



1671 Hampshire

Craftsman Four Square • 1906 • Architect: Ernest Wood
The Dr. Charles and Louise Center House

The Charles and Louise Center house sits on property originally granted to James Charleston, as part of 160 acres of bounty land, deeded to Charleston in 1812. This property, or portions of it were later owned by Robert Tillson and Charles Holmes, Jr, before being platted as Nevin's Addition in March of 1847. Dr. Charles D. Center and his wife secured a mortgage for Lot 14 of Nevins Addition in 1906.

The house which Dr. and Mrs. Center had built, at 1671 Hampshire, was designed by Quincy architect Ernest Wood in 1906. Born in Ottawa, Illinois in 1869 and educated at Knox College and Rush Medical College, Dr. Center first practiced medicine at Presbyterian Hospital, Chicago. He moved to Quincy in 1896, joined the staff of Blessing Hospital and was one of the first physicians to have offices in the Dodd Building at 5th and Maine. He also served as Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce in the 1920s, and in 1935 was elected president of the Illinois State Medical Society.

This home shows the increasing influence of the Prairie School style of architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright in Ernest Wood's designs, as he moved away from the earlier Queen Anne style and toward homes with a more rectilinear outline and volume.

Built in a boxy, four square style, the home is entered through an arched front door with sidelights, reached through a large and solid porch with massive square brick columns and neo-Georgian wooden balustrade which wraps around the southeast corner of the house. A symmetrical second story is topped by a shingled hip roof through which projects a two window squared attic dormer with contrasting brick and wood trim.

Inside, the rounded arch of the entry door is mirrored in an arched fireplace surround in the living room, with egg and dart molded trim. Single pane side windows above built-in bookcases flank each side of the living room or parlor fireplace. At the rear of the home is a sun porch, converted to a family room by later owners. In the large and spacious main floor rooms the floors are of oak, on the second floor fir is used for flooring. In the large bedroom which was fashioned out of the third floor attic space the original plank flooring has been retained.

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