

## IPHS Housewalk - 30 Years of History



We continue our series of revisiting Housewalk houses featured in the event's early years. IPHS's fifth Housewalk was held on September 15, 1990. A presentation at the starting point featured slides from the Bacmeister Collection, among other donated sources. A second slide show featured highlights of restoration and renovation activity in the area, and was held at the Irving Park Presbyterian Church, 4047 N. Keeler, which was a featured stop that year. Another non-residential building - the Independence Park Field House -- appeared that year, highlighting its history hosting local 4th of July fests since 1903, and the creation in 1989 of the park's Advisory Council to help revitalize the park's activities, its trees and gardens. Featured on Housewalk 1990:

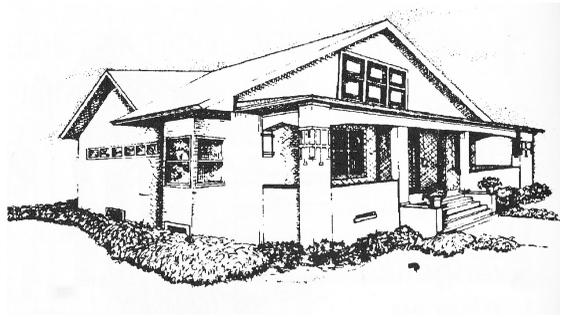
*All photos these pages from IPHS Archives;  
drawings by Kim Tipre ©1990*

3723 N. Kedvale - DeFrenne House

*“...a very well preserved and authentic example of Prairie school ... built in 1911 for Albert DeFrenne, an engraver ... 1916 sold to Albert and Maria Hanke who remained in the home for 52 years ... Albert Hanke was the president of the Andrewson Furniture Company ... Long-time residents recall the tennis court owned by the Hankes, which stood to the south of their home prior to the construction of the brick bungalow at 3715.”*

2016 update:

Albert DeFrenne was a wood engraver who owned his own business. Albert Charles Hanke was the son of a German cabinetmaker and learned the trade from his father. His furniture company, Albert C. Hanke Inc., had two locations ; one on Fullerton and the other on Milwaukee Avenue for many years. Hanke was an acclaimed marksman and member of the Irving Park Rifle Club, a competitive group formed in the post-WWI era that consistently won city-wide honors. The two Alberts might be surprised to see how their house has ‘grown up’ over the years, since it now features a seamlessly-added second story.

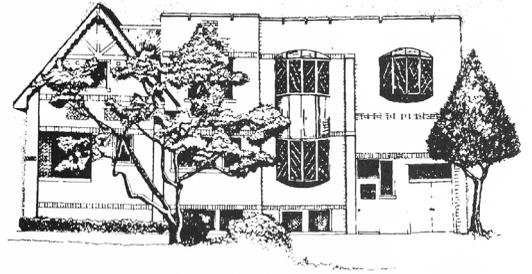


3815 N. Kenneth - DeFrancesca House

*“Rather unusual looking home constructed in the early 1930s as a coach house for Peter and Rose DeFrancesca ...intended to build a main house on the front of the property but due to financial reverses during the Depression it was never built ...”*

2016 update:

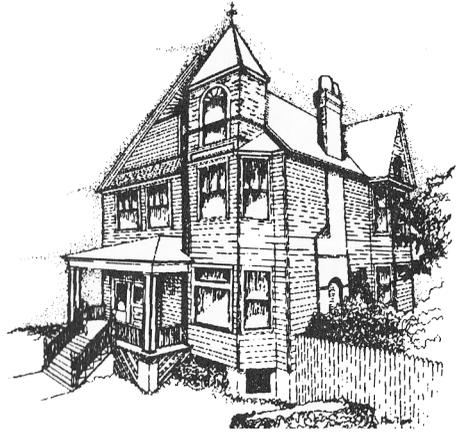
This house was purchased in 1987 by a husband-wife architect-contractor team, who completely redesigned and renovated the house in an ‘eclectic’ style. They built a master suite with a walk in closet and marble bath, and designed and installed new ash floors with walnut inlays. All of this was included in the 1990 Housewalk. The DeFrancescas, neighbors who’d lived in at least three other Old Irving residences since 1911, had a large family so it had taken quite a while to save for their eventual home. A dozen or so years after the Housewalk, this unique house was demolished. The property was subdivided, the large lot with its lovely English gardens destroyed, and two large brick non-architectural style houses now occupy that space on the block.



4253 N. Keeler - Christensen House

*“...classic Queen Anne Victorian with cut shingle work, beveled glass and ornate brick chimney was constructed in 1894 for the Christensen family ... was the first home built on the block ... house sold at public auction in 1935 ... William and Margaret Jansen purchased the house in 1945 and remained 29 years ...converted back to a single-family home in the early 1980s. ”*

2016 update:  
The Christensen family consisted of three sisters from Norway - Thora, Amelia and Henrietta - who took in boarders during the nearly thirty years they occupied this house. This house still stands, surrounded by a lovely hedge and garden.



4246 N. Kedvale - Wallace House

*“Joseph J. Wallace constructed this large Queen Anne home with wrap-around porch and three story turret in 1897... in the 1890s the property extended an additional 25 feet to the south, providing a total 75 feet of frontage and a large yard running adjacent to the porch ... the south part of the property sold off in 1924 and home lost during the Depression ... in 1949 it was acquired by the American Polish Civic Center, who used it as a halfway house for new Polish immigrants; during this period it was divided into a number of one room ‘apartments’ which resulted in pulling out the rear stairway, removal of stained glass windows, fireplace and pocket doors. ”*

2016 update:  
This house remains in a handsome state, despite the wrongs done to its interior. This was the featured ‘work in progress’ house at this Housewalk; the homeowners had made much progress in their restoration efforts. J.J. Wallace was a lumber dealer before he took over the Irving Park Lumber & Coal Company in 1892. He died in October, 1918, but the J.J. Wallace Coal Company lasted at the Keystone location for many years. It was one of numerous residential and commercial structures demolished in the late 1940s/early 1950s for the building of the Kennedy Expressway.



*4046 N. Springfield - Dencer House*

*“This Victorian home with Italianate-styled roof brackets was constructed for the Mathias Dencer family about 1889 ... the Garard family purchased it in 1917 and remained 34 years; during this period they constructed a doctors office in the basement which has been used as an apartment periodically to date ... also sold off the south 35 feet of the lot to allow for construction of the neighboring building in 1925.”*

2016 update:

Mathias Dencer was a renowned owner of a south side planing mill operation; he had lived and worked since the 1880s at 439 26th Street. He was on the Board of Managers of the Builders Club of Chicago, and invested in property on all sides of the city. He and his family never lived here, but it is certain that his son, Frederick, a structural steel designer with American Bridge Co., moved into the house after his marriage in 1900. The house is still standing, in lovely condition, with a pretty yard and a fresh new porch.

