

Quincy Preserves! would like to thank all those who joined us on the 1983 House Tour. Because of the large attendance this year, not everyone received the enclosed, written information on the individual house - for which we apologize.

Next year the tour is being planned for 13-October, 1984. We hope to see you there.

JOHN WOOD MANSION 425 S. 12th St. -- 1835 -- Architect, John Cleveland -- Greek Revival

Considered to be one of the finest Greek Revival structures in the Midwest, the John Wood Mansion was built in 1835 for John Wood, the founder of Quincy and is now a museum and the home of the Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County. Wood retained John Cleveland, a master mechanic from Massachusetts, to oversee the construction of his house and he hired skilled workmen from among the German immigrants to Quincy to build the house.

Use of the classical Greek temple form was popular during that period, and the Mansion has the triangular pediment and plain Doric columns of a temple facade. The column and beam construction is evident in the door surrounds and window lintel as well as the design of the fireplace mantels. The main entrance is graced by a double portico which reflects a southern influence. Wood personally selected the coffee nut trees from which the solid wood Doric columns of the portico were made. He made the lathes and turned the great pillars himself. A notable fan light in the pediment and door lights complete this restrained Doric facade.

In 1857, while lieutenant governor of Illinois, Wood constructed another house, a lavishly finished octagonal edifice, adjacent to the Mansion. In 1864, he undertook to move the white frame Greek Revival house across the street to its present location. A fine Osage Orange hedge surrounded what was then an orchard. Rather than destroy this native fence, he built a ramp over the ten foot high hedge and, powered by teams of horses, the house slid up and over the fence. John Wood lived in the Octagonal house and gave The Mansion to his son, Daniel. However, a decline in his fortunes forced John Wood to move back into the older home with his son's family where he died in straitened circumstances in 1880. That year, the Daniel Wood family vacated their Greek Revival mansion. The house fell on hard times. In 1907, faced with the prospect of the Mansion's imminent demolition, the Historical Society raised enough money to purchase this important structure. Some consider the purchase of the John Wood Mansion to be the beginning of the preservation movement in Illinois. In 1973, because of severe structural problems, the building was closed to the public. Last year, after a complete and meticulous restoration costing \$400,000 the John Wood Mansion was re-opened as a museum, a re-creation of its mid-19th century self when John Wood was residing there.