

**State Savings Loan and Trust Company
428 Maine • 1892, 1906
Patton & Fisher and
Ernest M. Wood, architects**

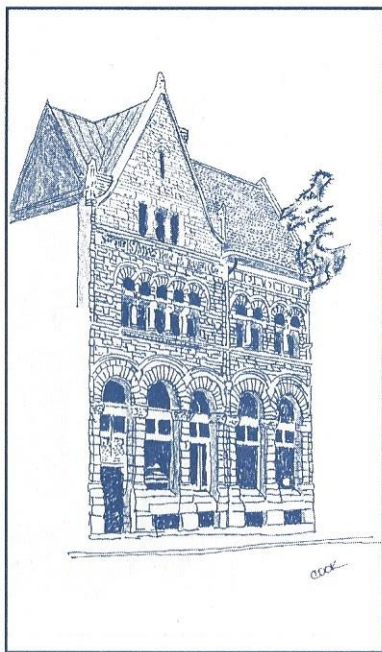
This building is one of the premier architectural monuments of Quincy. The Bull brothers hired Patton and Fisher of Chicago to design the building, probably at Lorenzo Bull's behest. As a member of the library board, he had first hand exposure to the firm's work in the recently completed Free Public Library and Reading Room building down the street.

The Richardsonian Romanesque front of the building is unique in the city for its colorful Missouri granite, beautiful proportions, skillfully placed and executed carving, and exquisite ornamental iron grillwork and strapwork. Ernest Wood's addition to the west absolutely respects the original design, changing only the proportions of the new windows to fit the width of the expansion.

The Romanesque idiom is carried into the banking spaces, where it joins with the eclectic style then in vogue. Cherry wood is used throughout, in raised paneling, banking counter fronts, and the elaborate wall dividing front offices from the banking room. Perhaps the most outstanding specimen of wood carving is nearly lost to view in a row of squat Byzantine columns supporting an arcade high above the office divider. The scrolled motifs in the ironwork of the main door are reiterated in the corner reinforcements of the counters as well as in the office gates. Tying everything together is a tile mosaic floor bordered in a vaguely French Renaissance design.

A stenciled dado once enlivened the wall above the paneling, and the wide friezes beneath the ceiling were once sculpted in plaster. The beautiful colonnetted corbels at the ends of the ceiling beams have been restored, and the beams repainted in the multi-colored fashion of their early years. The skylights were removed in the 1920s. The gas corona-style chandeliers that hung next to them were removed at the same time. The art glass and bronze light dishes that replaced them are equally elegant.

Since its restoration by George Irwin in the mid 1960s, the main floor of the bank has been put to a variety of purposes culminating in its present use as a framing shop. Some of the showiest features, such as the long run of banking counters and massive Renaissance-fronted vaults, continue to find new uses far removed from their original banking purpose.



*Behind Closed Doors
October 16, 1993*

current owners: Steven and Lynn Gustison and Daniel and Beatrice Patchin