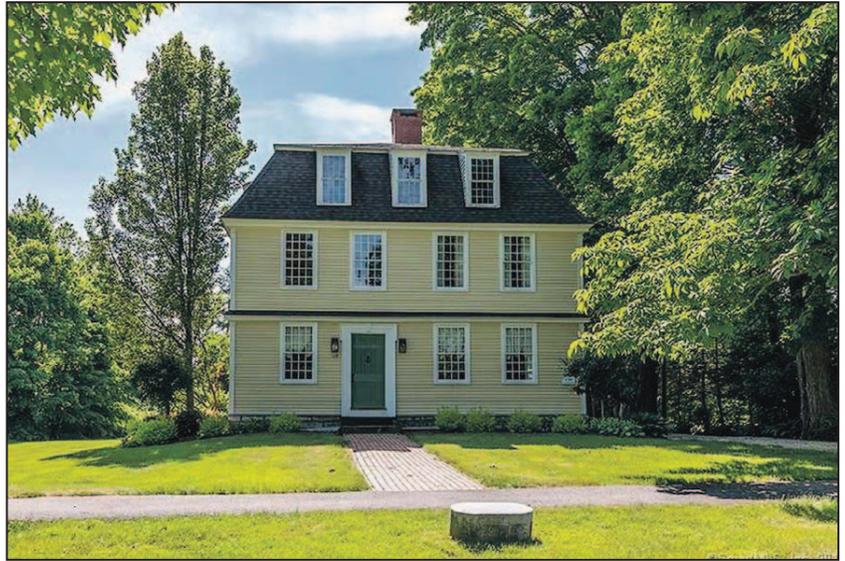


ON THE MARKET

An uncommon house made for the uncommon man

For a home that was built in 1785, this Colonial dwelling marked by Federal detailing underneath a mansard roof is a comparatively uncommon center-chimney structure in the village of Litchfield.

But in a sense that makes sense, considering it was built for a comparatively uncommon man. This was the home of the town's resident physician, Dr. Daniel Sheldon. He was an educated man who established a medical practice which ran in the community for 50 years, beginning the year before the house was constructed. He was held in the highest regard, not just within the county, but throughout the state. Dr. Sheldon even helped to found the State Medical Society in Connecticut, and ultimately received an honorary doctorate in medicine from Yale College. The good doctor was thus described in the "American Medical Biography: Memoirs of Eminent Physicians" by Stephen West Williams in 1845: "Dr. Sheldon was endowed by nature with a vigorous and well balanced mind; he was quick to discover and ready to apply all his knowledge in the practice of his profession," the memoir read. "He had the tact which led him at once to the indication of disease, and boldness in his prescriptions which only comes properly from a thorough knowledge of the case. "In the treatment of pulmonary consumption he had great and desired celebrity," it continued. "Many persons affected with symptoms of



This 1785 Colonial was designed by master craftsman William Sprats for Dr. Daniel Sheldon, who was a most respected physician in the region.



So much original detail remains, including chestnut floors and a total of seven fireplaces.

agent Suzanne Blaicher said, "It doesn't even creek." One last note about Dr. Sheldon. Though he was celebrated for avoiding so-called quackery, and championed natural remedies such as a healthy diet and animal companionship, he also pushed popular narcotics and snake-oil tonics, because he was addicted to opium. Nineteenth century doctors — are they just like us?

that disease, flocked to him from a great distance, and his success sustained his reputation, till from age and infirmity he ceased to practice his profession. There was no quackery about his practice, but plain, open, common sense views of what changes might be wrought by perseverance and suitable remedies." He was soon a wealthy man, and was able to hire coveted Scottish craftsman William Sprats to create a dwelling extraordinary in Litchfield. According to a report by the Litchfield Historical Society, "The house is one of the most distinctive 19th century dwellings in the borough, in addition to its unusual mansard roof, the house is arranged on the four-room plan, which sets it apart from the traditional central-chimney form." And it is ever well-preserved, with seven fireplaces and chestnut floors so masterfully pieced together that, as listing

—Jack Coraggio

IN THE DETAILS

Listing: Klemm Real Estate
Price: \$879,000
Bedrooms: 5 **Baths:** 3
Acreage: 4
Year built: 1785

Do you have a home for sale with a story? We'd love to tell it. Share with Bill Cloutier at bcloutier@rep-am.com