

The Champion White Ash

Maple Bluff

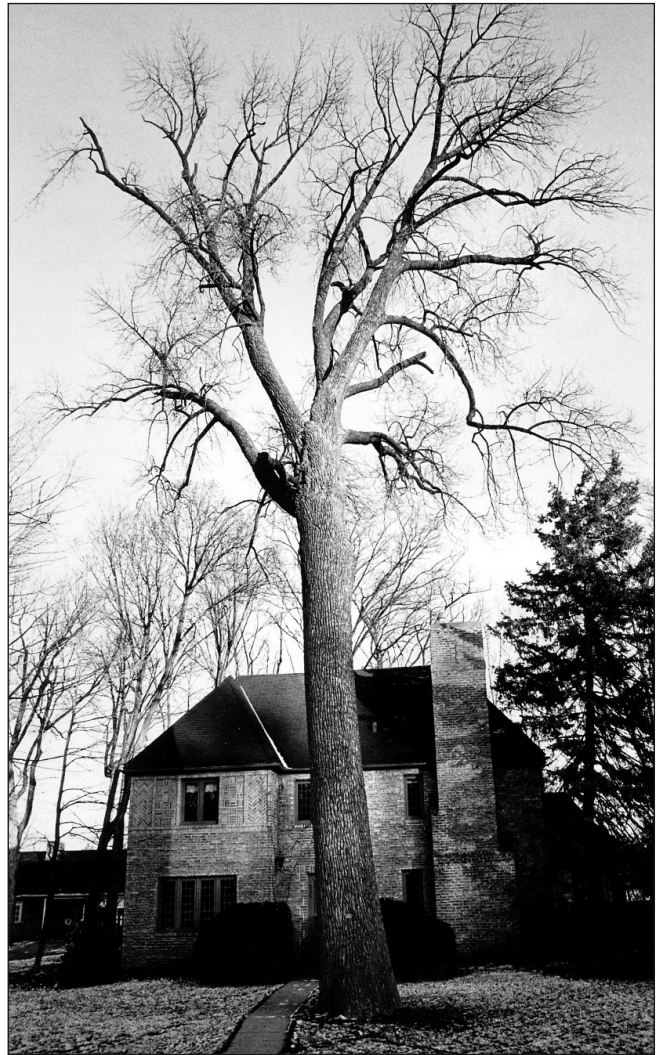
A fierce windstorm in 1981 felled one of the most magnificent trees in the Maple Bluff section of Madison. A majestic white ash, it held the state record as the largest of that species so far recorded in Wisconsin. Its trunk measured 13 feet in circumference; it was 79 feet high and had a spread of 80 feet.

The Duane Bredesons, who lived in the house, had always worried that the giant, if hit by wind or lightning, might split their home in two. But the ash did no damage as it died. Inside the house it is much lighter—and in the summer, hotter—now that the tree is gone.

Before the European explorers came, the ash towered above the Indians who roamed the lake shores. Many of its fellow trees were sugar maples, which later gave their name to the promontory first known as Sugar Grove. On an old surveyor's map, used from 1831 to 1837, a field note reads: "Here is located a large grove of sugar trees of about 200 acres."

Maple Bluff is still noteworthy for its beautiful old trees.

Source: Mrs. D. H. Bredeson, Maple Bluff



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B-Wolfgang Hoffmann (1979)