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NORTH AVONDALE HOME TOUR



SATURDAY

MAY 7, 2005

NOON-6 P.M.

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Photo: Historic Preservation Commission, City of Chicago. Photo: Historic Preservation Commission, City of Chicago.

THE SCHIFFER HOUSE

3836 Reading Road
Built | 1914

Architect | Unknown
Style | Tudor Revival

Please note | Will Call table here

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A sensitive, adaptive renovation has transformed this house from a rundown eyesore to a showplace. It was the elegant suburban residence of Myron B. Schiffer, manager of the Richman Brothers clothing store in downtown Cincinnati. In the 1950s it was converted to dental offices. By the 1970s it housed five apartments.

In 2002, the house was purchased by the owner to house her medical practice. During a two-year renovation, supervised by architect Frank Russell, the first two floors were adapted as office space, with an apartment on the third. The interior was gutted and the

space reconfigured to meet building codes and program requirements, while preserving original features.

Now restored to its glory, the Schiffer House is a lively and fanciful composition in the Tudor Revival style. Gothic Revival lancet arches, trefoils and quadrants peek from porches, dormers and gables. The walls are rock-faced golden sandstone, pierced by pointed arches, and half-timbered stucco. The front porch, removed during an earlier remodeling, has been reconstructed with "battered" columns on stone pedestals. Note the steeply gabled roof with flared eaves.

Throughout the house, missing wood details were recreated, and new features added to harmonize with the old.

In the waiting room is a columned oak mantelpiece relocated from a rear room. The first flight of stairs, with lancet-arched panels and slender, octagonal colonnettes, was turned 90 degrees to face the waiting room.

A built-in window seat was added to the sunny and inviting stair landing. The quarter-sawn oak floors, preserved under carpet, were refinished and stained.

When the owner bought the property, it housed 16 apartments in two buildings.