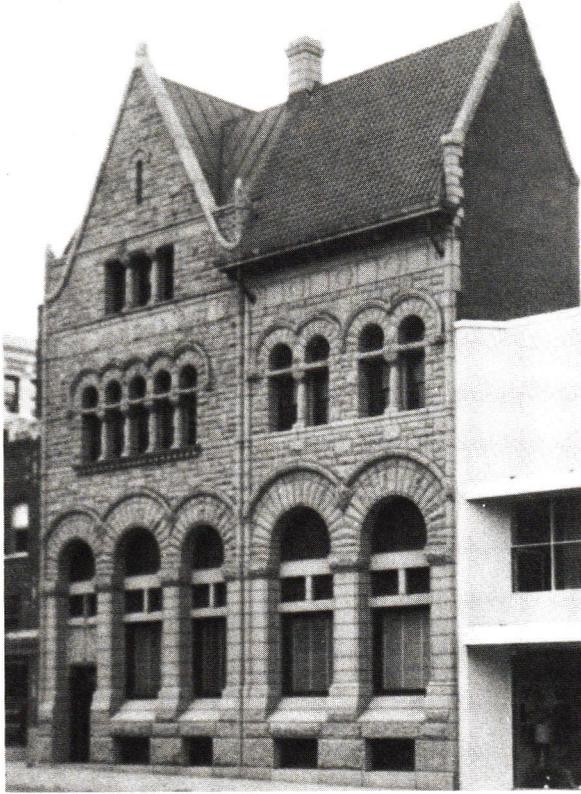


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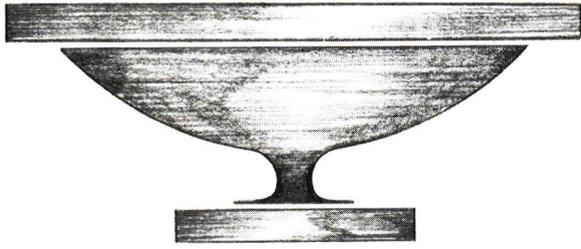
ABOVE:

The State Savings and Loan and Trust Company. The right portion is Wood's addition of 1906 to Patton and Fisher's original building, 1893. T. M. Karlowicz photo.

COVER:

Detail at entrance of Wood's office building pronouncing a tribute to the Prairie School. Photo by Mitzie Nevins.

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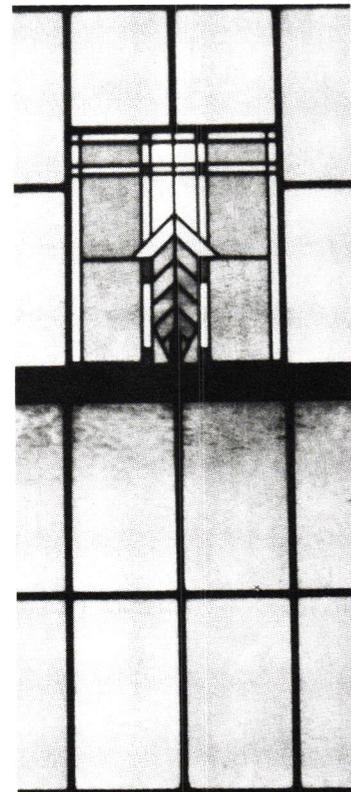
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Wood's office building, 1911-12.

From the EDITORS

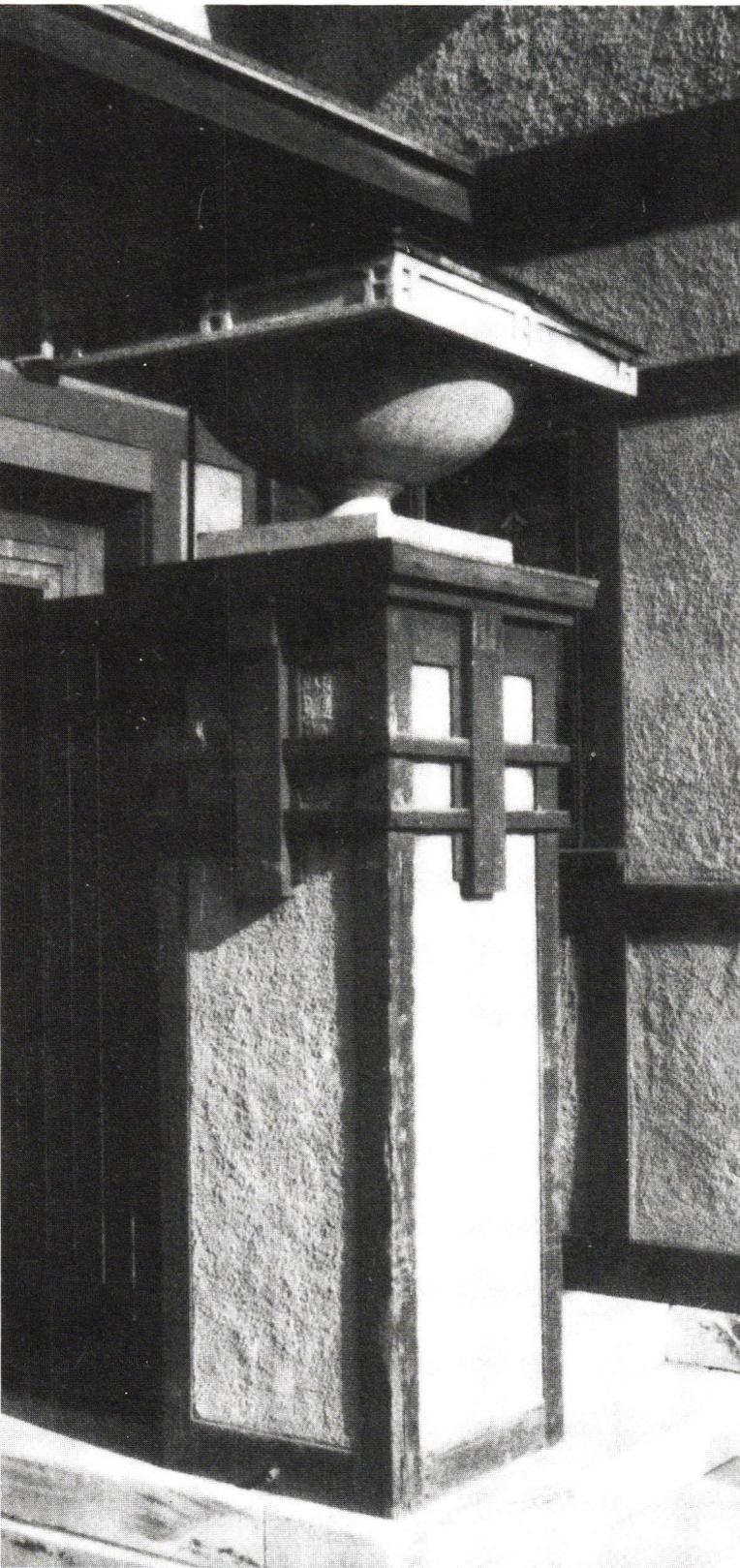
Last quarter we wrote here about the saving of the Wainwright Building in St. Louis. This brought to mind the rarity of that occasion. Few preservation oriented organizations actually save buildings. Most busy themselves with telling others why buildings should be saved. The doing of it is left to others and usually the others never appear on the scene.

Several times you have read here about The Chicago School of Architecture Foundation and its work to save and restore The Glessner House in Chicago. The Foundation has saved Glessner House but until recently that was their only claim to preservation. They, and this writer must be included in the group, became guilty of telling others what should be done but not practicing their own dogma. Happily, the events of recent months have proven this not the case. Several members of the Glessner Board of Trustees, led by Ruth Moore Garbe, have succeeded in what is perhaps the most important preservation effort Chicago has ever experienced: Glessner House no longer stands alone. The buildings and space around it now are also part of The Prairie Avenue Heritage District.

The District, bounded on the north by Eighteenth Street, now includes both sides of Prairie Avenue for a full block south. Directly across from Glessner at Eighteenth is the Kimball House by S. S. Beman, and immediately south of Kimball is Cobb & Frost's Coleman/Ames house in all it's brownstone glory. South of Glessner is that rarest of commodities in Chicago, open land — to be an architectural park — bounded on it's south by the Elbridge Keith house with it's Second Empire details obscured only by a coat of grey paint. The entire District is on the National Register and, more important, has the city's blessing for landmark status. This last detail is vital and factual. The city of Chicago has agreed to work with the Chicago School of Architecture Foundation to bring the street back to its original charm and to assist in completing the park between Glessner and Keith.

The saving of the Glessner House has long been a fact. The saving of the other three houses and the space around them came as a result of nearly a year's work negotiating for the purchase of the properties and their protection by agreements with the new owners to give the Foundation some measure of control of the future disposition of the buildings and the land. Various agreements were reached, with the Keith House actually having what is believed to be the first transfer of title which carries with it an encumbrance which prohibits the new owner from alteration or demolition without prior permission of the Chicago School of Architecture Foundation. The next step is to see if this legality will benefit the new owner through reduced taxes. If it does, a giant step for preservation will have been taken in Illinois.

The Chicago School of Architecture Foundation has proven to be the most, in fact the only, effective instrument for preserving buildings in Chicago. Under the roof of its headquarters, the Glessner House, are nearly a dozen other groups related to architecture, all of which are working together to preserve our heritage. They have made great strides in a short time but much remains to be done. Help them.



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.*

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.