

Significant Person:

Ernest Michael Wood has been recognized both as a significant architect in Quincy and a significant Prairie School architect in the Midwest. He was born on June 17, 1863 in Quincy and died on January 25, 1956 after living a full and productive life in Quincy. This house served as his primary residence.

Ernest Wood grew up in Quincy with his parents, Edward and Rebecca, and his brother, Howard. He attended the public schools here and probably graduated from Quincy High School. At the age of 23, Wood decided to enter the architectural field by the standard method of an apprenticeship with an architect. In 1886, he began work with architect Harvey Chatten, a well established Quincy architect. Throughout the next five years, he worked closely with Chatten on several designs and drafted the majority of the drawings.

By 1891 Ernest Wood established his own practice. His early designs reflect the popular eclectic and revivalist styles of the late 19th century that Chatten also followed. He constructed his residence during this period, according to these trends. Around the turn of the century, Wood became familiar with the new Prairie School style of Frank Lloyd Wright. He was impressed with this work and elements of this style began to influence his work in 1905. His most important designs, including his own office, date to these first decades of the 20th century. Modifications adding Prairie School elements to his home appear at this time.

Ernest Wood married Clara Burge on June 16, 1903, and the couple never had any children. Throughout his life, he attended St. John's Episcopal Church. He continued to work in the Prairie School style, communicating with Wright, until he retired from active practice in 1938 at the age of 75. Ernest Wood's work in the Prairie School style helped to spread the influence of Frank Lloyd Wright and the Chicago School throughout the region.

List the significant exterior architectural features of the building. Include photographs of building facade for proposed Landmark:

- * original shingled form and shingled additions
- * gables with circular shingled detail and sets of double brackets
- * shingled porch with decorative brackets
- * Prairie School stained glass windows
- * three chimneys
- * double hung windows and openings
- * window openings in sets
- * windows with side light and transoms

Why do you think this property merits designation? Check appropriate item(s):

Architecture Persons Event(s) Prominent Landmark

Historical Unusual Use Other _____