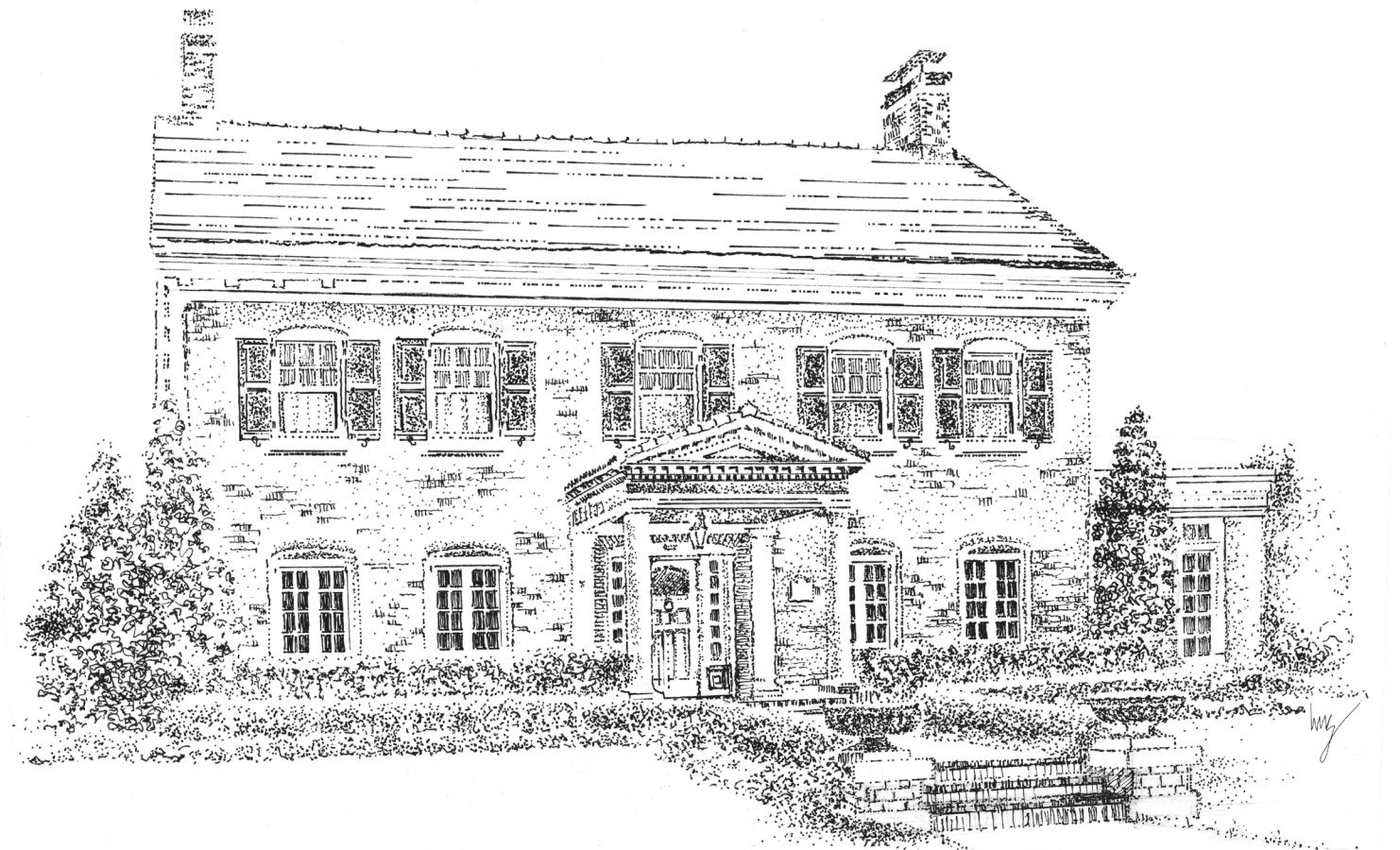




1007 Douglas Street

1920 Colonial Revival



HOMEOWNER: ALAN SCIMECA

This grand Colonial Revival-Style home was the crowning touch to the successful business career of Fred Dieterich. Mr. Dieterich and a partner founded the Elgin Stove and Oven Company in 1903. Beginning with the manufacture of small bake ovens, the company quickly prospered and expanded its product line up. By 1920, when he had this house built, the stove company had achieved national sales distribution. Fred and his wife, Freada, lived here until 1937.

The subsequent owners included attorney and state legislator Frank McCarthy. Next came industrialist Charles Haverty, who later in life operated a farm and lawn center near Woodstock. More recently, the house was owned by business executive John Munenzer. We can well imagine that this home was as much a celebration of their success in life as it was for Fred Dieterich.

In October 2013, Alan Scimeca acquired the property. As with his predecessors, this home is the reward for a successful career. Alan grew up in Elk Grove Village. His passion for architecture evolved from a career in the construction industry. He learned the business

side of the construction industry as an estimator and project manager. He has worked on both residential and commercial projects, including the construction and buildup of the 65-story office tower known as 311 South Wacker Drive located in the Loop. When constructed, at 961 feet in height, it was the tallest reinforced concrete structure in the world. More recently, but only slightly more down to earth, Alan has been developer and builder of more than 40 different multimillion-dollar homes. He is currently constructing a massive 11,000 square-foot home in North Barrington.

Alan's teenage daughters attend Elgin Academy and through this connection he became friends with other residents along Douglas Ave. It wasn't just the local architecture that left an impression on him, it was the residents who convinced him that this was a special place to live. So when he needed a new home, he began looking for a house in this neighborhood.

How does a man who constructs expensive new houses that feature the latest amenities approach caring for a nearly century-old classic home? The answer is

33rd Annual Historic Elgin House Tour



Architectural Notes

This home is designed in the Colonial Revival Style and embellished with several high-end details. The basic massing of the building is a rectangular two-story structure with side gabled walls. Beginning with the tile roof and looking downward, you will notice two massive chimneys at opposite ends of the building. The junction between the roof and the side walls is decorated with a band of crown molding set above small brackets known as modillions. Below the modillions are tooth-like brackets, known as dentils. These are details inspired by classical Greek architecture and are repeated in the prominent front-entry porch, known as a portico. The portico's full round columns and half-depth square columns adjacent to the wall, known as pilasters, are also classically inspired. This grand transitional space leads to a large, paneled front door with sidelight windows.

As is commonly found on more substantial buildings from the Colonial era, the exterior walls of this Revival-style house are red brick laid in a traditional pattern, with fairly wide mortar joints. The symmetrically placed window openings are topped off with simple segmental arches. The large brick corner posts for the fence match the house. The red brick sidewalk leading to the house is complementary to the overall design.

This house features an attached garage in the rear of the building. This is a very unusual feature for a home of this vintage.

For an interesting look at some other variations in the design, details and exterior wall finishes found on Colonial Revival-Style homes, you may want to walk up the block. The houses north, or to your left as you face our featured home, each have their own individual character, but all retain the basic elements of the style.

