort to assist bungalow communities in nominating their neighborhoods for designation, the HCBA created the Chicago Bungalow Multiple Property Listing on the National Register of Historic Places. This document sets up the historic context and historical significance of the residential building type known as the “Chicago Bungalow” and serves as an umbrella under which districts of Chicago bungalows and individually significant Chicago bungalows can be nominated for listing on the National Register.

Annette Conti, Executive Director of the HCBA explained that the designation is available to all of Chicago’s Historic Bungalow communities and that the Association welcomes interest.

Conti added that the national designation is not the only way to get recognition for neighborhoods and bungalows. The HCBA certifies all qualified bungalows, offers grants and loans for historic preservation, and has a special energy savers program offering grants of up to \$6,000 to make bungalows more energy efficient. In addition, the HCBA offers monthly seminars on various topics of interest to bungalow owners and is the host of the annual Historic Chicago Bungalow and Green Home Expo, this year to be held on October 17<sup>th</sup> at the Merchandise Mart.

“There are many more benefits to owning a Historic Chicago Bungalow,” Conti said. “Our energy savers Grants and Energy Efficient Appliance Vouchers help bungalow owners preserve the historic nature of their homes while keeping them affordable.”

The HCBA is part of the Historic Chicago Bungalow Initiative, launched by Mayor Richard M. Daley in 2000 to help preserve the city’s bungalows, which comprise nearly one-third of Chicago’s single-family housing stock and define more than 18 Chicago neighborhoods. Since 2000, more than 10,000 bungalows have been certified as Historic Chicago Bungalows and more than 3,000 families have received grants and loans to assist with home preservation and energy conservation.

For more information on getting your neighborhood listed on the National Register of Historic Places or the Historic Chicago Bungalow Association please call (312) 642-9900 or visit [www.chicagobungalow.org](http://www.chicagobungalow.org)

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