



HISTORIC CHICAGO BUNGALOW ASSOCIATION



Hidden on a quiet side street in the Lincoln Square neighborhood sits a red brick bungalow belonging to Mary Jane Duffy. The unassuming yet elegant house can almost be likened to a geode, whereof the stained glass windows in the projecting front bay provide the first hint of the splendid interior.

On April 1, 1921, Charles Carling applied for a building permit to construct a brick

residence on the 4900 block of North Fairfield Avenue at a cost of \$6,000. Mr. Carling was an engineer who immigrated to the United States from Sweden in 1880. It appears that he designed the home, as no architect was specified. The house was begun in April and completed by July.

Amanda Johnson, who purchased the property in April 1921, first owned the home. In February 1923, she sold the home to Carl Lueder, who in turn sold the home two months later to Ethel Heckes. The Heckes family occupied the home for nearly 40 years.

The Heckes household was rather large in 1930. Inhabitants of the house included Henrie and Ethel Heckes, their son Gerard, Henrie's brother Francis, and Ethel's elderly father Henry Martine. Henrie Heckes immigrated to the United States from Holland in 1912 at the age of 19. In 1919, he married Ethel Martine and 4 years later their son was born. Mr. Heckes earned his living as the owner of a butcher shop. Henrie's younger brother Francis, who emigrated to the U.S. in 1930, worked in the butcher shop as well.



When Mary Jane was looking to purchase a home, she knew she wanted to find a bungalow. "I liked the size, the quality of construction, the low design, and the arts and crafts details of a bungalow," she explains. She looked at several houses, but when she saw the home on North Fairfield Avenue, she knew she'd found what she was looking for. "This one was spectacular," she adds.

When Mary Jane acquired the house, it had been well cared for and required little rehabilitation. In fact, the house is full of charming original features. The home features a large number of stained glass windows, not only in the projecting front bay, but also on both sides of the fireplace, in the dining room, and located in the entryway, where the earth-toned glass lends a warm glow to the space. The fireplace is replete with its original andirons and the home is

heated with unique and artistic radiators. Almost futuristic in their geometric style, these radiators are a subtle reminder of just how modern the bungalow was as a housing style in the early Twentieth century. Original ceiling light fixtures adorn the hallway and several rooms in the back of the house.



One of the projects which Mary Jane did undertake, however, was a sensitive furnishing of the attic space. It was important to her to maintain the historic character of the home. “I wanted to keep the same feel in the attic as through the rest of the house,” she explained. To accomplish this, she scoured architectural warehouses and salvage yards in search of authentic pieces with which to

furnish the space. It was there she found a 1920s era bathroom sink and wooden doors that she was able to use in the attic space. She was careful to imitate the woodwork found throughout the rest of the house, including the hardwood floor. As a result, the attic has the same aesthetic appeal and charm as the rest of the house.

This bungalow, which was certified with the Historic Chicago Bungalow Association in December 2002, is an excellent example of the housing style. Central to the philosophy of many early proponents of bungalows, was the notion that everyone deserved a dignified home, regardless of status or income. The Lincoln Square home is testament to these ideals—a home that is elegant without pretension and as attractive as it is utilitarian.

