



Fred H. Pratt House, 314 North Central Avenue, 1919-1920.

Between the late 1870's and the First World War, one of the most significant architectural movements in American Architecture flourished in Chicago. The "Chicago School," under the leadership of Louis Sullivan, and its residential contemporary the "Prairie School," under the leadership of Frank Lloyd Wright, produced an original American style. The Fred H. Pratt house was designed by Percy Dwight Bentley in 1919-1920. It is one of three commissions by Bentley in Richland Center. Percy Bentley was born in LaCrosse, Wisconsin in 1885. He studied architecture and graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1907. He did further study at the Armour Institute of Technology in Chicago. Bentley returned to LaCrosse and opened his own office in 1910. Among the best of the Prairie School houses in the city, the Fred H. Pratt house was designed when Bentley was in partnership with Otto Merman. Low pitched roofs with extended eaves and leaded glass casement windows grouped to form a horizontal band on the short upper story serve to accentuate the horizontal emphasis of this early modern house built for the owner of the Pratt Funeral Home. Generally well preserved, the Pratt House garage was remodeled into a den, a new garage added, and the kitchen remodeled sometime in the 1970s.

(Keep in mind the homes listed are private residences which are not open to the public. Please respect the occupants' privacy when viewing their homes from the sidewalk).



The Pratt House is listed on the Richland Center Historical Register.