

870 Highland



A Golden Opportunity

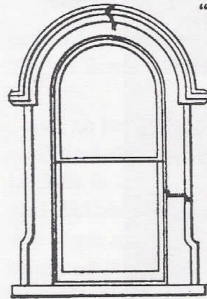
There was obviously money to be made in the Flour & Feed business back at the turn-of-the-century, because that's how the original owners of this classic house made their living, and from the look of this house, they made quite a living.

William Norton and Emma Reid together owned the Reid & Norton Flour & Feed on south State Street, and 870 Highland was their residence, built in 1905.

Today, the house is owned by three women, none of whom are in the prosperous Flour & Feed business,

but who, nonetheless, are continuing a tradition of caring for their historic home with the richness to which it is obviously accustomed. The Gifford Park Association affectionately refers to Gloria, Marilyn & Kathryn as "The Golden Girls." The enthusiasm they have for their home is practically contagious. They have been tour-goers for years, and it was the Elgin Historic House Tour that gave them the idea and the inspiration to invest in this historic house.

Their house is Colonial Revival with a gambrel roof covering a deeply recessed second story porch or



“parade balcony” - one of the most picturesque features of the house when you view it from the street. There is also influence from the Shingle style, with shingled eaves and shingle wall-tapestry work at the porch pediment and around the circle-topped windows. Also, the intricate and decorative window mullion patterns have a nice contrast with the plainer quality of the wall surfaces.

When you enter, you'll be instantly aware of the openness and brightness of the “living hall” which forms the spatial core of the house and foreshadows the new sense of interior layout that becomes our modern, multi-purpose living space, something you'll notice in many of this year's tour homes.

The fireplace and staircase make for a warm welcome, and the sunny window seats which beckon you upward are just as charming on the outside - graduated horseshoe ovals with the exaggerated keystone motif - as they are inside. The upstairs has interest-

ing rounded walls in a wonderfully spacious central hall, with a built-in linen closet. You'll circle through a multitude of bedrooms, past an original cast iron shower and other nice touches that have managed to survive the years, such as the door hardware and the old light switches.

The parlour on the first floor has a delicate Adamesque cut glass swag in the transom above the window, adding to the Colonial Revival influence that orders the entire front of the house. In the dining room is a shallow bay and continuing paneled wainscoting — adding that air of formality and just the perfect touch for the Golden Girls, who love to entertain friends and family.

You'll hardly notice the rear porch is an addition, since the house is so well-tended and preserved.

