

IPHS Housewalk - 30 Years of History



We continue our series of re-visiting Housewalk houses featured in the event's early years. Despite it being called an 'annual', IPHS's third Walk was held two years later on September 17, 1988. St. Viator's Catholic Church was one of three local churches celebrating its centennial that year; it was open so all might view the red and blue stained glass windows (modeled on those at Chartres Cathedral), the cruciform design with no interior pillars, and the recent interior renovations. There were seven houses included in the group, several of them dating to the earliest platted properties in the neighborhood:

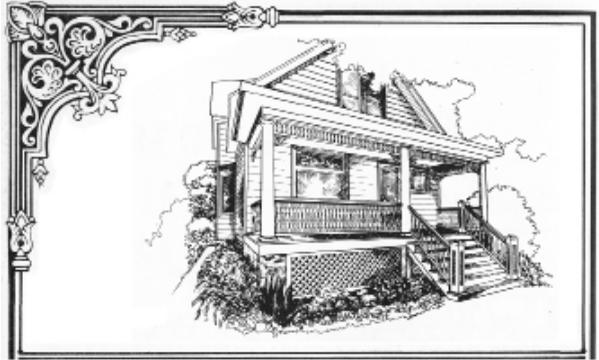
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3628 N. Tripp - A 'Work-in-Progress'

"Each year (the Society) likes to feature at least one home demonstrating the enormous amount of renovation ongoing in Old Irving Park ... this 1911 home was built by developer Andrew Sundene ... several architectural classifications including bungalow, shotgun and cottage styles ... a variant of the basic homestead temple-house ... had few original details left ... two major modernizations ... stairway moved from rear to front ... removed original dining room hutch, all original woodwork, dropped ceilings, panelled every room ..."

2015 update:

As of the late 1980s, the walls, ceilings, hutch and mouldings had been replaced and the front porch restored. Plans included a 'new' Victorian-style bath and kitchen, among other things. The house was occupied early on by a hard-working Polish family and later by the Cline family, among them noted attorney Thomas Francis Cline who also bred thoroughbred race horses.



3828 N. Keeler - A Queen Anne Cottage

"Lot purchased in 1873 for \$1750 by Marenus A. Bronson ... By 1874 the house was built after plans by Mr. Henry Rehboldt ... a Queen Anne cottage in style with Eastlake detailing ... In 1888 Dr. Isaac McKenzie purchased the house and did some important remodeling ... quarter-sawn oak floors installed over wide plank pine ... original porch demolished and existing porch added, making facade grander in scale."

2015 update:

The current owners have lovingly restored the house since they purchased it in 1985. In more recent history (2007), it was the scene of a wonderful homecoming celebration, when former resident Lorna Kooi's sons --former U.S. Senator Alan K. Simpson (R-WY) and distinguished Professor Peter K. Simpson and their families were welcomed to the house their mother had loved.



3926 N. Keeler - Charles N. Loucks House

"... This includes a Certified Historic Renovation of the rear portion of the first floor ..."

2015 update:

The Loucks House made another appearance, showing the most recent updates (as well as featuring another artistic rendition.)



4016 W. Belle Plaine - A Princess Anne Victorian

“Mr. and Mrs. John Monk built this home in 1889 ... Mr. Monk was a lawyer from Onawa, IA and is noted in Iowa history as the first lawyer to defend Iowa farmers against railroads cutting through their farms ... Monk died in 1900 ... 1911 house sold to the Meyers (who) added wrap-around porch and turret.”

2015 update:

The house made another appearance sixteen years later on the 2004 edition of the Housewalk. The owners had since done major restoration work on the exterior, removing asphalt shingles and restoring the siding and porch, as well as adding a modern kitchen and bath at the back of the house.



4102 N. Avers - An American Foursquare

“This home was built in 1907 for Ulysses and Olive Jenkins who occupied the house for thirteen years before moving to the Lincoln Park area ... the house has had six other owners before the current owners who purchased it in 1982 ... house had fallen into disrepair and neglect ... used as a rooming house from 1950 to 1982 ... exterior was stripped of its asphalt ‘brick’ siding ... stripped off coats of paint ... columns, pocket and French doors added ... restored gas fixtures replaced ... new eating area/family room addition ... focus of all projects is to preserve the integrity of the original architecture.”

2015 update:

The Jenkins family lived here longer than thirteen years, and never moved to Lincoln Park; when they did move it was to the then high-class Prince Edward Manor apartments in the then-booming East Rogers Park area. Ulysses and Olive were named in an ‘alienation of affections’ suit a few years after they moved in here, when they ‘took in’ their daughter’s new husband. The couple, 17 years old, had eloped to Crown Point, IN, and returned that night to their respective homes. The groom’s father kicked him out, demanding the Jenkins’ do the same to their daughter. They refused and opened their home to the newlyweds. Ulysses, a prominent vice-president in the petroleum industry, died at his home in Park Ridge in 1935.



4124 N. Avers - A Late Queen Anne Victorian

"Home was built in 1901 for Edward Washburn, one of the most prominent figures in the development of what is now commonly known as the West Walker area ... "William B. Walker's Addition to Chicago" was subdivided in 1897 ... Washburn was given exclusive selling rights to all 500 choice building lots ... was highly successful and built ... on a lot given to him by Walker ... the property at that time had 72.5 feet of frontage ... sold in 1923 for \$8500 ... (the next owners) made a significant change by selling off the south 30 feet of property upon which the bungalow at 4122 was constructed in 1925 ... a spinster purchased the house ... sold in 1932, the family remained 50 years ... "

2015 update:

There was an abundance of original golden oak woodwork - open staircase, pocket doors, a columned fireplace mantle - when the house was fully restored in the 1980s. The 'spinster' in whose name the house was held between 1924-1932 was Helga Ellingson, who lived in the house variously with her widowed mother, an uncle, a grandfather, various siblings, and several nieces. She outlived all her younger siblings, still working as a librarian when she died in Houston at age 85.



3945 N. Tripp - The Stephen A. Race House

"The integrity of this Italianate house is of high quality in its original design and has survived intact for over 100 years. The Italianate style is exceptionally representative of the early dwellings. As such, it captures the spirit of the town of Irving Park that ultimately merged into Chicago. It is recommended that the Stephen A. Race House be designated as an official Chicago Landmark. "

2015 update:

Planning Commissioner Elizabeth L. Hollander used these words in her March 1988 report recommending the Race Mansion for preliminary landmarking. An informative report prepared with assistance from the IPHS helped insure its passing. The house received permanent landmark status on October 7, 1988.

