

The house that Barack bought

1 June 15, 2005: Barack Obama and his wife Michelle buy 5050 South Greenwood Avenue in Kenwood, Chicago, for \$1.65 million – \$300,000 less than asking price



2 At the same time, Rita Rezko buys the garden plot, 5046 South Greenwood Avenue, for the asking price of \$625,000



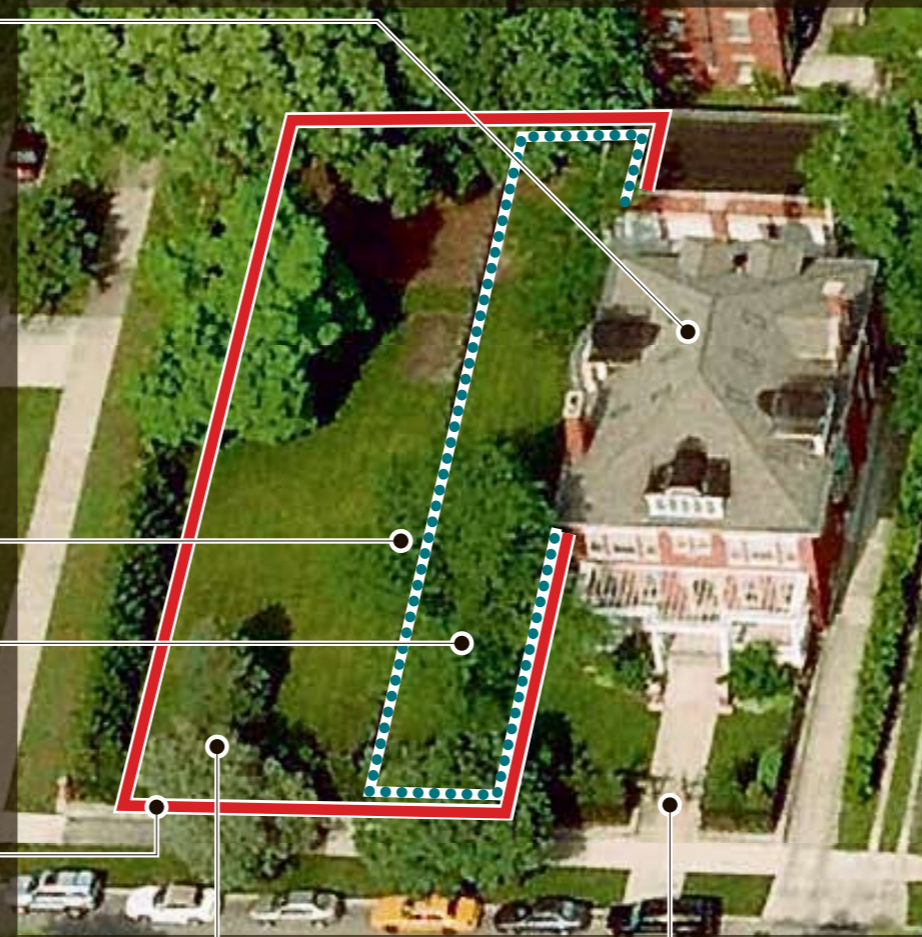
3 January 2006: Mrs Rezko sells a 10ft strip of garden to the Obamas for \$104,500

Metal fence and trees prevent access to garden plot



4 December 28, 2006: Mrs Rezko sells remainder of garden plot to a lawyer who works for her husband's business for \$575,000

Only way in to garden plot is through the Obamas' front gate



Dramatis personae

Nadhami Auchy

- The 18th-richest Briton with £2.575 billion. Traded with Iraq before the Kuwait invasion but Saddam regime executed his brother. Honoured by Pope John Paul II



Antoin "Tony" Rezko

- Friend of Barack Obama from 1990 and fundraiser since earliest local campaigns. Facing criminal charges for corruption and fraud and civil action over his Papa Tony pizza parlours

Rita Rezko

- Some of the millions of dollars wired from Mr Auchy's conglomerate went through her accounts

Christopher Kelly

- Former gambling adviser to Illinois governor. Now charged with claiming his betting losses as business expenses, which he denies

Rod Blagojevich

- Democratic Illinois Governor whose administration is under federal investigation. Although his fundraisers Mr Rezko and Mr Kelly have been indicted, he has not been charged with any wrongdoing



Barack Obama

- Member of Illinois State Senate since 1996, elected to Capitol Hill as Senator in 2004

Sources: The Sunday Times Rich List; US court documents; Associated Press