



## HISTORIC CHICAGO BUNGALOW ASSOCIATION



As soon as Jennifer Welch and Mark Vancura walked into the front room of their West Elsdon bungalow, they knew their search for the perfect Chicago bungalow had ended. "I walked into this room," Jennifer remembers, "and saw the stained glass windows, and the sconces and the woodwork, and I said, 'This is my house.' As soon as I saw this room, I knew we had found our bungalow." Welch and Vancura, tired of apartment living and ready to buy a home, knew from the get-go that they wanted a Chicago bungalow. "We didn't look at any other type of house." After looking in several other neighborhoods, their search for a

bungalow with an eat-in kitchen (a must for Vancura, a former chef) led them to the 5600 block of South Tripp, and to the first home built on the block. The bungalow, with its octagonal bay, stained glass windows, coved ceilings, double lot, and spacious eat-in kitchen, had everything the couple was looking for.

Welch and Vancura are the fourth occupants of the bungalow, which was designed by architect H.E. Sammons and built as a real estate venture by original owner Claude Van Norman for a cost of \$5,500. Lambert Construction Company completed construction on the bungalow in December of 1931. Charles and Cecilia Eier purchased and moved into the bungalow in 1932. The Eiers sold the bungalow to Anthony Mikicich in the summer of 1959, who lived there with his family until 1966, when the bungalow was sold to Frank and Florence Drosdowicz. Jennifer Welch and Mark Vancura bought the bungalow (using a loan from a Bungalow Initiative-approved lender) from Florence Drosdowicz in February of 2002 and certified it with the Historic Chicago Bungalow Association.

Since moving into their bungalow in early March, Welch and Vancura have stripped the walls of layers of 1960s wallpaper, taken out carpet and refinished original wood floors, installed a new bathroom on the basement level, and removed overgrown hedges from the front and rear yards. Using a Bungalow Initiative appliance voucher, they recently purchased an energy efficient front-loading washer and dryer.



With a lot of hard work, Welch and Vancura have made a comfortable home of their bungalow, but their plans for improvements are far from completed. The couple has started work on the renovation of the first floor bathroom, and they hope to eventually convert their attic into a master bedroom suite. In the meantime, smaller projects like removing wallpaper from the original front door, painting and replacing picture railings in the library, and preparing garden beds keep Welch and Vancura busy at their Chicago bungalow.