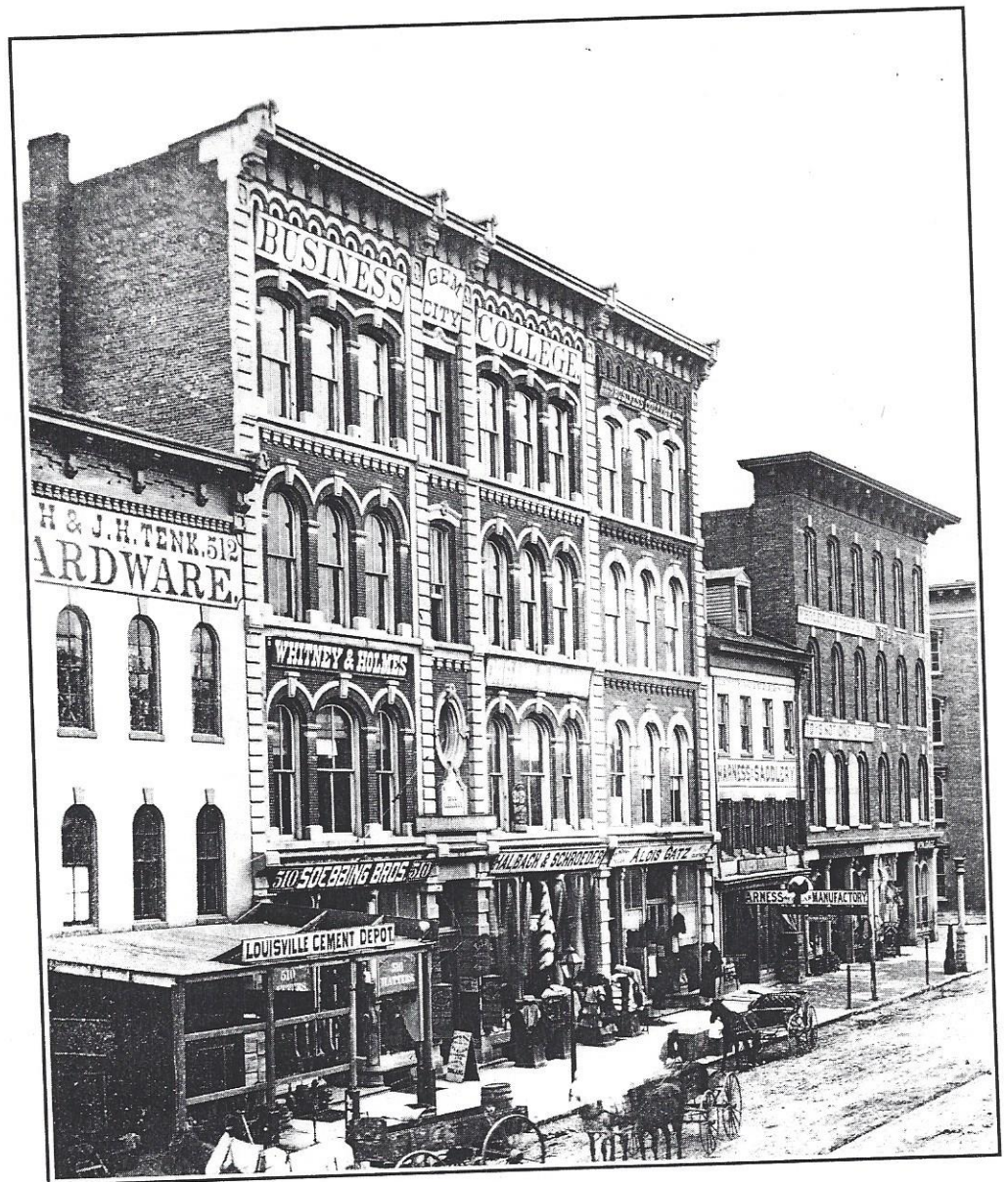


The south side of Maine Street between Sixth and Fifth, looking west toward the Concert Hall building on the corner of Fifth, erected about 1850, and replaced in 1918 by the Halbach-Schroeder building. In the center of the picture is the Benneson building with the Gem City Business College on the third and fourth floors and the Whitney Holmes Organ Co. on the second floor. The Tenk Hardware Co. had its beginning in the building at the extreme left.



Wholesale row, from Maine to Hampshire on Third, with the Lesem building in the center of the picture, erected about 1871, and the Meyer and Franke building next to it on the south. The Kolker grocery building is shown on the south-east corner of the intersection, birthplace and home of the Quincy actor Henry Kolker.



Several bad ice storms have struck Quincy during the last 50 years. This is Maine Street looking east from 20th on January 8, 1937. The arch of beautiful trees over Maine Street was broken by the ice.



One of the many deep snowstorms that Quincy has had over the years. This was on February 28, 1900, at Third and Hampshire in front of the old City Hall building on the northeast corner.



Fire at the **Tenk Hardware** retail store at 512 Maine Street on June 2, 1901. Note aerial ladder extended its full length in the foreground.



ERNEST MICHAEL WOOD (1863-1956)

One of the outstanding architects of western Illinois had his early training and maintained a practice and remained a resident throughout his long life in Quincy, Illinois. Ernest Michael Wood was born in Quincy on June 17, 1863 to Edward M. Wood and Rebecca Montgomery Wood. Little is known of the parents except that Edward Wood was employed for a time as a clerk. The only other child, a brother named Howard O. Wood, was born on September 21, 1867.

Ernest Wood was educated in the Quincy public schools before 1887 and probably graduated from Quincy High School. It is possible that Wood followed the path of other young people of the day who wished to enter business and enrolled in the Gem City Business College of Quincy. After completing his education, Wood may have worked as a clerk in a position similar to that held by his father.

Wood apparently decided to enter the building field at about age twenty-three. A clue to his interests at this time is found in the statement that he was "...especially good in painting, etching and woodcarving." As was often the case at the time, Wood entered the office of an established architect to secure training and he did not receive a university degree. Wood was first listed as a draftsman for Quincy architect Harvey Chatten in the Quincy city directory for 1886-1887 and he remained with Chatten through the city directory listing for 1890-1891, although there is evidence that he was established in independent practice by 1891.

Wood owed much to his work with Harvey Chatten. According to contemporary sources, Chatten was one of the most respected architects in the area. Chatten was born in Quincy in 1853, the son of B. I. Chatten, a civil engineer who was responsible for much of the early street planning in Quincy. Chatten took his training with Quincy architect Robert Bunce and in the office of prominent Boston architects before joining Bunce as a partner; he succeeded to the practice of the office at Bunce's death. The large volume of work in Chatten's architectural office must have provided many opportunities for Wood to learn all aspects of the architectural profession. This is seen to be particularly true since Wood seems to have been the only draftsman employed by Chatten during the period 1886-1891. Wood apparently worked closely with Chatten in the design of several important structures in Quincy and may have assumed the role of designer under Chatten's supervision. His own work in the early years of independent practice somewhat paralleled the work his former teacher in its adherence to the popular eclectic and revivalist architectural styles of the late nineteenth century.

A new influence began to be manifest in Wood's work after the middle of the first decade of the twentieth century when the architectural work of Frank Lloyd Wright began to be widely published and understood. Wood was deeply impressed by Wright's work and elements of what is now known as the Prairie Style of architecture began to appear in Wood's work after 1905. His finest designs, dating from the period 1910-1920, are in the Prairie Style and it is here that Wood's greatest importance as an architect is to be found. As a regional exponent of the early modern movement in architecture that flourished in the Midwest and influenced world architecture, Wood was largely responsible for helping to spread the influence of Frank Lloyd Wright and the Chicago School in western Illinois.

Ernest Wood was apparently outspoken in his admiration for Frank Lloyd Wright and there many parallels between their lives and their careers. Wood and Wright were both born about the time of the Civil War, Wood in 1863 and Wright in 1867. Both came from somewhat isolated areas, Wood from western Illinois and Wright from southwestern Wisconsin. Neither architect formally studied architecture and both apprenticed with well-known architects to secure their training. Wood with Harvey Chatten and Wright with Joseph Lyman Silsbee and Louis Sullivan. Both began their independent careers in the early 1890's and both built interesting homes for themselves and distinctive studios from which to conduct an architectural practice. Both enjoyed long and productive careers, Wood being active for over fifty years while Wright was active for over seventy years. Both lived into the tenth decade of their lives.

Ernest M. Wood married Clara E. Burge in Quincy on June 16, 1903 and enjoyed the companionship of Mrs. Wood for over fifty years until her death in 1954. There were no children. Wood was a member of the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John in Quincy for most of his life. He retired from active practice in 1938 and died in Jacksonville, Illinois, on January 25, 1956. He was survived by his brother Howard, who died on October 8, 1959.

Famous Quincyans in the Arts series - QSTFA
April 1977

Gardner Museum - FILE

FAMPHLET

Subject Ill-Q. - Bldg. - Wood, E.

**Ernest M. Wood,
Retired Architect,
Dies at Age of 92**

3/11/56

1/25/56

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QUINCY, ILLINOIS

Ernest M. Wood, 92, of 1843 Grove avenue, widely known retired architect, died in Jacksonville Wednesday morning at 11:40. He was a leading architect in this area for many years and designed many of the larger business buildings and residences.

Mr. Wood was born in Quincy June 27, 1863, a son of Edward M. and Rebecca Montgomery Wood, and lived here all of his life. He was a member of the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John and was married in Quincy June 16, 1903, to Clara E. Burge. Mrs. Wood died Jan. 8, 1954.

The only survivor is a brother, Howard O. Wood, who is a patient in Blessing hospital.

Mr. Wood in his early youth developed his talent in art, being especially good in painting, etching and wood carving. After finishing Quincy schools, he decided to make architectural drafting his career and went to work here for Harvey Chatten, a leading architect of the Mid-West. Under Mr. Chatten's supervision, he became an architect of note himself. He began his own business about 1890 and for many years had his offices in a small building he designed at 126 North Eighth. He retired in 1938.

Washington school, one of Quincy's first modern-type school buildings, was the work of Mr. Wood. It received attention in magazines and was visited by architects and educators from many cities. Mr. Wood was architect for Levering hospital and some of the large homes in Hannibal, Mo., and for hospitals, bank buildings, schools and homes in places all through this area.

Among the outstanding Quincy homes he designed were the Newcomb residence at Sixteenth and Maine, now a Quincy college dormitory, and the colonial type Appleton residence and the modern home of D. A. Voorhees, both at Twentieth and Jersey.

Mr. Wood, many years ago, went to Europe with a group of architects and made a bicycle tour to visit cathedrals and castles.

*Wood was architect for 1672 York
Baumman was architect of State Savings Bank -- 4788 Maine
Frank*

*Quincy (Ill.) Herald-Whig
May 11, 1956*

Otho Poling House
2150 Maine Street
Mr. & Mrs. John Fick

Gardner Museum
House Tour

Style: Queen Anne/Single Style
Architect: Ernest M. Wood
Date: 1897

This house designed by Ernest Wood is listed significant on the East End Historic District nomination, it is an example of Wood's early work after having stepped out on his own from Harvey Chatten. It can be identified as Queen Anne, the dominant style of domestic building during the period from about 1880-1900, but demonstrates also the influence of the contemporaneous Shingle Style. It portrays a freedom of plan embraced by Americans caught in the picturesque movement of the late 19th century, one that was furthered by balloon framing techniques. It is a two-story cross gable with brick on the first level and shingle above. Its irregularity in plan and massing and variety of color and texture are characteristic of the Queen Anne Style. Texture is achieved through materials and articulation of wall surfaces through the use of bays, overhangs, wall projections, the octagonal dormer, recessed arches under gables, and porch turret. All these devices provide random changes in the horizontal continuity of the wall plane particularly on the East elevation where the surface play is most evident. Vertical discontinuity is achieved through overhanging gables and projecting upper stories. The asymmetry of mass is reinforced by the porch that wraps around to the west side, ending in a turret.

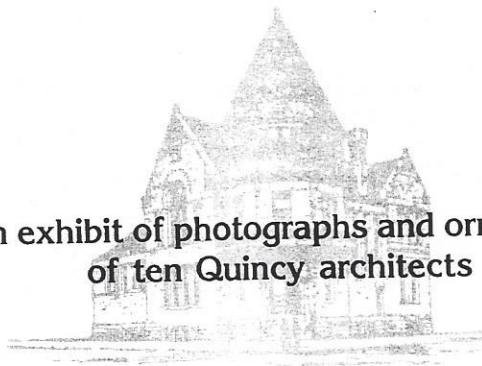
While decidedly Queen Anne in its parts, the Otho Poling House reveals a more restrained and rational quality that is found in the Shingle Style. It maintains the irregular, asymmetrical massing, varied textures and surfaces, but here, Wood drew all elements together by the extended roof that sweeps down without a break to shelter the porch. The eave line is carried across the entire front facade, strengthening a horizontal continuity that holds the separate masses together. The porch turret is less a separate element than a bulge pushing out of the rest of the mass. The upper story is completely covered with a continuous shingle skin with punched openings for windows on the East and West elevations. Gothic Revival influence is found in the detailing, windows have wood carvings or cutouts of trefoil arches in the heads, above or in front of rectangular windows, the wide, pointed arch recessed in the gables on the north and west sides, and overhanging roof eave supported by heavy brackets on the east side.

Spring 1986 Exhibit

HOMETOWN TALENT

**Quincy Architects
1860's—1930's**

An exhibit of photographs and ornament
of ten Quincy architects



**GARDNER MUSEUM OF
ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN**

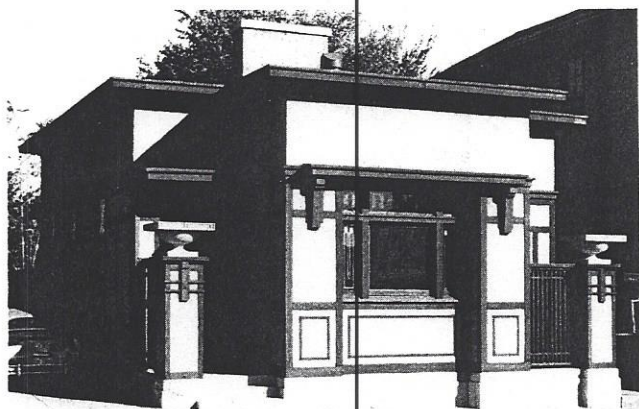
4TH & MAINE STS., QUINCY, IL 62301-3929

*April 12 through June 29, 1986
Saturdays and Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m.
Groups weekdays by appointment*

Quincy Architects 1860's - 1930's

believed that he built over one hundred buildings for ecclesiastical use. In 1869-70, he built the church of St. Anthony in the rural area east of Quincy; in 1876, a frame chapel for the seminary in Teutopolis which he enlarged in 1884; in 1877, he added the east wing to the original building of the Teutopolis seminary, and a south wing in 1884; the new St. Francis Church and Friary in Quincy, 1885-86; in 1891, St. Mary Church in Quincy; 1892-93, the second St. Francis parochial school in Quincy; in 1893, the auditorium wing at Quincy College; 1894-95, the west wing at Quincy College; in 1895, the faculty wing and Romanesque Chapel at Teutopolis; in 1897-98 the central section of "Old Main" at Quincy College, along with churches and schools in Indianapolis, Platte Center, Nebraska, St. Bernard, Nebraska, St. Benedict, Minnesota, St. Louis, San Francisco, in Chicago, in Oakland, and Watsonville, California, Omaha, Los Angeles, Sacramento, and Tigard, Oregon. On December 15, 1908, in the church he had built over forty years before, St. Anthony in St. Louis, he celebrated his Golden Jubilee as a Franciscan. He died March 15, 1914, at the age of 77 in San Francisco.

ERNEST M. WOOD



Ernest M. Wood Office and Studio 1911

Ernest Michael Wood was born in Quincy on June 17, 1863, the son of Edward and Rebecca Montgomery Wood. He attended Quincy schools and after high school, attended Gem City Business College. Upon completion of Gem City, he worked as a clerk, a position similar to that of his father. At about the age of 23, Wood became interested in the field of architecture; he always had a natural talent for painting and woodcarving. He had no formal education as an architect but as was often the case, he acquired his architectural skill and experience as a draftsman for another architect. In 1886, he secured a position with Harvey

Chatten, a highly respected Quincy architect. He remained with Chatten until 1891, at which time he opened his own independent practice. Ernest Wood's License No. was A154. Mr. Wood married Clara E. Burge on June 16, 1903. He was the architect for many buildings. The list includes his own office located at 126 North 8th, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and Washington School on 8th & Sycamore. He also designed the addition to the State Savings Loan & Trust at 428 Maine, also on the National Register of Historic Places, the Chamber of Commerce Building at 201 South 5th, his own residence at 1843 Grove Avenue, the Frederick Halbach House at 129 East Avenue, the Otho Poling House at 2150 Maine, and the South Park Stone Bridge on South 8th Street. He was also the junior partner with Harvey Chatten in the design of the Richard F. Newcomb House at 1601 Maine, and the Theodore Poling House at 2016 Jersey. Wood designed buildings in nearby towns such as the W. A. Dodge House in Warsaw, Il., the A. W. Mackey House in Plamyra, Mo., and Levering Hospital in Hannibal, Mo. Ernest Wood died in Jacksonville, Il. on January 25, 1956, at the age of 92.

GARDNER MUSEUM OF ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

4TH & MAINE STS., QUINCY, IL 62301-3929
(217)224-6873

The Gardner Museum of Architecture and Design, organized in 1974, is dedicated to the presentation and preservation of Quincy's outstanding architectural heritage, through exhibits, research and public education projects.

Its exhibits have focused on architectural ornament and historic photographs, with demonstrations and lectures. It is assembling a collection of architectural drawings and documents as well as ornament in stone, terracotta, stained glass, metal and wood.

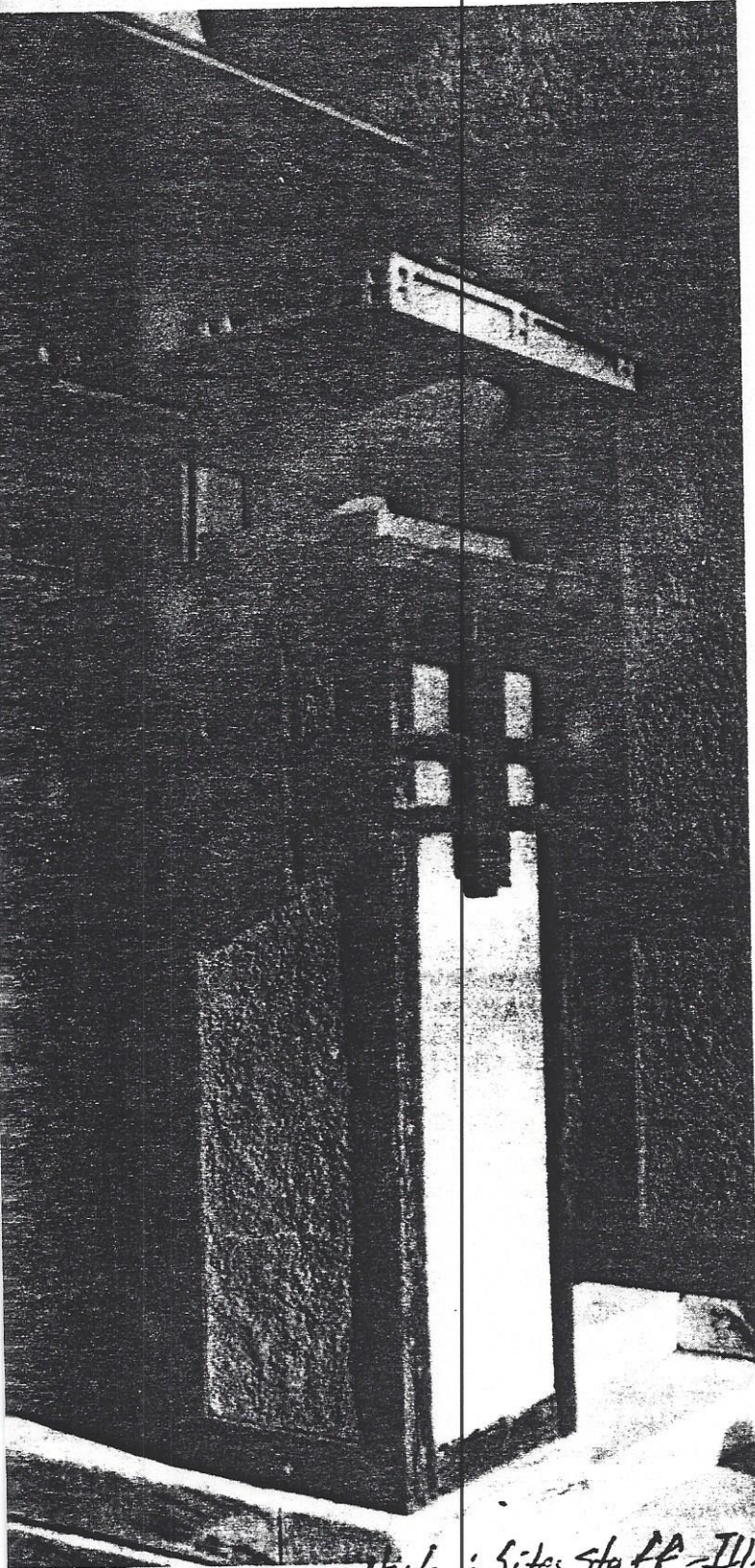
It cooperates, and takes the initiative in co-sponsoring public education projects with other interested organizations. It is supported by memberships, contributions and grants.

The Museum's exhibits are open weekend afternoons, April-June and October-December; the office is open weekdays year around.

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Ernest M. Wood: A Provincial Testament

by James R. Allen

A chapter in the history of the Prairie Style should be devoted to provincial phenomena. Provincial followers of Wright provide an expanded view of his influence beyond the established relationship with architects who were members of the master's intimate circle.¹ Moreover, provincial practices offer an opportunity for study of regional applications or adaptations of the Prairie Style. One such practitioner was Ernest M. Wood of Quincy, Illinois, whose probable contact with the circle of Wright may account for his remarkable achievement.

Ernest Michael Wood was born in Quincy to Edward M. Wood and Rebecca Montgomery Wood in 1863.² All evidence indicates that Wood confined his architectural practice to the Quincy area, indeed that he resided in that city without interruption until very late in his life.³ He married in 1903, but left no children.⁴ At his death in 1956, a bachelor brother, Howard O. Wood, survived Ernest.⁵

1 Lloyd C. Englebrecht, "Henry Trost: The Prairie School in the Southwest," *Prairie School Review*, Vol. VI, No. 4, 1969, pp. 5-29. H. Allen Brooks, "Percy Dwight Bentley at La Crosse," *The Prairie School Review*, Vol. IX, No. 3, 1972.

2 *Adams County Birth Records*, June, 1863.

3 *Quincy City Directories*, 1863-1938; Obituary, Ernest M. Wood, *Quincy Herald Whig*, March 11, 1956, n.p.; and Interviews: Mrs. F. M. Raisbeck, Quincy, September, 1970; Mrs. M. Huck, Quincy, June, 1971.

4 *Adams County Marriage Records*, 1903, and Obituary, *op. cit.*

5 *Adams County Death Records*, 1959, and Obituary, *op. cit.*

Historic Sites Staff - Illinois
Mr. Allen is Historic Site Administrator at Arrow Rock, Missouri. He holds a Baccalaureate Degree from St. Ambrose College, and a Master's from Western Illinois University. During the winter of 1973 he was chosen by the Educational Committee of the National Trust for Historic Preservation to attend the Eleventh Annual Woodlawn Conference. This article is developed from the material of his Master's thesis which was completed in 1972 under the direction of Titus M. Karlowicz.