

ERNEST M. WOOD OFFICE AND STUDIO

126 North 8th Street

Ernest Michael Wood, possibly Quincy's most versatile architect, designed and built 126 North 8th Street for his own office and studio in 1911-12, in the Prairie Style. As a structure designed by Wood for his personal use it is of special interest because it is indicative of the architect's stylistic preference when free of client pressures. Prairie Style characteristics are to be seen in the rectilinear massing of the building, the subdivision of exterior surfaces by flat strips of dark stained wood, the simple geometry of the wooden screens on either side of the front of the building, of the fireplace and of the stained glass in the windows, along with the overhanging horizontal edges of the roof. The structure was unlike anything in Quincy at the time, with its creme-colored stucco over cypress walls, straight-forward reference to Frank Lloyd Wright. Wood probably built his small, skylighted architectural office building in emulation of Wright's Oak Park studio.