



HISTORIC CHICAGO  
BUNGALOW ASSOCIATION

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Contact:  
Karin Sullivan – MK Communications  
(312) 822-0505; [karin@mkcpr.com](mailto:karin@mkcpr.com)

## **West Chatham Bungalow Neighborhood Becomes Ninth to Join National Register of Historic Places**

*Tax Breaks, Community Pride Result*

CHICAGO (May 24, 2010) – Historic Chicago Bungalow owners have long taken pride in being part of a unique community, one dedicated to both preserving the bungalow’s historic character and ensuring that Chicago’s iconic housing is adapted to meet the needs of this century’s homeowners through smart energy-efficiency measures and renovations.

Now residents of the West Chatham Bungalow Neighborhood have an extra reason to be proud. They’ve just become the ninth Historic Chicago Bungalow neighborhood to win official status on the National Register of Historic Places. The eight other bungalow communities that have won a place on the register with the assistance of the HCBA are Wrightwood Boulevard (2004), Schorch Irving Park (2004), South Park Manor (2004), Rogers Park Manor (2005), North Mayfair (2006), Falconer (2007), Talman West Ridge (2009) and South Shore (2009).

“This national recognition is a huge source of pride for the neighborhood,” said bungalow owner Karen Williams, a resident of the West Chatham Bungalow Historic District who worked with the local block club to help provide the extensive photo documentation required for the application. “Our homes are the biggest investment we have. Working on them is a labor of love, and receiving this accolade is just wonderful.”

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

In seeking the designation, homeowners in the neighborhood contacted the Historic Chicago Bungalow Association (HCBA), which worked with them to achieve national historic status. The National Park Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior granted the status after a year-long process involving the research and documentation of every home in the neighborhood, including 260 historic bungalows that contributed to the designation.

The recognition of Chicago's Historic Bungalows as a significant housing type on the National Register is an achievement that no other housing type in the country has accomplished. 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 set 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.

"This designation is available to all of Chicago's Historic Bungalow communities," explained HCBA executive director Mary Ellen Guest. "HCBA is delighted to see the recognition for West Chatham, and we're happy to provide assistance for other bungalow neighborhoods who seek to apply to the National Register."

Historic Chicago Bungalows 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 4,500 bungalow owners 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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