

WASHINGTON

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

For HCRS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Ernest M. Wood Office and Studio

and/or common SAME

**2. Location**

street & number 126 North 8th Street

*n/a* not for publication

city, town Quincy

*n/a* vicinity of

congressional district 20th

state Illinois

code 012

county Adams

code 001

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<i>n/a</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: office

**4. Owner of Property**

name George M. Irwin

street & number 126 North 8th Street

city, town Quincy

*n/a* vicinity of

state Illinois

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Adams County Recorder's Office

street & number 521 Vermont Street

city, town Quincy

state Illinois

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Historic American Buildings Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date September 1970

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records National Architectural & Engineering Record, Library of Congress,  
Prints & Photographs Division, Annex Building, Room 1051

city, town Washington

state D. C. 20540

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance** Ernest M. Wood's Office and Studio, designed for his own practice in 1911, was occupied by him until he retired in 1938. It is a compact one-story Prairie Style building, frame construction, exterior stucco over metal lath with insert wood strips, finished partial basement, 1400 square feet of usable space and flat built-up roof. The interior is rough plaster finish with quarter-sawed oak trim, restored to original condition. There is an entrance and vestibule area, private office with fireplace and workroom, each with a large skylight, two walk-in vaults, and bath on main floor, extensive use of Prairie Style stained glass in different designs, and original light fixtures at front entrance and in vestibule and reception areas. The building was used as a residence and as a dentist's office until purchased by the present owner in 1979. All extraneous and inappropriate additions and changes made by previous owners, such as filling in of the two skylights, adding an extra window in the workroom wall, removing and altering workroom built-in cabinets, tiling magnesite floor, erecting new partitions, and moving old design elements, and repainting interior with wrong colors have been corrected. All of the work has been done as carefully as possible for an authentic restoration. In the case of the front hall and workroom areas the magnesite floor was bad so original pattern and near-original colors have been duplicated in carpet, while the original floor is restored in the entrance vestibule and private office. No original ceiling fixtures remained in the main rooms, except that wiring in the corners of the two skylights indicated their location. Plain round ball lights were used, 10" in the private office and 12" in the larger workroom. Additional lighting, consisting of a cluster of four 150-watt floods, were installed in each skylight. Fortunately, the previous owner saved the wooden liner and oak trim from the built-in cabinets he removed, and original material was used as much as possible in restoring. Doors, which had been moved to the front hall to form side panels of an added partition, were returned to original locations. Companion cabinets in the private office had the same hinges as basement windows, so basement window hinges were used in the rebuilding of the cabinets for authenticity. Through paint scrapings, original colors were re-applied to the walls in the private office with slight variations of this original golden color used in the entry and workroom areas. A new heating and airconditioning system was installed, moved to one side of the basement for better use as extra meeting room, file storage, and lounge. A small kitchen is being installed in the area developed under the front entrance. Original registers in original positions near interior walls were kept as return air openings with new registers for the supply lines located against outside walls directly under windows. All quarter-sawed oak trim has been cleaned and restored. Exterior wood trim is restrained to original color, and stucco has been repaired but not repainted. In mid-1981, after building was occupied by present owner, a truck, backing out of the driveway, knocked over the pedestal and large concrete urn by the front door. The pedestal was reinstalled with minor damage corrected but the urn was shattered beyond repair. A local contractor, using original construction methods, recast the urn which is made in three sections, and the replacement is installed. The matching urn has had minor repairs and both are painted a neutral light cream color; most observers can tell no difference. The private yard to the rear has had some landscaping with the addition of flowering shrubs, and original flower beds have been uncovered. As a result of extensive restoration the Ernest M. Wood Office and Studio is probably the finest Prairie Style building in Western Illinois.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1911

Builder/Architect Ernest Michael Wood

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)** The Ernest M. Wood Office and Studio (1911) is the only building in Quincy recorded in the Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory. Architectural historian Paul Sprague stated therein: "As a structure designed by Wood for his personal use it is of special interest because it is indicative of the architect's stylistic preferences when free of client pressures. And it is of some significance, therefore, to discover that Wood's office is directly related to designs by the Prairie School architects in Chicago. The similarities between Wood's office and their works are to be seen in the rectilinear massing of the building, the subdivision of exterior and interior surfaces by flat strips of dark, stained wood, the simple geometry of the wooden screens on either side at the front of the building, of the fireplace, and of the stained glass in the windows, and the overhanging horizontal edges of the roof". James R. Allen has said: "The structure, with its straightforward references to Wright, was unlike anything in Quincy at the time with its creme-colored stucco over cypress walls. Vertical movement, enhanced by the two pedestals with their characteristic Prairie Style planters, is checked by the dark-colored frame elements in the stucco and along the sharp overhang of the eaves. The entrance is to the left, where a vestibule opens into a hall with low ceilings. The entire design scheme had come under the architect's scrutiny to assure accord with the stylistic expression. Cabinets, the low-set fireplace, leaded glass windows, and the skylights are all in accord with the Prairie Style".\*

Wood's career had many parallels to Frank Lloyd Wright. He had no formal training, apprenticed with a prominent local architect (Harvey Chatten), began an independent career in the early 1890's, had early prominent residential commissions, built an interesting and distinctive home and studio for himself, had a long and productive career, lived into the tenth decade of his life, being active over 50 years. Wood knew and corresponded with Wright, and there is evidence that prior to his Prairie School work, he regularly traveled to Chicago. It is even possible that Ernest Wood was a member of Wright's group of 18, as only 17 have been identified. He knew the work of Joseph Lyman Silsbee who built two homes and a carriage house in Quincy between 1886 and 1888. Wood designed outstanding Prairie Style homes in Camp Point and Warsaw, Illinois and Hannibal and Palmyra, Missouri. He was largely responsible for spreading the influence of Frank Lloyd Wright and the Prairie Style in Western Illinois. He also produced outstanding residential and commercial architecture in Romanesque Revival, Shingle Style, Queen Anne, Classic Revival, English Tudor and Bungalow Styles. "Fortunately, most of the designs executed by Wood have survived. The remarkable commentary they provide shows that this local architect went through a progressive assimilation of the Prairie Style and that earlier stages of his development seem to have predisposed him favorably to the example of Sullivan and Wright. An unmistakable consistency in Wood's development can be traced from his earliest architectural experience to a mature mastery of a Wrightian idiom. In retrospect, the deliberateness with which he recapitulated precedent and requisite developments inherent to the understanding of the Prairie Style gives testimony to the noteworthy accomplishments of a solitary but unforgettable figure in Quincy's architecture."\*

\*James R. Allen, Prairie School Review, Second Quarter, 1974

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

The Prairie School Review, Second Quarter, 1974, article by James R. Allen, "Ernest M. Wood: A Provincial Testament";  
 Historic American Buildings Survey written by Dr. Paul Spraguc, September 1970;  
 Quincy Society of Fine Arts, "Famous Quincyans in the Arts", 1977, Ernest M. Wood, Architect -- biography and listing of buildings.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property fraction of one acre

Quadrangle name QUINCY WEST, IL-MISSOURI

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UMT References

A 

1	5	6	3	6	4	8	0	4	4	2	1	2	8	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Lot number Seventeen (17) and all of Lot number Eighteen (18) excepting the South twenty-seven (27) feet of said Lot Eighteen (18), all in Block number One (1) in Samuel P. Church's Addition to the Town, now City of Quincy.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title George M. Irwin, Owner

organization — date April 2, 1982

street & number 126 North 8th Street telephone 217/224-2006

city or town Quincy state Illinois

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *David Perry*

title *Dovita* date 6/24/82

For HCERS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

**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, 1969.

# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

AUG 17 1982

IN REPLY REFER TO:

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to inform you that the following properties have been entered in the National Register of Historic Places during the week beginning August 8 and ending August 14, 1982. For further information call (202) 272-3504.

STATE, County, Vicinity, Property, Address, (date listed)

ARKANSAS, Washington County, Fayetteville, Hemingway House and Barn, 3310 Old Missouri Rd. (08/12/82)

CONNECTICUT, Fairfield County, Ridgefield, Branchville Railroad Tenement, Old Main Highway (08/12/82)

GEORGIA, Elbert County, Elberton, Elberton Residential Historic District, Roughly bounded by Elbert, Oliver, Adams, Thomas, Edwards, and Heard Sts. (08/11/82)

GEORGIA, Twiggs County, Jeffersonville vicinity, Chapman, John, Plantation, SE of Jeffersonville on GA 96 (08/11/82)

IDAHO, Idaho County, Riggins vicinity, Aitken Barn, SW of Riggins on US 95 (08/09/82)

ILLINOIS, Adams County, Quincy, Wood, Ernest M., Office and Studio, 126 N. 8th St. (08/12/82)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Blue Island, Young, Joshua P., House, 2445 High St. (08/12/82)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Wilmette, Bailey — Michelet House, 1028 Sheridan Rd. (08/12/82)

ILLINOIS, Kane County, Elgin, Pelton, Ora, House, 214 S. State St. (08/12/82)

ILLINOIS, Peoria County, Peoria, Pere Marquette Hotel, 501 Main St. (08/12/82)

ILLINOIS, Tazewell County, Pekin, Pekin Theatre, 21-29 S. Capitol St. (08/12/82)

ILLINOIS, Will County, Joliet, Christ Episcopal Church, 75 W. Van Buren St. (08/12/82)

ILLINOIS, Will County, Joliet, Joliet Township High School, 201 E. Jefferson St. (08/12/82)

KENTUCKY, Jefferson County, Louisville, Belknap, William R., School, 1800 Sils Ave. (08/12/82)

KENTUCKY, Jefferson County, Louisville, Rauchfuss Houses, 837-847 S. Brook St. (08/12/82)

KENTUCKY, Jefferson County, Louisville, Republic Building, 429 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd. (08/12/82)

KENTUCKY, Jefferson County, Louisville, Stewart's Dry Goods Company Building, 501 S. 4th Ave. (08/12/82)

KENTUCKY, Jefferson County, Louisville, Theater Building, 625-33 S. 4th Ave. (08/12/82)

LOUISIANA, Ascension Parish, Donaldsonville, Landry Tomb, Ascension Catholic Church Cemetery, St. Vincent and Claiborne Sts. (08/11/82)

LOUISIANA, Ascension Parish, Donaldsonville, Lemann Store, 314 Mississippi St. (08/11/82)

LOUISIANA, Avoyelles Parish, Marksville, Joffrion House, 605 N. Monroe (08/11/82)

LOUISIANA, Bossier Parish, Elm Grove vicinity, Cashpoint Plantation House, N of Elm Grove off LA 71 (08/11/82)

LOUISIANA, Caldwell Parish, Columbia, First United Methodist Church, LA 165 and Church St. (08/12/82)

LOUISIANA, Iberville Parish, Rosedale, Church of the Nativity, Laurel St. (08/11/82)

LOUISIANA, Orleans Parish, New Orleans, Orpheum Theatre, 125-129 University Pl. (08/11/82)

LOUISIANA, St. Landry Parish, Grand Coteau vicinity, Frozard Plantation House, S of Grand Coteau off LA 93 (08/12/82)

LOUISIANA, St. Landry Parish, Grand Coteau, Burleigh House, Burleigh Lane (08/11/82)



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 LIBERTY 17 MI. (QUINCY EAST)  
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