

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

State Party	United States of America	
State	Arizona, California, Illinois, Pennsylvania, New York, Wisconsin	
Name of Property	The 20th-Century Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright	
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*The 20th-Century Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright* is a serial nomination that refers to structures designed by the American architect Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959), spanning the years 1905-1959 and located in six states across the United States of America.

## **Geographical Coordinates to the Nearest Second**

IAME OF COMPONENT SITE	CITY / STATE	GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES
Jnity Temple	Oak Park	87°47'47.767"W
	Illinois	41°53'18.308"N
Frederick C. Robie House	Chicago	87°35'45.053"W
	Illinois	41°47'23.001"N
Taliesin	Spring Green	90°4'12.979"W
	Wisconsin	43°8'27.962"N
Hollyhock House	Los Angeles	118°17'34"W
	California	34°5'0.54"N
Fallingwater	Mill Run	79°27'59.312"W
	Pennsylvania	39°54'20.055"N
Herbert and Katherine Jacobs House	Madison	43° 3' 30.8874"W
	Wisconsin	89° 26' 29.7594"N
Taliesin West	Scottsdale	111°50'44.31"W
	Arizona	33°36'32.834"N
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum	New York	73°57'35.353"W
	New York	40°46'57.72"N

# Textual Description of the Boundaries of the Nominated Property

The 20th-Century Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright is a series of eight component sites located in six states within the United States of America. The boundaries of the eight component sites total 26.369ha. All component sites within the series have buffer zones proposed, totaling 710.103ha. For those components whose natural setting supports the Outstanding Universal Value, the buffer zones are consequently larger.

Generally, the boundaries for each component site were developed based on their respective National Historic Landmark boundaries, which are shown on the accompanying maps. Under United States law, the nominated property cannot exceed those boundaries. These boundaries were used for five of the eight components: Unity Temple, the Frederick C. Robie House, Hollyhock House, the Herbert and Katherine Jacobs House, and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum.

For Taliesin, Fallingwater, and Taliesin West, which are located in expansive natural settings, the boundaries are proposed to encompass the primary designed buildings and their immediate settings, while the much larger boundaries of the National Historic Landmarks contribute to the buffer zones, thus ensuring that the larger settings are protected. This is explained further in Sections 2.a and 3.1.c in response to the comments made by ICOMOS in their 2015 evaluation.

## Letter Size Maps of the Nominated Property, Showing Boundaries and Buffer Zones

#### Global/National Map Sources:

Environmental Systems Research Institute, Great Lakes Information Network, National Atlas, National Hydrography Dataset, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Natural Earth Data, United States Census, United States Department of Agriculture, United States Geological Survey, United States National Park Service.

#### State Map Sources:

Columbia University, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, State of Arizona, State of California, State of Kansas, State of New York, State of Wisconsin, Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access (PASDA), The Pennsylvania State University, Taliesin Preservation Inc., University of Arizona, University of Hawaii, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.

## Local Map Sources:

City of Chicago, City of New York, City of Scottsdale (Arizona), Cook County (Illinois), Iowa County (Wisconsin), Los Angeles County (California), Maricopa County (Arizona).

## Other Map Sources:

www.openstreetmap.org, www.thematicmapping.org.

# The 20th-Century Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright National Locator



# The 20th-Century Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright Unity Temple, Oak Park, Illinois – Regional Locator



Gould Center, Department of Geography, The Pennsylvania State University

# The 20th-Century Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright Unity Temple, Oak Park, Illinois



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## The 20th-Century Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright Frederick C. Robie House, Chicago, Illinois – Regional Locator



Gould Center, Department of Geography, The Pennsylvania State University

## The 20th-Century Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright Frederick C. Robie House, Chicago, Illinois – City Locator





Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic Datum: North American Datum 1983 Production Date: September 2014 Gould Center, Department of Geography The Pennsylvania State University

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# The 20th-Century Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright Frederick C. Robie House, Chicago, Illinois



## The 20th-Century Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright Taliesin, Spring Green, Wisconsin – Regional Locator





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The 20th-Century Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright Taliesin, Spring Green, Wisconsin



## The 20th-Century Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright Hollyhock House, Los Angeles, California – Regional Locator



# The 20th-Century Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright Hollyhock House, Los Angeles, California – City Locator



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## The 20th-Century Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright Hollyhock House, Los Angeles, California



# The 20th-Century Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright Fallingwater, Mill Run, Pennsylvania – Regional Locator



Gould Center, Department of Geography, The Pennsylvania State University

# The 20th-Century Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright Fallingwater, Mill Run, Pennsylvania



# The 20th-Century Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright

# Herbert and Katherine Jacobs House, Madison, Wisconsin – Regional Locator



Gould Center, Department of Geography, The Pennsylvania State University

# The 20th-Century Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright Herbert and Katherine Jacobs House, Madison, Wisconsin



# The 20th-Century Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright Taliesin West, Scottsdale, Arizona – Regional Locator



# The 20th-Century Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright



## The 20th-Century Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright Guggenheim Museum, New York, New York – Regional Locator



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## The 20th-Century Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright Guggenheim Museum, New York, New York – City Locator





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## The 20th-Century Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright Guggenheim Museum, New York, New York



## **Criterion Under Which Property is Nominated**

The series *The 20th-Century Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright* is nominated under the following criterion:

(ii) To exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning, or landscape design.

## **Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value**

## Brief synthesis

The 20th-Century Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright is a series of eight buildings that illustrate a full range of ways in which Wright's unique approach to architectural design fused form with spirit to influence the course of architecture in both North America and beyond. The components, located in six states across the continental United States of America, were designed and built over a period spanning the first half of the twentieth century. Each has strong individual characteristics, presenting a specific aspect or facet of a new architectural solution to the needs of Americans for housing, worship, work, and leisure. The buildings employ geometric abstraction and spatial manipulation as a response to functional and emotional needs and are based literally or figuratively on nature's forms and principles. In adapting inspirations from global cultures, they break free of traditional forms and facilitate modern life. Wright's solutions would go on to influence architecture and design throughout the world, and continue to do so to this day.

The components of the series include houses both grand and modest (including the consummate example of a "Prairie" house and the prototype "Usonian" house); a place of worship; a museum; and complexes of the architect's own homes with studio and education facilities. These buildings are located variously in city, suburb, forest, and desert. The substantial range of function, scale, and setting in the series underscores both the consistency and the wide applicability of these principles, which are often called "organic architecture." Each has been specifically recognized for its individual influence, which also contributes uniquely to the elaboration of this original architectural language.

The series showcases innovations such as: the open plan; the blurring of the boundary between interior and exterior; new uses of materials such as steel and concrete, as in cantilevered construction; new technologies such as radiant heating; the embrace of the automobile; and explicit responses to natural settings. Such features, however, are subordinated to designs that integrate form, materials, technology, furnishings, and setting into a unified whole. Each building is

uniquely fitted to the needs of its owner and its function and, though designed by the same architect, each has a very different character and appearance, reflecting a deep respect and appreciation for the individual and the particular. Together, *The 20th-Century Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright* illustrates the full range of this architectural language, which is a singular contribution to global architecture in spatial, formal, material, and technological terms.

# **Justification for Criterion**

## Criterion (ii)

To exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning, or landscape design.

The 20th-Century Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright demonstrates an important interchange in the discourse that changed architecture on a global scale during the first half of the twentieth century. The eight components illustrate different aspects of a new approach to architecture consciously developed for an American context. Reacting against prevailing styles in the United States that were based on historic European models, this approach took advantage of new materials and technologies, but was also inspired by principles of the natural world and was nurtured by other cultures and eras, particularly Japanese design traditions. Common features of this architecture were geometric abstraction and spatial manipulation to respond to functional and emotional needs; a connection to nature's forms and principles; and aspects reflecting the value Wright placed on the primacy of the individual as fundamental to American society, including new habits of life in the twentieth century.

These innovative ideas and the resulting unified architectural works were noted in European architectural and critical circles early in the century. Assemblies, lectures and publications by Dutch and German architects and Russian constructivists acclaimed Wright's American works, with architects J.J.P. Oud, Walter Gropius, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, and later Alvar Aalto, Jørn Utzon and Carlo Scarpa among those praising his contributions. Beyond Europe, Max Cento and Juan O'Gorman in Latin America, Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin in Australia, and Raku Endo in Japan each claimed Wright as an influence during their careers.

Frank Lloyd Wright sought to establish new forms appropriate to the history, character, habits and geography of the United States. The resulting buildings, however, were in fact suited to modern life in many countries, and in their fusion of spirit and form they evoked emotional responses that were universal in their appeal. While other architects incorporated many of the characteristics of this series such as the open plan, horizontality of form, ribbon windows, and blurring of interior and exterior space, Wright's buildings demonstrated an original architectural synthesis recognized by both critics and architects, offering a distinct and more personalized alternative to the austere, machine-inspired, rationalism characteristic of the Modern Movement. In doing so, some of the buildings in this series also offered new functional models that unerringly fit the character of modern life. Together, the series shows a comprehensive approach to architectural problems rather than showcasing individual buildings, however iconic. The legacy of this approach endures as a separate current of thought within modern architecture.

## Integrity

This series of buildings contains all the elements necessary to understand and express the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, as it contains the works generally understood by critics and other architects to have been most influential, and the best examples of the noted residential forms of Prairie houses and Usonian houses. Each component highlights a different aspect of the attributes that demonstrate this influence: Unity Temple for its dynamic cubic form and early use of reinforced concrete; the Frederick C. Robie House as the quintessential Prairie house, with its innovative open plan; Taliesin as the consummate example of organic connection to the landscape; Hollyhock House as a model for the interpretation of indigenous forms; Fallingwater as the complete example of a design that fully unifies the parts and the whole; the Herbert and Katherine Jacobs House as the prototype of the Usonian house; Taliesin West as the highest example of a choreographed procession through space that gives a rich experience of its setting; and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum as the prototype of an art museum where the building itself is an art object. Each component work is of adequate size to include critical elements of its setting and none suffers from adverse effects of development or neglect. Each building has benefited from careful and comprehensive conservation studies and expert technical advice to ensure a high level of preservation. Buffer zones protect the adjacent settings of each building.

## Authenticity

The structures in this series and their settings have remained remarkably unchanged since their construction in their form and design, use and function, materials and substance, and spirit and feeling. Conservation of each of the buildings, when needed to correct long-term structural issues or repair deterioration, has been in accordance with the highest standards of professional practice, ensuring the long-term conservation of original fabric wherever possible, and the significant features of each site. In all cases work has been based on exceptionally complete documentation. Very few features have been modified. In cases where the original function has changed, the current use is fully consistent with the original design.

## **Protection and Management Requirements**

One of the components of this series is owned by a local government; the others are in private ownership, including by non-profit organizations, foundations and an individual. Each building is protected from alteration, demolitions, and other inappropriate changes through deed restrictions, local preservation ordinances and zoning laws, private conservation easements, and state law. Each property has been designated by the United States Department of the Interior as an individual National Historic Landmark, which gives it, under federal law, the highest level of consideration in the context of any actions by the Federal Government. Each site has an effective management system that makes use of a suite of planning and conservation guidance to ensure protection of the attributes that convey the series' Outstanding Universal Value, and the Frank Lloyd Wright World Heritage Council, formally established in 2012, meets regularly to support the professional management of the series.

## Name and Contact Information of Official Local Institution/Agency

Stephen Morris Chief Office of International Affairs **United States National Park Service** 1849 C Street NW, Room 2741 Washington, DC 20240 T: 202/354.1803 E: stephen\_morris@nps.gov W: www.nps.gov/orgs/1955/index.htm Barbara Gordon Executive Director **Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy** 

53 W Jackson Boulevard 1120 Chicago, Illinois 60604-3548 T: 312/663.5500 E: bgordon@savewright.org W: www.savewright.org "His is an original architecture. He works to simplify architectural masses, while treating ornament as something purely secondary. His forms are so original that in the final analysis no contemporary European tendencies are visible in his work."

H. P. Berlage, "The New American Architecture," Schweizerische Bauzeitung (1912)