

3551

Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

United States Department of Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Schwartz, Bernard and Fern, House
other names/site number Still Bend

2. Location

street & number 3425 Adams Street N/A not for publication
city or town Two Rivers N/A vicinity
state Wisconsin code WI county Manitowoc code 071 zip code 54241

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

2/7/2019
Date

State Historic Preservation Office - Wisconsin
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Schwartz, Bernard and Fern, House

Manitowoc

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
 - entered in the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
 - determined eligible for the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
 - determined not eligible for the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other, (explain.):


 Signature of the Keeper

3-28-19
 Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	1	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> site	1	structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	2	objects
			total

Name of related multiple property listing:
 (Enter "N/A" if property not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions)
 DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions)
 OTHER: Vacation Rental

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions)
 Modern Movement

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions)
 foundation Concrete
 walls brick

roof asphalt

other wood, glass

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Schwartz, Bernard and Fern, House
Name of Property

Manitowoc
County and State

Wisconsin

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1940

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Wright, Frank Lloyd/architect
Pawlitzke, Bernard/contractor

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Schwartz, Bernard and Fern, House

Manitowoc

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name/title	Gary Ditmer (Owner)			Date	January 2018
organization				telephone	+81 80 9153 1579
street & number	108-7 Tsutsujigaoka, No. 1104				
	Miyagino-Ku	Sendai	983-0851	Japan	

name/title	Michael Ditmer (Owner Representative/Property Manager)			Date	January 2018
organization				telephone	612.840.7507
street & number	P.O. Box 165				
city or town	Two Rivers	state	WI	zip code	54241

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

Schwartz, Bernard and Fern, House
Two Rivers, Manitowoc County, Wisconsin

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Setting and Site

Situated along the west bank of the East Twin River and just southeast of the intersection of Adams Street and 36th Street in the city of Two Rivers, the Bernard and Fern Schwartz House is located in an entirely residential area. "Still Bend," the subdivision within which it is found, was platted in the early 1920s and was originally located outside of the city limits and within the Town of Two Rivers. Although annexation of Still Bend began as early as the 1930s, the subject property was not annexed to the city until 1955. Homes in the immediate area generally date to between the 1940s and 1970 and consist largely of Ranch-style or Minimal Traditional, single-family types. Adams Street includes a narrow grassy terrace that is without foliage and the house is within full view of the street and sidewalk, less the tree that is located immediately in front of the home. The majority of the homes along Adams Street reflect a standard setback and are oriented to the street, whereas the Schwartz house is located further back on its lot and is set at an angle and immediately adjacent to a semi-circular drive. The front yard, including the grassy area encapsulated by the driveway, is landscaped with small bushes and other plantings. The Schwartz parcel includes varying amounts of foliage throughout, includes the house, as well as a contributing, free-standing board-and-batten wall which, together, are considered to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

House (Contributing, Designed 1939; Completed 1940):

The Schwartz House, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and constructed in 1940, is slightly less than 3,000 square feet and oriented on a northwest/southeast axis on a concrete foundation. The house is sheathed with a combination of Red Tidewater cypress and red brick and includes large expanses of glass. The specific brick used for the home, which was purchased from the Streator Brick Company, Streator, Illinois, is smooth face, Red Range Colonial Face Brick.¹ Flat roofs, cantilevered balconies

¹ The specific brick used for the house was provided by Bruce Mallonee, President of Streator Brick Systems, Inc., to Gail Fox, Letter of Correspondence, 29 July 1994, Copy on file in the Fox Collection, Two Rivers, WI. The brick used is differentiated from Streator's common brick as such: "Both brick are made of the same shale, and the difference is that the Colonials are sorted more closely for uniformity of size and color and mechanical perfection, and are packed in straw, which reduces shipping in transit and handling," E.F. Plumb, President, Streator Brick Company, to Edgar Tafel, Letter of Correspondence, 23 April 1939, FLWFA © 1986 (MoMA/Avery). Hereafter, unless otherwise specified, all copies of letters of correspondence and/or telegrams were obtained by Gail Fox from The Frank Lloyd Wright Memorial Archives, Taliesin West, copies of which were housed at The Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, CA. While copies continue to be housed at the Getty, the originals (from Taliesin West) have since been moved to The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation Archives, which are now located in either The Museum of Modern Art (models, textiles and artifacts), New York, NY or at the Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library, Columbia University, New York, NY (correspondence/papers). Due to copyright issues, all correspondence obtained by Fox is hereafter cited as FLWFA © 1986 (MoMA/Avery) with the

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and clerestory lighting consisting of perforated boards with a rectilinear animal-form pattern² define the home. Both the sunken courtyard on the north side of the house, as well as the concrete terrace to the south (each including a brick planter box), are considered part of the house and not as separate landscape features.

Along the street elevation the southwest façade rises two stories from which a cantilevered flat roof extends above the first story to create a carport. Immediately beneath the overhang is a brick wall with six, small rectangular window openings, next to which is an additional opening that carries a vertically oriented perforated board with a rectilinear pattern. Consistent with homes designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, the entrance (a simple wooden door with a small window at the top right corner) is hidden from direct view and is found “behind” the brick portion including the perforated board. Beyond the brick section, the horizontal board-and-sunk-batten-sided first floor extends to both the northwest and southeast and is devoid of fenestration. The second floor is partially obscured from view by a board-and-batten railing that encircles the carport roof/upper-level balcony and delineates the second-floor’s central (originally the guest) bedroom with its continuous run of three sets of wood-frame, glass doors, hereafter cited as “French doors”. A single, plate-glass window is located to the left (north) of the doors and illuminates the bathroom. To the right (south), a section of brick continues to the flat roofline of the second floor, next to which is a horizontally oriented perforated board. A single, wood-frame-and-glass door, and a narrow, floor-to-ceiling window of the southernmost bedroom (originally the maid’s bedroom) complete the remainder of the board-and-batten-sheathed portion.

Turning to the home’s southeast elevation, the one-story, board-and-batten-sheathed, flat-roofed utility room extends southeast from the two-story block; a short wall extends further south to shield outdoor household items (utilities, grill, garden hose, etc.), as well as a rear door, from direct view of the backyard. Visible only from this view of the house is the vertical run of small, rectangular glass windows that illuminates the interior workspace (kitchen). A pair of perforated boards provides the only light to the utility room’s interior along the easterly wall, while a single, narrow, floor-to-ceiling window is the only fenestration of the southeast endwall of the second level.

Continuing along the southeast elevation and extending to the northeast is a one-story, flat-roofed block that encompasses the dining room space. Two rows of perforated boards are included within the board-and-batten southeast wall and which continue around the corner. A set of five, small rectangular and vertically oriented windows, alongside a nearly floor-to-ceiling casement window complete the elevation. Along the block’s northeast wall and immediately below the roofline is a single, perforated board, while a single, wood-frame and glass (replacement) door opens onto the rear brick-outlined,

notation that copies are held by Fox in the Fox Collection.

² Despite varying interpretations of the perforated board pattern, Bernard and Fern’s son Stephen Schwartz, as well as Gail Fox, Schwartz House historian, interpret the design as an abstracted animal form.

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Schwartz, Bernard and Fern, House
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concrete terrace.

The remainder of this rear elevation is dominated by a one-story wing that extends to the northeast and consists of four brick piers that alternate with four large expanses of (single panes of) Thermopane glass (which replaced the original sets of French doors); an additional section of glass is located at the east end of this wing and it includes a set of (replacement) French doors that open to the terrace. A wood-frame, open trellis cantilevers over the terrace and beyond to the east, and which “shelters” a brick planter box and the tree located within it. A second (and also flat) roofline, set back from the first, rises to expose a continuous row of clerestory lighting that consists of perforated boards; this row continues around to the northeast elevation. Visible above the clerestory lighting is the massive brick chimney that rises along the opposite (northwest) side of the house. And, finally, also seen from this elevation is the flat-roof extension of the second-floor gallery (hallway), which is sheathed with board and batten and also includes a single row of perforated boards.

The northwest elevation of the northeast-extending wing is dominated by the massive brick chimney that includes an outdoor fireplace that is recessed within the adjacent sunken courtyard. The sunken area, which is accessed from both the east and the west via a short set of concrete stairs, consists of concrete slabs and is outlined with red brick. Immediately adjacent to the chimney wall is a tall-and-narrow expanse of glass. Originally comprised of small panes of glass (found elsewhere in the house), this was replaced with (the existing) two wood-encased windows in the 1970s. The remaining portion of this wing includes two large, floor-to-ceiling expanses of glass, divided such that the upper portion suggests a transom. Originally, each bay included a wood-frame-and-glass set of French doors, which opened out onto the sunken court. As seen from the opposite elevation, the second-floor gallery (hallway) with its perforated boards is also visible on this side of the house.

Located at the west end of the sunken courtyard is a red brick planter (rebuilt), which is immediately adjacent to the home’s two-story block. Above the planter is a single, plate-glass window (which replaced the former tripartite window, with outer casement openings and a central fixed pane), while a single, wood-and-glass door is located next to (south of) it. Completing the elevation is a cantilevered balcony on the second floor, which is associated with the northernmost (and third) bedroom. A set of replacement wood-and-glass doors open onto the balcony; additional (replacement) windows are located to either side of the doors.

The northerly elevation of the two-story block is comprised of board and batten walls on both levels. It is from this direction only that the vertical run of small windows (which illuminate the master bath) is visible.

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Schwartz, Bernard and Fern, House
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General Plan, Layout and Finish

The Schwartz House is T-shaped³ and based on a rectangular 7' x 7' unit planning grid and the entire house rests on a concrete mat, beneath which hot water pipes were laid in crushed rock. The first floor is dominated by a long, open recreation (living) room (the stem of the T-plan) that flows directly from the entrance foyer, which also includes a half bath (in a former closet). Two steps down from, as well as north of, the foyer is the master bedroom and bathroom; this space opens directly out to the courtyard, which continues along the north side of the recreation/living room. Opposite the master bedroom is the kitchen, utility room and dining room, the lattermost room of which flows directly from the recreation room/foyer space and, like the master bedroom, a doorway directly accesses the terrace that frames the recreation/living room on the south. The westerly wall of the dining room serves as the east wall of the thirteen-step staircase, which leads to the second floor, where a single-loaded corridor (oriented perpendicular to the recreation/living room) includes three bedrooms (one with a half-bath) and a full bathroom. The maid's bedroom (which includes a half bath and balcony) is located at the head of the stairs, while the remaining two bedrooms – each with their own balcony – are separated by the full bathroom. There is no attic, nor is there a basement.

Throughout the house, interior walls are either brick or are finished with cypress board and battens, each board measuring 11 inches in width⁴. The ceilings are also finished with wood, within which decorative wooden light screens are set. Floors in the entry, living room, dining room, and kitchen are polished Cherokee red concrete, while the hallway and second-floor bedrooms consist of beechwood. The staircase is also beechwood. Built-in furniture and shelving is located throughout the house (See room descriptions to follow for specifics).

All interior wood was originally finished with two coats of liquid wax and three coats of paste wax and buffed, while the exterior wood was given one additional coat of each type and buffed. Per 1940 correspondence, "Minwax" was identified by Tafel to be "the most suitable material" for the exterior cypress.⁵

In addition to the built-in furniture (which is identified in the following interior description), Wright designed a few free-standing tables, as well as a number of hassocks, which were all built with a

³ Some have described the plan as L-shaped but with the bedroom wing on the north and the utility room to the south, it is more of a T-shape.

⁴ The house reflects a vertical module of 13 inches. When considering the walls and the 11-inch boards, each of the sunken battens measures 2 inches. The 13-inch module is maintained by adding 1 inch from each bordering sunken batten.

⁵ Ray Pawlitzke, Son of the home's builder, Bernard Pawlitzke, Handwritten Correspondence (Sheet 8, #26) to Gail Fox, April 11, 1994, In possession of Fox, Fox Collection; Tafel to Bernard Schwartz, Letter of Correspondence, February 10, 1940.

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similar geometric design. None of the original free-standing, first-floor furniture remains with the home.

Interior-First Floor

Entry/Foyer

Inside the front door, one enters the foyer which is defined only by a low ceiling; there are no walls separating it from the long and narrow recreation room (living room). A powder room⁶ is located in the northwest corner of the entry, next to which is a built-in wooden desk. Adjacent to the brick pier that frames the desk to the right (east) is a set of original French doors that open into the sunken (by two-steps) master bedroom. Directly opposite the bedroom doors is the wooden staircase to the second floor.

Master Bedroom

This room is sunken by two steps from the foyer. A plywood-constructed wardrobe is situated along the room's southerly wall, opposite the foyer, next to which is the doorway to the full bathroom. A single, wood-and-glass (replacement) door provides access from the easterly wall to the sunken courtyard. The original concrete flooring is covered with carpeting. The in-floor radiant heat is no longer utilized in this room.⁷

Recreation Room (Living Room)

In typical Wrightian fashion, a low-ceiling entry opens into a larger and open living space with clerestory lighting. This space is modestly divided by a short length of wall that separates the room's two fireplaces, both of which are located along the northeast wall. The western open fireplace is larger than the one to the east and consists of an open grate, designed by Wright, over a brick hearth and no mantel. The smaller example, also with an open grate and brick hearth, is within the easternmost end of the wing, which can be described as a library or study. This area includes built-in shelving and banquette seating and is set beneath a low ceiling. Despite the high ceiling height at the room's center (facilitated by the clerestory lighting), a lower ceiling is again employed along the wall of fenestration to the terrace/outdoors. While the clerestory windows provide natural light to the room, recessed lighting with decorative wooden covers regularly punctuates the lower ceiling.

⁶ Although the original plans did include a powder room in this space, the house was built with a closet. This space was converted for use as a powder room in 2017.

⁷ Several attempts were made to repair the leaking pipes but the decision was made to abandon the radiant heat system in this room; it is now heated by an electric radiator.

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Dining Room

While the terrace is outlined on the north by the living room, the home's dining room is situated along its west end. The ceiling of this space is also trimmed with cypress; however, it is more intricately (and geometrically) laid in the space. Furthermore, the light covers/screens in this space are also more elaborate, almost replicating the perforated boards seen on the exterior. The southerly wall of this space includes a built-in "buffet," as well as shelving. When built, the room also included a built-in corner table (as well as a matching moveable table) that accommodated hassock seating, the table of which was removed during the Schwartzes' tenure in the home. An original, four-light, wood-frame light fixture remains intact in the corner.

Workspace (Kitchen)

Walls in the two-story, efficiently arranged kitchen are exposed red brick and the floor is red concrete. Aside from a tall and narrow run of windows along the room's southerly wall, a (replacement) skylight in the ceiling provides the majority of the light to the space. The lower cupboards and the countertop are both laminate replacements, while the upper cabinets were refaced (in the 1970s).⁸

Utility Room

The floor is red concrete and walls are comprised of board and batten (but not waxed). The ceiling has two different heights; the space adjacent the kitchen is 6'6", while the southern end is approximately 9'9". Although not evident from the exterior, the taller southern end includes two, clear-glass clerestory windows (that originally could be opened). This room contains a gas-fired boiler, a new, tankless hot-water heater, a washer and dryer, as well as the original, porcelain double utility sink, open storage shelving and a work table.

Interior-Second Floor

A long gallery (hallway) runs the length of the second floor and includes three bedrooms (one with a half bath) and a full bathroom; a built-in desk and a closet are located at the north end of the hallway. Floors in the hallway, bedrooms, and the full bathroom are beechwood and walls are cypress board and batten. All three bedrooms include original wooden shelving, and access to their own private outer balcony, while two of the three include plywood-constructed wardrobes (the maid's room was not large enough to accommodate one). The maid's bedroom does retain an original wood bed frame.

⁸ The original skylight was operable/could be opened; however, the replacement is inoperable.

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Schwartz, Bernard and Fern, House
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Alterations

Changes during the Schwartzes' tenure were minimal and include only the building up of the exterior chimney to beyond the roofline (which was done under Wright's direction and by his mason), as well as the removal of the built-in dining area table, which was along the brick wall opposite the terrace.

In 1979, the home's second owner, Edith Anderson, replaced a number of doors and windows, including: six sets of original French doors in the recreation room/living room (four to the southeast and two on the northwest) were replaced with single panes of Thermopane glass, while an additional set (those on the northeast) was replaced with new French doors. Also in the living room, the tall-and-narrow set of small, steel-sash, fixed windows were replaced with the existing two-part, wood-frame window. The original, wood-and-glass, bi-fold and corner doors in the dining room (opening onto the terrace) were replaced with a standard, wood-and-glass door and a fixed window. The original tripartite window (with outer casements and a central fixed opening) in the master bedroom was replaced with a single pane, while the original door was also replaced. Sliding glass doors replaced the original three sets of French doors of the second-floor, central (guest) bedroom (they were, however, more recently taken out and replaced with French doors), while new doors and windows replaced the originals in both the north and south (maid's) bedrooms. In addition to the window and door replacement, Anderson also removed the low board and batten wall that ran the perimeter of the sunken courtyard, as well as the brick planter and length of brick wall in the courtyard; she also replaced the terrace's original red concrete with new, non-stained concrete. The final exterior alteration completed during her tenure included the application of cedar siding to portions of the home's exterior, with all exterior wood having a darker stain. On the interior and in the kitchen, the original plywood cabinet doors were replaced with laminate and an original built-in desk area was removed. In the living room, a table that extended from the wall adjacent to the banquette seating was also removed. Carpeting was installed throughout the second floor, up the stairs and in the kitchen.

At some unknown point, the south (maid's) bedroom was modestly altered, which included the relocation of a sink from the bedroom proper to inside the bathroom.

Restoration Efforts to Date

Since 2003, a substantial effort has been made to reverse some of the aforementioned alterations. Exterior restoration work included: removal of the 1970s-era exterior cedar siding and the reconstruction of the planter box in the sunken courtyard, as well as the full reconstruction of the exterior chimney. The brick edge bordering the concrete mat was replaced off the terrace, dining room, utility room, sunken court, as well as the brick edging of the exterior fireplace. As a result of carpenter ant infestation, interior joists of the northerly bedroom's balcony were replaced and new white cypress board and batten siding was put on the exterior balcony, as well as the northern

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elevation (along both levels). The 1970s sliding glass doors of the central bedroom were replaced with white cypress French doors. Damaged boards of the balcony railing off that center bedroom were replaced with white cypress and the lower board was trimmed up/cut to allow for water to more easily escape. Carpeting was removed in the kitchen, up the stairs and on the second floor and floors restored and/or refinished. Much of the first-floor interior cypress was re-waxed by UW-Milwaukee School of Architecture students. And, in 2017, the front entry closet was converted for use as a powder room.⁹ The home's original roof consisted of coal tar pitch with pea gravel, but was later covered with rubber by the home's second owner (Anderson). The home's current roof was entirely replaced (in 2003-04) with a modified bitumen roof system which includes gravel surfacing and flat seam copper.¹⁰

Privacy Wall (Contributing, 1940):

A 66 inch-high (and raised approximately 1 inch from the ground), unadorned, board-and-batten cypress wall is oriented parallel with the house and provides for a narrow walkway between the wall and the utility room wing of the house and leads to the backyard. Near the south end, the wall turns slightly to the west and terminates in the adjacent foliage. The wall is visible in photographs 1 and 2 of this nomination.

Landscaping

As stated at the beginning, both the sunken courtyard and the concrete terrace, each with their respective planter boxes, were designed as one with the house and they are not considered to be landscaping elements. Landscaping seen today, including the red bark that outlines the driveway, as well as the planting areas along the privacy fence and in the front yard, are of recent planting.

INTEGRITY STATEMENT

The integrity of the Bernard and Fern Schwartz House is very good on both the exterior and interior. Although the original glass doors of the recreation (living) room that opened to the sunken court on the north and the terrace on the south were replaced in the 1970s with Thermopane glass and/or other windows, the originally intended views to the outdoors remain intact. On the interior, all room arrangements remain as they were originally conceived and alterations are limited to kitchen and bathroom remodeling.

___End of Description of Physical Appearance

⁹ A comprehensive list of the restoration work undertaken since 2003 was provided by Michael Ditmer, manager of the Schwartz House; this list was provided to Schnell via email in October 2017. The front closet was originally intended to serve as a powder room (per plans and existing rough-in plumbing) but those plans changed during construction.

¹⁰ Ibid.; Anne Sundberg, "Restoring the Wright House," *Herald Times Reporter* (Manitowoc-Two Rivers, WI), June 6, 2004. F1, F2, [Part 2 of 3].

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Schwartz, Bernard and Fern, House
Two Rivers, Manitowoc County, Wisconsin

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bernard and Fern Schwartz House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, nationally significant under Criterion C, as the work of a master. This home is of an innovative design and an excellent example of a pre-World War II, Usonian plan home designed by master architect Frank Lloyd Wright. Sheathed with both red brick and Red Tidewater cypress, horizontal board-and-sunk-batten siding, the Schwartz home features the following characteristics common to Wright's Usonian homes: a planning grid; cantilevered, flat roofs with overhanging eaves; board and batten sandwich walls; in-floor, radiant heating; and a carport. Although not Wright's "first" Usonian house design that came to fruition (that distinction goes to the National Historic Landmark-designated Herbert and Katherine Jacobs First House), the Schwartz home was not the prototypical one-story example (like the Jacobs house) but a unique and unprecedented, two-story iteration. Furthermore, it was in the Schwartz house that one of Wright's hallmark home features – that of the in-floor radiant heating system – was improved by the use of hot water rather than steam. Finally, and perhaps most notably, the Schwartz home was developed directly from the plans Wright submitted in 1938 to *Life* magazine, as the modern-styled "dream house" for a family that earned an annual income between \$5,000 and \$6,000. *Life* magazine, one of the premier magazines of its era in the United States, brought Wright's design - and introduced his groundbreaking concepts for modern living- to a broad national audience. Although not an exact replica of the published 1938 design, the Schwartz home – designed in 1939 and completed in 1940 – has since been lauded as the "*Life* magazine dream house." The design of the Schwartz House compares favorably to other nationally significant Wright designs and because of the innovations expressed in this design, a National Historic Landmark (NHL) study, commissioned by the National Park Service and completed in 2007, identified this house as potentially eligible for National Historic Landmark designation. This study, completed by three nationally-recognized Frank Lloyd Wright scholars, examined all extant Wright properties and reviewed them for potential NHL eligibility. A total of fifty-six of his buildings, representing five different artistic periods of Wright's career, were recommended for NHL consideration. The Schwartz House, executed during Wright's "Third Period" (1930-1941), was one of just fourteen "Third Period" buildings endorsed for NHL distinction. The 1970s-era replacement of the home's original, glass French doors with Thermopane windows notwithstanding, the Schwartz house retains a high degree of integrity both inside and out.

While not germane to the home's national significance, the Bernard and Fern Schwartz House is the only Frank Lloyd Wright design in Manitowoc County and is just one of two Wright designs in northeastern Wisconsin (the other is the 1917 Stephen Hunt House in Oshkosh, Wisconsin). Indeed, the Schwartz house is unique to Two Rivers and has no direct comparisons. In fact, Two Rivers has very few examples of Modern style architecture in general. And, while not truly comparable—and

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built more than two decades later – two Modern-style homes deserve mention, both of which are located along Adams Street and were designed by John Bloodgood Schuster, who trained under Russell Barr Williamson, a former employee of Wright. Built in 1970 and located right next door to the Schwartz House (and at 3605 Adams Street) is the William and Nancy Webster House, while the Dr. John and Mary Kozelka house is up the block at 3705 Adams Street. Like Wright's (and Williamson's) later work, the two Schuster homes turn their back on the street and incorporate wide overhanging eaves and include large expanses of glass and native stone.¹¹

General History, Two Rivers

Although the area was explored by the French as early as the late 1600s, modern settlement of the city of Two Rivers in Manitowoc County dates to the 1830s when a sawmill was built in 1836. The East and West Twin rivers formed a natural bay that would serve the city's two most important initial industries – fishing and lumbering. By the 1850s, the surrounding area attracted a number of farmers and the city's industrial base expanded to include ship building. The first lighthouse was built in 1853 and it was replaced with the present structure in 1892. By 1880, the population of Two Rivers was 2,052. The Hamilton Manufacturing Company, a wood-products manufacturer, opened a sizeable plant in the city in the late 1800s and other factories soon followed. These plants employed hundreds of workers, who expanded the city's population from 4,850 in 1910 to 7,305 by 1920.¹²

Among the families to move to Two Rivers in the first quarter of the twentieth century and engage in the area's manufacturing base was that of Samuel Schwartz. Married in 1884, Samuel and his wife Alta immigrated to the United States in the 1890s, along with their two eldest children, Simon and Anna. The Schwartzes hailed from a small Russian village named Drohiczyn on the Bug River in an area of Poland then controlled by czarist Russia. They had come to America for freedom, opportunity, and to escape the czarist persecution of the Jewish population. After residing in Sheboygan, Algoma, Neenah, and Manitowoc, the family moved to a house on 16th Street in Two Rivers in 1910. Samuel established his previous hide, furs and (now) metals business that same year and, seven years later, they purchased a more commodious home on the East Twin River (known by its Native American name as the Mishicot River), 2311 Jefferson Street. In 1919, Samuel and son Simon established The Schwartz Manufacturing Company. By 1923, son Myron had also joined the successful, closed corporation that produced buffing cloths and polishing wheels for the aluminum industry and cotton

¹¹ Also of note, *Buildings of Wisconsin* (part of the Society of Architectural Historians, Buildings of the United States series), published in 2016, includes only five properties to represent Manitowoc County, with the Schwartz house the sole representative for the City of Two Rivers, Marsha Weisiger, et. al, *Buildings of Wisconsin* (Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press, 2016), 272-275.

¹² Evan Gagnon, *Neshotah: The Story of Two Rivers, Wisconsin* (Stevens Point, WI: Worzalla Publishing Co., 1969), 11-13, 40, 44-45, 75-78, 101, 112, 227.

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goods for the dairy industry.¹³

As of 1920, the Schwartz family home on Jefferson Street included all six children, ranging in age from thirty-three-year-old Simon to eleven-year-old Bernard, the latter of whom was born on March 8, 1908 in Neenah. Bernard attended public schools and, in 1926, was part of the first graduating class in the new Two Rivers High School. He took a general academic course, excelled at debate, and continued his studies at UW-Madison, enrolling for three years with some time off. In 1930, he returned to Two Rivers to work in the family business and, in 1935, his father offered him a stake in the private family business once he saw that Bernard was contemplating marriage.¹⁴

On Sunday, August 30, 1936, Rabbi Benjamin Daskal, in the presence of the immediate families at the elegant Shoreland Hotel on Chicago's South Side, united Fern Korn and Bernard W. Schwartz in marriage. Fern Korn Schwartz, the daughter of Moses and Fannie Korn, was born in Chicago on July 15, 1911. Her mother died in 1927, when Fern was fifteen. Moses Korn owned a furniture store in Hyde Park, a cosmopolitan neighborhood which is home to the University of Chicago. Fern graduated from Hyde Park High School.¹⁵

Following their wedding breakfast, Bernard and Fern left for New York City to sail to Bermuda for a honeymoon, which also included travel through New England. They returned six weeks later to live at 936 N. 6th Street in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, and Bernard resumed his position as the secretary of the Schwartz Manufacturing Company in Two Rivers. Bernard and Fern's only child, Stephen Schwartz, was born July 1937.¹⁶

¹³ Samuel Schwartz immigrated to the United States in 1891 and settled first in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. He worked for three years in order to earn enough money to bring over the rest of his family, "Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Schwartz Celebrate Golden Anniversary," *The Reporter and Chronicle* (Two Rivers, WI), October 12, 1934, 4/1-2; "Schwartz Firm is World Leader in Cotton Goods for the Dairy Industry," *Two Rivers (WI) Reporter*, January 31 1950.

¹⁴ U.S. Federal Census, Population, 1920, Available online at www.Ancestry.com, Accessed December 2017; Information gleaned by Gail Fox following contact with the Registrar's Office, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Bernard's ownership of the business was confirmed through the following: State of Wisconsin Manitowoc County Court Probate of Estate of Samuel Schwartz, 1936, File No. 8457, Vol L, Trust-O, 379-456.

¹⁵ "Wedding Solemnized at Chicago," *Two Rivers Reporter*, August 31, 1936, 4; Biographical information from Stephen Schwartz (son of Bernard and Fern Schwartz), Interview with Gail Fox, November 29, 1988, Fox collection.

¹⁶ Information supplied by Stephen Schwartz, in response to written questions from Gail Fox, October 1991, Fox Collection. Bernard would continue to serve as the secretary of Schwartz Manufacturing Company until 1944, when for a brief while he was vice president. By mid-year, relationships ruptured and Bernard was ejected from the business. Shortly thereafter, he started his own business (The B.W. Schwartz Manufacturing Company, later known as The Bernard Co.). His brother Simon continued as president and CEO of Schwartz Manufacturing Company, which is still in business. The Bernard Company, a cotton goods company making disposable garments, closed in 1991, "Announcement by Bernard Schwartz Reveals Retirement as an Official," *The Two Rivers Reporter*, July 7, 1944; "Resigns from Concern Here," *The Two Rivers Reporter*, December 30, 1944; "Bernard Co. Turns Back Lease," *Herald Times Reporter*, July 13, 1991.

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Usonian Bound: The *Life* House

As Bernard and Fern began to think about building a home, Frank Lloyd Wright was dominating popular press coverage with one masterpiece after another including Fallingwater, the country house for Edgar J. Kaufmann in Bear Run, Pennsylvania; the Johnson Wax Administration Building in Racine, Wisconsin; the Herbert Johnson residence (Wingspread) in Wind Point, Wisconsin; and Taliesin West, Wright's own new home and studio rising in the Arizona desert.

Indeed, several magazines in Henry Luce's publishing empire¹⁷ promoted Wright's recent work. In January 1938, *Time* magazine put Wright on its coveted cover using Fallingwater as the backdrop. *Time* also ran a lead story entitled "The Usonian Architect" in which it reminded its large readership not only about the "genius architect's" many masterpieces over a lifetime, but also his colorful life. It highlighted the architect's newest creation – the Usonian house. More specifically, it profiled a \$5,500 house in Madison, Wisconsin, that he designed in 1936 for a progressive young couple, Herbert and Katherine Jacobs.¹⁸ While moderate in size due in part to its location on an urban lot, the Jacobs' First House was not, compared to home costs of the time, inexpensive. Wright's typical clients were comprised of professional-level, upper-middle-class or higher clientele. Indeed, the average cost of a new house in 1938 was \$3,900, which was far from the \$5,500 price tag touted for the Jacobs I House.¹⁹

In essence, Usonian plan houses can be described as a simplified form of Wright's earlier Prairie style homes that could – over time and with duplication and in contrast to custom house designs of architects' more traditional designs – be built at a relatively moderate cost, due to their smaller size. Although Wright had previously addressed the problem of low-cost housing (with his American System-built homes of the 1910s), Usonian homes were conceived to directly address the country's situation of the 1930s; it was an attempt to reignite interest in housing construction during the Great Depression. As conceived, Usonian plan homes included the following typical characteristics and/or features: one story in height, an open plan, use of a geometric planning grid, board and batten sandwich walls, a system of in-floor heating, and the elimination of both a basement and garage, the

¹⁷ Periodicals of Luce include *Time*, *Fortune*, *Life* and *The Architectural Forum*, the lattermost of which was considered the sister publication for the "Life house" project.

¹⁸ Robert Fitzgerald, "Usonian Architect," In *Architectural Forum*, 31 (January 16, 1938), 29-32. Designed in 1936, the Jacobs house was completed in 1937.

¹⁹ Henry Blodget, "For a Reminder of What Inflation Does to Your Money, Check Out the 'Cost of Living' in 1938," *Business Insider*, October 3, 2014, Available online at www.businessinsider.com/the-cost-of-living-2014-10, Accessed October 2018.

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latter of which was replaced by a carport.²⁰ The ideals and intent of Usonian homes does not always coincide with what was built, especially given that Usonian homes never reached the scale of duplication that may have brought costs down, and in addition, of the Usonian homes that were designed, each essentially became a custom design. Moderate cost was an ideal that Wright and his apprentices at Taliesin were invested in; however, in practice, moderate cost was often associated with clients with a budget. Clients such as the Schwartzes were not getting an inexpensive home; they were getting a unique, artistic, custom designed home by one of the country's most prominent architects of the time, on a budget.

In the same month that *Time* had featured the Usonian style Jacobs house, *The Architectural Forum* – a monthly magazine for architects and professional tradesmen in the building industry – gave Wright the singular honor of designing and writing an entire issue devoted to Wright's recent and unpublished architecture. A strong friendship grew between Wright and *Architectural Forum's* editor, Howard Myers. Thus, when Myers – at the beginning of August 1938 – invited Wright to participate as one of the eight renowned architects in an upcoming effort, coordinated by *Life* magazine and *Architectural Forum*, to present a housing promotion that would help lift the housing market out of its Depression doldrums, Wright accepted.²¹

Life magazine selected four families living in four different geographic locations that were also in four different income brackets: \$2,000-\$3,000, \$3,000-\$4,000, \$5,000-\$6,000, \$10,000-\$12,000. The families had to commit to build as much “dream” house as they could afford. Each was asked for their specific requirements and desires for a house. Two architects were then assigned to each family; one to design a “modern” house, the other a “traditional” house. Both architects worked from the same information they were given about the families and their “dream” house, but with no actual interaction with the families. Wright was assigned to the Albert R. Blackbourn family of Minneapolis, whose income was \$5,000. Mr. Blackbourn earned his living as a publisher of business-record books out of an office in his home.²²

This commission from *Life* provided Frank Lloyd Wright – who was described as “the greatest architect of the 20th century”²³ in the article – with an opportunity to place before *Life's* 20 million readers his newest creation, a two-story elaboration on the basic Usonian house for clients who could

²⁰ A significant number of publications discuss the Usonian house or Usonian plan, including (perhaps most importantly) John Sergeant, *Frank Lloyd Wright's Usonian Houses: The Case for Organic Architecture* (New York: Watson-Guptill Publications, 1984).

²¹ Frank Lloyd Wright, “Frank Lloyd Wright,” In *Architectural Forum*, 68 (January 1938), 1-102; Richard L. Cleary, *Merchant Prince and Master Builder: Edgar J. Kaufmann and Frank Lloyd Wright* (Pittsburgh: The Heinz Architectural Center: Carnegie Museum of Art, 1999), 31.

²² *Ibid.*, “Eight Houses for Modern Living,” *Life*, 5 (September 26, 1938), 45-65.

²³ “Eight Houses for Modern Living,” 56.

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afford more. When Howard Myers at *Architectural Forum* saw Wright's "Life" house materials arrive, he sent a telegram off to the architect:

"LIFE HOUSE JUST ARRIVED THE MASTER HAS DONE IT AGAIN BELIEVE THE SEPTEMBER 26 ISSUE OF LIFE WILL BE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT AND STIMULATING PRESENTATION OF ARCHITECTURE EVER PUBLISHED IN AN AMERICAN MAGAZINE OF LARGE CIRCULATION."²⁴

The twenty-two-page housing promotion was brilliantly conceived to take advantage of *Life's* photojournalism approach by engaging its audience through photographs, vivid imagery and engaging text, portraying a kind of "docudrama."²⁵

In that September 26th *Life* magazine issue, Wright addressed the Blackbourn family directly: "American (I prefer to say Usonian) family life is unlike any other in the world and I think this plan recognizes it for... what it is---a little private club---with social privacies, ultra conveniences and style all the while." Space, Wright explained, "is characteristic of this free pattern for a freer life than you could possibly live in the conventional house."²⁶

Sheathed with stucco and stone, Wright's "Life" house featured an enclosed patio featuring a long, combined living/recreation room and lounge with adjacent areas that were joined to the large open space of the main floor. In fact, much of the house could be opened to the out-of-doors. An office, a requirement of the Blackbourns, was located off the kitchen. The bedrooms (save for the master bedroom and bath) were located on the second floor. Wright included a pool off the terrace or, as a substitute due to cost considerations, a sunken garden. The chimney mass accommodated two fireplaces. The architect also featured a clerestory band of glass tubing, as in his famous Johnson Wax Administration building, the first use of tubing in a residential design.²⁷

Despite an announcement made by the Blackbourns that they had chosen Wright's modern "Life" house design, instead, they ultimately built the "Life" house designed by the traditionalist architect,

²⁴ Howard Myers to Frank Lloyd Wright, Telegram, August 25, 1938.

²⁵ The architects assigned to the four income categories were: Richard Koch and Edward D. Stone, House for the W. Alan Ramsey Family of Atlanta, \$2,000-\$3,000; H. Roy Kelley and William Wilson Wurster, House for the Paul Calvert Family of Los Angeles, \$3,000-\$4,000; Royal Barry Wills and Frank Lloyd Wright, House for the Albert R. Blackbourn Family of Minneapolis, \$5,000-\$6,000; Aymar Embury II and Wallace K. Harrison & Andre Fouilhoux, House for the Davis P. Smith Family, \$10,000-\$12,000.

²⁶ "Eight Houses for Modern Living," 60-61.

²⁷ The Johnson Wax Administration Building was published as building in progress in Wright's solo issue of *Architectural Forum* (68/2), 88-99, esp. 98. Please note that glass tubing was also included in the 1938 design for the unbuilt Ralph Jester House (planned for Palos Verdes, CA), which was designed at about the same time as the subject *Life* house.

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Royal Barry Wills.²⁸

In addition, *Life* had gone out of its way to arrange with some leading department stores from across the nation to work with builders to help furnish some model homes that the public could visit. In Pittsburgh, an announcement was made that Kaufmann's Department Store would work with well-known developers Barone & Lind, to build and furnish a number of the "Life" model homes for the public to tour in the Baldwin Manor Subdivision. Although Barone & Lind's development, which was planned to include five total "Life" homes and did include the "Life" houses designed by both Royal Barry Wills and Richard Koch, Wright's "Life" house design for that development was never realized.²⁹

The September 1938 *Life* issue generated massive publicity nationwide. Readers could also order, at cost, scaled-down cardboard models of the houses with sheets of furniture to cut out and try in the house once the prospective homeowner put the model together. *Architectural Forum* dubbed the houses "the 8 most talked about houses in the U.S." Congratulations and inquiries poured in through the press, through the magazines, and through the offices of both *Life* and *Architectural Forum*. As a result of the widespread national publicity, one client – Bernard Schwartz – came directly to Wright's door.³⁰

²⁸ The Blackbourns were quoted as saying, "It is completely different. It is the only house of its kind in the country. We chose Mr. Wright's house entirely on its own merits," "Eight Houses for Modern Living." Despite the publication of that statement, the Blackbourns ultimately chose to build the Wills house. Also note that in the other three price ranges, the prospective "Life house" builders also chose the traditional house plan.

²⁹ Note that Kaufmann's was owned by Edgar Kaufmann (along with others); Kaufmann had only recently built the Wright-designed Fallingwater, Cleary, *Merchant Prince and Master Builder: Edgar J. Kaufmann and Frank Lloyd Wright*, 32. By mid-December 1938, Wright requested the return of the "Life" house plans from the Blackbourns in Minneapolis, as well as from Barone & Lind in Pittsburgh, Frank Lloyd Wright to A.R. Blackbourn, Telegram, December 13, 1938; Wright to Edgar Kaufmann, Jr., Telegram, December 13, 1938; Duplicate telegram to Barone & Lind, December 13, 1938; "Today A Magazine Story Comes to Life in Beautiful Baldwin Manor," *Pittsburgh (PA) Post Gazette*, January 19, 1939, Life Homes Section, 5; "'Life' Model House in Baldwin Manor Opened Today," *The Pittsburgh Press*, August 20, 1939, Society, 14, the article indicates that the house, designed by Richard Koch, was the second "Life" house built in the subdivision. Although a November 1938 article did cite that five "Life" house were planned, no further references to "Life" homes constructed in that subdivision were found. While the Wills' subdivision design appeared to be largely true to the one that was published in the September 1938 issue of *Life* magazine, the Koch house was clearly a variation of the *LIFE* competition home. Keep in mind that the whole concept of the "Life" house was that it could be customized/individualized according to available lot, as well as the homeowner's needs.

³⁰ *Architectural Forum* (69/5) November 1938, 6. The Wisconsin Historical Society has the only known extant cardboard model of Frank Lloyd Wright's "Life" house in its collection, Wisconsin Historical Museum Object #2005.133.1, See "Frank Lloyd Wright Cardboard House Model," Historical essay available online at www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Article/CS2770, Accessed November 2017.

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The Schwartzes Start Their “Life” Adventure

Just days after *Life*'s publication of the portfolio of homes, Eugene M. Lawton, a Racine attorney who owned development property in Manitowoc, asked Wright if he could bring a young couple to talk about building a house on property he owned in the Shorewood Manor subdivision.

At the present time, we have a prospect who appreciates the beauty and the distinctiveness of this location, a young couple but are connected with a family with sufficient money, to put up ten to twelve thousand into a house. My idea or thought, if you could be persuaded to design houses for these three Lots, with a sale or contract to the present prospects, then we would endeavor to sell the other houses, with the Lots, to other prospects.³¹

Wright's immediate response was:

“Come Sunday afternoon will be here all day.”³²

That Sunday, on October 2, 1938, and in the company of Lawton, the Schwartzes paid their first visit to Taliesin, Wright's 200-acre estate near Spring Green, Wisconsin. A visit to Taliesin often played a vital role in winning clients. The Schwartzes, who had seen both the 1938 *Time* and *Life* magazine pieces, were seemingly impressed.³³

Bernard was a businessman with a strong interest in the arts. He read widely, including the daily *New York Times*. His book collection in later years consisted mostly of “Limited Editions Club” and rare edition books on subjects ranging from Hebraica to philosophy and contemporary literature. He listened to opera and classical music and played chess. Both Fern and Bernard loved to travel, and throughout their lives together they traveled extensively. In the early years they also played golf.³⁴

When they first met Wright, Bernard and Fern were thirty and twenty-seven years old, respectively. The lot that interested them was at 856 Hawthorne Terrace in Block B, in the Shorewood Manor subdivision. The lot was small; too small it turned out, to accommodate their version of Frank Lloyd Wright's “Life” house.³⁵

³¹ Eugene W. Lawton to Frank Lloyd Wright, Letter of Correspondence, September 29, 1938.

³² Wright's reply by telegram dated September 30, 1938 is photocopied on to the preceding letter from Lawton to Wright.

³³ Sergeant, *Frank Lloyd Wright's Usonian Houses*, 46, 108.

³⁴ Personal information supplied by Stephen Schwartz, in response to written questions from Gail Fox, dated October 5, 1991, Fox Collection.

³⁵ Ibid.

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Lawton tried to bring the Schwartzes together again with Wright during November, but their schedules did not allow it. On December 5th, the Schwartzes contacted the architect directly to meet with him alone and talk about the house. At this point, they were living in a two-story frame house on a corner lot at 862 N. 8th Street in Manitowoc, not far from Fern's sister and a good public school, two considerations that were important to them.³⁶

Wright's secretary Eugene Masselink responded on December 10th that Wright would be leaving for his home in Arizona the following week so they should call and come early in the week to be able to see Wright. Evidently, the Schwartzes did go to Taliesin to meet with Wright because on December 20th, Masselink informed them by letter that the preliminary plans for their house were done and had been sent that day, and that the fee for preliminary sketches (3% of the cost of the house - \$11,500) was due upon the acceptance of the plans. Masselink also noted that the lot needed an additional 15 feet in order to accommodate the house.³⁷

Wright enlisted Edgar Tafel, one of his senior apprentices, to help Schwartz with his problem lot. Tafel proposed to enlarge the lot by borrowing from adjacent lots to accommodate the house, but Lawton wouldn't budge from his price to make this possible. The problem with changing the lot was that Schwartz had signed a contract with Lawton for \$2,600 and he had already paid down \$400. Tafel explained Schwartz's dilemma to Wright in a letter in which he said: "Think you are right that the house will be cramped if people on the other two lots ever build. You can imagine what the other houses look like nearby. They are Norman and Colonial of the \$10,000 class built in 1928 and 1929."³⁸

Subsequently, Wright sent a telegram to Tafel:

EDGAR – GO LOOKING FOR AN ACRE OR TWO ON WHICH SCHWARTZ COULD BUILD.
FEEL IT'S A SHAME TO LET HIM GET STUCK ON A LITTLE URBAN LOT?³⁹

On February 9th, attorney R.O. Schwartz, Bernard's cousin, made an appearance on behalf of Bernard before the City of Manitowoc's Board of Appeals, the body that considered cases in which the building inspector turned down a plot plan for a building on any lot not in conformity with the city zoning ordinance. The Board of Appeals confirmed the decision of the building inspector and Schwartz wrote a joint letter to Wright and Tafel informing them of the decision.⁴⁰

³⁶ Edgar Tafel, Taped Communication for Gail Fox, December 8, 1989, Transcribed and on file with Fox, Fox Collection.

³⁷ Eugene Masselink to Bernard Schwartz, Letters of Correspondence, December 10 and 20, 1938.

³⁸ Edgar Tafel to Frank Lloyd Wright, Letters of Correspondence, January 12 and 30, 1939.

³⁹ Wright to Tafel, Telegram, January 21, 1939, Copy in Schwartz family collection (also at FLWFA, MoMA/Avery).

⁴⁰ R. O. Schwartz to Edgar Tafel/Frank Lloyd Wright, Letter of Correspondence, February 10, 1939.

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Wright's reply to R.O. Schwartz expressed his indignation over the situation:

Looking toward the future I am sure Bernard will be happier and the whole matter of building a suitable home for him vastly improved by getting some acreage (perhaps nearby town if he wants to). The present situation created by Lawton is absurd... His pieces of pie are too small for any self-respecting citizen wanting to live according to the best modern conditions. No one has to submit to living practically in the houses of his neighbors at this time. Lawton is too dated for words. Let's - move?⁴¹

On March 1st, Tafel sent a letter from Taliesin – West to tell Bernard that Mr. Wright has returned from California and is anxious to start the working drawings for Bernard's house.⁴² Finally, on March 8, 1939, Bernard wrote to Wright the words he wanted to hear:

I have been thinking more and more of your recommendation to put up the house out in the country. The more I think of it, the more attractive the idea becomes. In Two Rivers there is available on the outskirts a very fine wooded area which is adjacent to the Mishicot River, a stream flowing out into Lake Michigan. There is a pine grove on this land ...⁴³

Bernard and Fern's search for the perfect lot for their home took them to a scenic river site located on the high west bank of the Mishicot River (aka East Twin River) just north of the city limits of Two Rivers in the Still Bend Addition. The subdivision (and later the Schwartz house itself) took its name from a bend in the river that stills the waters and creates a beautiful natural landscape of marsh grasses and water. It was then, and remains today, a haven for birds, fish, and wildlife. The site was also about a mile north of Bernard's boyhood home.⁴⁴

Still Bend: Frank Lloyd Wright's "Life" house for the Schwartzes

Before Wright left for England in April 1939, Bernard visited Taliesin (on April 19th) to show Wright a plot plan of the proposed site. He followed up with a letter giving his permission for Wright to prepare

⁴¹ Wright to R.O. Schwartz, Letter of Correspondence, February 20, 1939.

⁴² Tafel to Bernard Schwartz, Letter of Correspondence, March 1, 1939.

⁴³ Schwartz to Wright, Letter of Correspondence, March 8, 1939.

⁴⁴ Gary Christensen & Hortense M. Christensen, his wife to Bernard W. Schwartz & Fern Korn Schwartz, his wife [S ½ Lot 6, Blk. 8, Still Bend Addition, Town of Two Rivers], Warranty Deed (Dated June 5, 1939; Rec. June 9, 1939), Volume 185, Page 241, Document #242905, Gary Christensen's brother John Christensen was a longtime friend of Bernard Schwartz; Arthur W. Kummerow & Angeline Kummerow, his wife to Bernard W. Schwartz & Fern Korn Schwartz, his wife [N ½ Lot 6, Blk. 8, Still Bend Addition, Town of Two Rivers], WD (Dated June 6, 1939; Rec. June 9, 1939), 185/241, #242906.

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working drawings of his home. Bernard also requested a list of materials, including those to be used for plumbing and heating and asked about the source of lumber and whether the wooden panels proposed for the home would be manufactured in a factory.⁴⁵

Shortly thereafter, Tafel started contacting vendors for prices on materials, noting that this was the "Life" house and it was expected to receive considerable publicity, so cost considerations would be appreciated. Tafel thought that Wright chose him as architect's representative on the Schwartz job because of his previous experience in the Fellowship as an "outside man" able to handle the various roles and communication with clients and tradesmen that Wright expected. Tafel had already worked successfully on Fallingwater, the Johnson Wax Administration building, and the Johnson family residence, Wingspread.⁴⁶

The contractor chosen to oversee the construction was Bernard "Ben" Pawlitzke, fifty-seven years old and an experienced builder from Two Rivers who had erected some of the city's finest homes. According to his son Ray, who served as foreman on the Schwartz job, his father wanted winter work and was not afraid of taking on something unconventional. He was attentive to details, straightforward, and organized.⁴⁷

Pawlitzke spent time at Taliesin to learn the building system and techniques for Usonian structures, and Wright gave him a copy of the January 1938 *Architectural Forum* solo edition that presented many of the architect's recent buildings and his philosophy. Tafel held him in high regard and said Pawlitzke never hesitated to ask him to explain anything on the plans that he didn't understand.⁴⁸

On October 7, 1939, Schwartz and Pawlitzke signed a contract on Taliesin stationery laying out job responsibilities. Under the terms of the contract, Pawlitzke agreed to find, furnish and maintain suitable labor for all masonry and carpentry. He had to secure the best labor available at the lowest prices and assist in the buying of raw materials if desired. His compensation was 5% reckoned upon

⁴⁵ Bernard Schwartz to Wright, Letter of Correspondence, April 19, 1939, Letter in the Schwartz Family Collection. Please note that no pre-fabricated/manufactured wooden panels were used in building the Schwartz house.

⁴⁶ Tafel to Patek Brothers (Attn Mr. Ed Meyer), May 15, 1939; Tafel to Fox, Taped communication.

⁴⁷ Bernard Schwartz's friend John Christensen said his brother, Gary Christensen, who sold part of the lot on which the Schwartzes built, had recommended Bernard Pawlitzke as the contractor to Bernard Schwartz. Pawlitzke was the Christensens' neighbor. John Christensen said that Pawlitzke was ambitious, talented, a perfectionist, and he was the only contractor that showed any real interest in the job, John and Caroline Christensen, Interview with Gail Fox, May 23, 1989, Fox Collection.

⁴⁸ Tafel to Fox, Taped Correspondence. After the Schwartz house was done, Wright urged Pawlitzke to bid on the house he designed for Charles Manson in Wausau. By the time Pawlitzke sent his bid, Manson had hired a local builder, Wright to Pawlitzke, Letter of Correspondence, July 15, 1940, Pawlitzke to Wright, July 17, 1940; Wright to Pawlitzke, Telegram, July 31, 1940.

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payrolls from time to time as he required. As far as the workmen were concerned, they were working directly for Pawlitzke.⁴⁹

Correspondence between Bernard Schwartz and Wright shows that both could get testy at times. On October 11, 1939, Bernard wrote to Wright, as follows:

Dear Mr. Wright, I want you to remember that it is necessary that you secure my approval before you place any orders or contracts for materials which are to be used in the construction of my house.⁵⁰

Wright wrote back:

Dear Bernard. Don't be silly. How could I let contracts without your signature. But I must warn you for your own good not to let any contracts on the house without my consent if I am to have any responsibility as to costs. It's pretty dry down here.⁵¹

Days later, and in response to Wright's hint to send money ("dry down here"), Schwartz sent him \$400, along with the comment, "House work proceeding nicely, and everything looks awfully good." The estimated price of the Schwartz house by this point was \$12,000.⁵²

By October 11th, Tafel informed Wright that site grading was nearly complete. Construction began shortly thereafter and, on November 14th, 17,000 red bricks were delivered to Two Rivers from Streator, Illinois, via railroad car. Shortly before Christmas, Tafel reported (to Wright): "We've been very busy trying to get the concrete work in before the cold weather sets in and do the framing at the same time." Millwork was cited for delivery by about mid-January. And, in late February, Pawlitzke wrote to Wright: "The roof is on and we have the ceilings complete and by the time you receive this letter the floor on the second floor will be laid (sic)."⁵³

As the house progressed, Ray Pawlitzke recalled the townspeople observed and commented:

⁴⁹ "Contract for the Bernard W. Schwartz House in Two Rivers, Wisconsin," Signed October 7, 1939, FLWFA © 1986 (MoMA/Avery), Copy in possession of Fox, Fox Collection.

⁵⁰ Schwartz to Wright, Letter of Correspondence, October 11, 1939.

⁵¹ Wright to Schwartz, Letter of Correspondence, October 13, 1939.

⁵² Schwartz to Wright, Handwritten memo (and check), October 17, 1939. The amount of \$12,000 was cited in Wright to Schwartz, Telegram, September 14, 1939, In possession of the Schwartz Family, Copy on file with Fox, Fox Collection. The \$12,000 reference was specific to not include furniture, an ice box or the range.

⁵³ Tafel to Wright, Letters of Correspondence, October 11 and December 21, 1939; Invoice (C10940), Consumers Coal Co. to Bernard Schwartz (re: delivery of brick from railroad depot to their yard), Copy of invoice in possession of Fox, Fox Collection; Pawlitzke to Tafel, Letter of Correspondence, February 26, 1940.

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The house was condemned before we even started. I don't think the people in our area were ready for it. They were used to standard construction, and they didn't want to get out of the ordinary. Everything about it was out of the ordinary--no basement, radiant heat, concrete floors, walls without studs, no nails, all screws, different windows, different doors--there wasn't anything that was ordinary. And when they saw the carport, they asked why there were no walls to enclose it and protect the car from the cold and snow. Of course, Wright believed that anyone who could afford a house like this, could afford to let his car stand outside. After all, didn't the car stand outside for eight to ten hours while Schwartz was at work?

His wife, Elaine Pawlitzke, added, "They thought the house would never last because it was not painted, and--the ultimate sin--it just wasn't practical."⁵⁴

John Christensen, a close friend of Bernard Schwartz, said the Schwartzes paid no attention to such uninformed opinion. "They were immensely proud of their house. Bernard wanted the house, he liked the idea of having Wright design it, and having the whole story from *Life* magazine. He was very happy with that. He didn't care what other people thought."⁵⁵

There were no significant structural problems building the Schwartz house, except for one that Tafel anticipated but could not get Wright to acknowledge. Tafel noticed while working on the Schwartz drawings that a 30-foot span of the lower ceiling of the long recreation room lacked sufficient support at its mid-point. Tafel and Wes Peters, Wright's son-in-law, devised a solution that involved a cantilevered steel beam anchored on the masonry chimney mass that would run diagonally across the room, connect to a rod suspended through a clerestory mullion and connected to a wood beam strengthened by fitch plates. Tafel implemented it, and he also worked steel into the deeply cantilevered carport in the front of the house. Tafel did not tell Wright he had taken these actions. Schwartz questioned the charges for the steel when he got the bill, but Tafel smoothed it over by telling him that in a Usonian house Mr. Wright makes changes along the way. And Mr. Wright doesn't like to be asked about them.⁵⁶

Of course, Wright found out about the added steel when he learned that a similarly unsupported wood beam in Alabama at the Rosenbaum house sagged calamitously and the client called his architect. But it worked in the Schwartz house, Wright said. Edgar confessed, got fired, but was taken back into the

⁵⁴ Ray and Elaine Pawlitzke, Interview with Gail Fox, May 4, 1989, Notes on file with Fox in the Fox Collection.

⁵⁵ John and Caroline Christensen, Interview with Fox, October 10, 1990.

⁵⁶ Tafel told this story many times in his talks, in shorter and longer forms, and thus it has several variations, Edgar Tafel, *Years with Frank Lloyd Wright: Apprentice to Genius* (New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1979), 190-91.

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fold. Tafel had saved Wright from embarrassment in Two Rivers.⁵⁷

Wright's First Visit to Still Bend

As the house was nearing completion, Wright's first visit to Still Bend, as it was called, was on June 3, 1940. His visit brought the house its first extensive local publicity. Mary Seidl, a recent hire of the *Two Rivers Reporter*, got the assignment to interview Wright at dinner that evening, along with the Schwartzes. Seidl's article, which ran the next day, read: "Its low-slung horizontal lines blending with the landscape and its every detail an integral part of its surroundings," the red brick and tidewater cypress home according to the famous architect, was a "thought-built house, a home primarily designed for utility and fecund living."⁵⁸

Seidl described the seventy-two-year-old Wright as "a visionary, perhaps about fifty years ahead of his time and looking like a rugged, kindly poet." Wright stated that the house had "the best workmanship of any of his recently constructed buildings." The house was the Usonian type, in Wright's words "...a strong virile type, in which there is no predominating feature, but in which the entire is so coordinated as to achieve a thing of beauty." She went on to report that the workmanship was entirely local, featuring a local contractor, local plumbing and wiring, interior furnishing by local firm Egger's Veneer and Plywood Company, roofing by Suettinger Sheet Metal, and wiring and plumbing by Lahey and Watson.⁵⁹

Seidl's article enumerated the innovative and distinctive features of the home: its spatial fluidity, openness, its use of the same materials inside and outside, gravity heat achieved through a labyrinth of hot water pipes placed in crushed rock beneath a concrete mat, flush lighting, numerous French doors whose windows looked out upon a sunken garden and a sunken terrace, three fireplaces (two indoors and one outside) in a single masonry mass. In the summer the French doors could be opened to give the occupants a feeling of living out-of-doors.⁶⁰

Wright concluded by telling Seidl that the Schwartz home "has great integrity, because it has considered the nature of the materials from which it was built" and he praised "its almost ageless quality ... making repairs almost unnecessary" and its construction making it nearly fireproof. "The home is what it is because it is where it is and takes into consideration the needs peculiar to its

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ Mary Seidl, "Architect Frank Lloyd Wright Praises New Schwartz House," *Two Rivers Reporter*, June 4, 1940, 5. The article included a headshot of Wright, but no photograph of the house.

⁵⁹ Ibid. Please note, however, that the millwork itself was from Harris Bros. in Chicago.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

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owner.”⁶¹

The House is Complete

In mid-June of 1940 when it was time to move in, Tafel was on hand. He described the scene in a letter to Eugene Masselink:

Gene: Just got back, after literally taking the Schwartzes into their new home, arranged furniture, got them to throw ... out stuff, pulled rugs around, everything, while Bernard sat around looking amazed and tired. Turned on a Mr. Wright Blitzkrieg – Emergency. I slept in the house, it’s really quite wonderful – you have to be in it 24 hours, and then it’s another thrill again.⁶²

After living in the house for a number of months, Bernard and Fern had the following complaints: the fireplaces were smoky; Fern wanted more heat in the recreation/living room; air was in the heating pipes; additional ceiling lights were requested for the rear of the house, above the banquette; and they also needed drawings for additional furniture. One by one, the problems were satisfactorily addressed, except for the smoky fireplaces. The chimney needed to be raised above the roof level, and Wright wanted his old mason, Philip Volk to come from Taliesin to do it. For one reason or another, that situation dragged on. The house was also over budget, coming in at about \$18,000.⁶³

In mid-October, Wright’s photographer apprentice Pedro Guerrero went to Still Bend, by which time the privacy fence (that Wright had requested be built) was in place. Guerrero took a total of five photos of the Schwartz house, and then went on to Wausau to photograph the Charles Manson house. The encyclopedic retrospective exhibition of Wright’s architectural work at New York’s Museum of Modern Art was titled “The Work of Frank Lloyd Wright: In the Nature of Materials.” It was held from November 13, 1940 to January 4, 1941.⁶⁴

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² Tafel to Eugene Masselink, Letter of Correspondence, undated, but probably mid-June 1940, Photocopy of letter sent by Tafel to Gail Fox, with notes in red ink, Fox Collection.

⁶³ A handwritten list of the things that the Schwartzes were unhappy with was found on the reverse side of correspondence dated November 1940, although the list itself was not dated, Wright to Schwartz, Telegram, November 19, 1940, Schwartz Family Collection. Drawings for additional furniture for the Schwartz house were eventually sent to them in August 1941, Eugene Masselink to Schwartz, Letter of Correspondence, August 13, 1941.

⁶⁴ Tafel to Pawlitzke, Letter of Correspondence, October 11, 1940; Pawlitzke to Wright, Letter of Correspondence, October 13, 1940, the latter letter confirmed the construction of the wall in front of the house, as well as the wall around the sunken courtyard. For an account of the MoMA exhibition, see Kathryn Smith, *Wright on Exhibit: Frank Lloyd Wright’s Architectural Exhibitions* (Princeton, Princeton Press, 2017) 135-147.

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As of May 1941, nearly a year after moving into the house, the fireplaces still smoked. Bernard wrote to Wright regarding his progress on drapes and rugs and a few furniture items.

In case you have gotten this far in my letter, I wish in closing to tell you that we are awfully satisfied, content, and proud of our home. In our opinion, nothing could come up to it. Living in it, it is highly comfortable. It could be made Perfect by means of one correction. That correction is to fix the fireplaces so that we can enjoy the pleasure of a fireside.⁶⁵

Frank Lloyd Wright, his wife Olgivanna, her brother V.J. Lazovich, and Herbert Fritz paid a visit to see Bernard and Fern and their house on June 12, 1941. All signed the Schwartz guestbook, except Wright.⁶⁶

As evidenced by a list of Schwartz house-related projects and tasks, Wright paid another visit to Still Bend on September 3, 1942. The project list consisted of the following: an extension of the utility area to add a roofed tool house and wood storage space; a "Boat House and Farm Unit" with a connecting pergola; raising the chimney and doubling capacity of the living room chimney flues; creating a compartment for wood on the rear terrace; building slat-seating on the rear terrace; removing corner drain spouts; measuring the inside flue dimensions of the boiler; checking original detail of terminals of the fence; and adding six lamps and four easy chairs for the house interior.⁶⁷

Shortly after mid-October 1942, nearly two years after Bernard's first complaint about his fireplaces, Wright's mason (not Philip Volk, but "Hans") successfully completed the chimney work necessary to correct the smoking fireplaces.⁶⁸ Wright followed up with Schwartz in November, at which time he sent "the drawings for the future extensions" of the Schwartz home, and asked for payment of \$500.⁶⁹

Despite the additional plans for the property, circumstances had changed for the Schwartzes and they were unable to build the additions they had dreamed about. World War II had intervened and, in 1944, Bernard left the Schwartz Manufacturing Company to start his own business.

⁶⁵ Schwartz to Wright, Letter of Correspondence, May 21, 1941.

⁶⁶ As evidenced in Olgivanna's cordial handwritten letter of June 21, 1941, to Fern Schwartz, "We enjoyed seeing your beautiful house and appreciated your generous hospitality. We will be glad to have you come to Taliesin any time, any weekend. Just telephone a day ahead," Letter in Schwartz Family collection.

⁶⁷ "Schwartz House notes made during Mr. Wright's visit September 3rd, 1942," n.d., On file at FLWFA ©1986 (MoMA/Avery).

⁶⁸ Wright to Schwartz, Telegram, October 15, 1942. The chimney work resulted in the chimney being built up beyond the roofline and the work was completed at Wright's expense.

⁶⁹ Wright to Schwartz, Letter of Correspondence, November 9, 1942.

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In summary, Bernard and Fern chose their architect Frank Lloyd Wright for what he alone could give them – an organic, Usonian house, an artistic expression of a singular architect’s vision of what a modern house should be, and offering privacy and beauty. In the end, their budgeted \$12,000 Usonian house cost them between \$18,000 and \$20,000; for that they received thirty years of enjoyment, a freer way of living, a fuller appreciation of beauty and of nature, and the daily enchantment of light patterns as the sun and moon moved in the sky. In short, what they got was the experience of living in a work of art.⁷⁰

Stephen Schwartz, Fern and Bernard’s son, said, in some ways, “The house and its milieu became an extension of the lifestyle of its occupants as though the house itself had a life which grew in harmony with its occupants and vice versa. I guess that’s what organic really is.”⁷¹

The Schwartz house and property were annexed to the city of Two Rivers in April 1955. Roof repairs were made to the home between 1966 and 1969 and, in May 1970, they sold the home to local Two Rivers’ residents, Paul and Edith Anderson at a cost of \$30,000. Bernard and Fern died in 1981 and 1982, respectively.⁷²

Subsequent Owners of the Schwartz House

Paul Anderson was a native of Antigo, Wisconsin, while his wife Edith (nee Mott) grew up in Two Rivers; they wed in 1957. Anderson came to Two Rivers in 1956 to work for the Thorp Finance Corporation. He remained there – serving as assistant manager and eventually manager – until the mid-1960s, at which time he co-founded Choice Realty Co., Inc., in Two Rivers.⁷³

Although aware that the house was designed by Wright, the Andersons purchased the home primarily because they wanted to live on the river and it fit their active lifestyle; it was also noted that “the price

⁷⁰ Following about thirty years of research, including conversations with Schwartz family members and friends, this summary is the personal view (that is, based on that research and those conversations) of Gail Fox, who is considered the Schwartz home’s official historian. The \$18,000 cost for the home is provided in Sergeant, *Frank Lloyd Wright’s Usonian Houses*, 47; however, a January 1941 letter identifies a cost reference of \$20,000, Wright to Schwartz, Letter of Correspondence, January 18, 1941.

⁷¹ Schwartz to Fox, October 5, 1991, Fox Collection.

⁷² Bernard and Fern Schwartz to Paul and Edith Anderson, WD (dated May 25, 1970; rec. May 27, 1970), 448/623, #454472; Permits for Alteration (roof repair), August 24, 1966, May 26, 1967 and May 26, 1969, Permits on file at the City of Two Rivers, Department of Building Inspection, Two Rivers City Hall. Reference to the 1955 annexation of the subject property is included in the property’s building file; “B.W. Schwartz,” Obituary, *Herald Times Reporter*, January 21, 1981, 3/7-8; “Fern Schwartz,” Obituary, *Herald Times Reporter*, October 5, 1982, 3/8.

⁷³ “Paul Anderson,” Obituary, *Manitowoc Herald-Times*, May 26, 1977, 3/3; “Business Briefs,” *Manitowoc Herald-Times*, October 8, 1960, 9/3.

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was reasonable.” With five children (three boys and two girls), the property provided the riverfront they desired, while the large yard and house could also accommodate friends, family, and clients. Paul died unexpectedly in 1977 (at the age of forty-one), and his wife Edie took over operations of the Seagull Marina (in Two Rivers) which they had purchased just one year earlier (1976). Additionally, in 1979, Edie, along with Ron DeFere and Mike Bodart (both of whom worked for Choice, Inc. with her late husband), purchased the Two Rivers office of Choice and established DeFere, Bodart and Anderson Real Estate. During Edie’s thirty-four-year tenure in the home, the roof and some siding was replaced, as were the majority of the original French doors. In September 2003, Edie sold it to Terry Records and Jason Nordhougen.⁷⁴

Real estate investment specialist Terry Records and her husband, restoration carpenter Jason Nordhougen, resided in St. Paul, Minnesota, and they bought the house primarily as an investment property. They had experience with vacation rental properties (in Florida, Minnesota, Montana and Wisconsin) and their intent was to offer the house for overnight stays. Records and Nordhougen engaged their friends Michael Ditmer and Lisa Proechel, also from St. Paul, to serve as managers of the house.⁷⁵

In 2003, before the house opened in 2004 to its new role as vacation rental property, it underwent considerable restoration work that included: roof replacement; exterior chimney refacing; rebuilding of the original planter in the sunken court; removal of cedar siding; and some door replacement (See Section 7 for further elaboration on the restoration work). Work was led by Robert Jagemann of BAMCO Architects, Manitowoc, with contractors including Schaus Roofing and Mechanical Contracting, Manitowoc (roof replacement) and Hoffman Bros., Inc., Two Rivers (other exterior work). Restoration efforts amounted to over \$100,000. Just three years later, Records and Nordhougen sold the home in 2006 to Michael Ditmer’s brother Gary Ditmer, who continues to own the home to date.⁷⁶

The son of two high school teachers in southwestern North Dakota, Gary Ditmer gained an appreciation for art and architecture while traveling summers with his family in the United States and, on one occasion, in Europe, while growing up. A graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of

⁷⁴ Edith Anderson, Conversation with Gail Fox; “Paul Anderson,” Obituary, 3/3; “Business Briefs,” *Manitowoc Herald-Times*, May 27, 1979, 16/1, the real estate firm of DeFere, Bodart and Anderson would eventually change to Anderson Realty, the business from which Edie would retire and which continues in business today; Permit for Alteration, September 24, 1979, est. cost, \$25,000, the permit notes that the alterations include replacing windows, siding and roofing. Edie later married Dale Schroeder; Edith Anderson Schroeder to Terry Records and Jason Nordhougen, WD (dated September 8, 2003; rec. September 11, 2003), 1903/704, #950975.

⁷⁵ Anne Sundberg, “Restoring the Wright House” (Part 2 of 3 in a series), *Herald Times Reporter*, June 6, 2004, F1, F2.

⁷⁶ Ibid.; “Wright House in TR Open for Public Tours,” *Herald Times Reporter*, December 25, 2004, A3; Terry Records and Jason Nordhaugen to Gary Ditmer, WD (dated December 15, 2006, rec. January 27, 2007), 2249/1, #1022075.

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Technology, he lived in Boston for ten years. He has worked in the semiconductor (electronics device) manufacturing industry for more than thirty years. Gary purchased the home to serve “as a live-in experience of Wright’s vision for an American family life.” His brother Michael continues to serve as the manager of the property, which continues to operate as a vacation rental. While the property’s maintenance and restoration⁷⁷ is Gary’s primary goal, he would, secondarily, one day like to “realize aspects of Wright’s original design which were not completed at the time of construction. These will enhance the livability of the house, while providing a more complete experience of Wright’s original intentions.”⁷⁸

In 2015, the Schwartz house celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary and, that same year, it was included in off-site tours associated with the annual conference of the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In 2017, the front hall closet was converted for use as a powder room, thus fulfilling Wright’s original plans for the space.

AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: ARCHITECTURE

Not surprisingly, Frank Lloyd Wright is included on the list of Wisconsin architects identified as “notable” by the Wisconsin Historical Society. Biographical information regarding Wright can be found in multiple sources, including a large variety of published books devoted to Wright, as well as in the numerous National Register and National Historic Landmark nomination papers for Wright-designed buildings. It is not the goal of this nomination to duplicate these extensive biographies; therefore, a brief overview is provided below.⁷⁹

Frank Lloyd Wright

Because the foundational argument of this nomination is that the Schwartz House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as the “work of a master”, it is important to establish the context of Wright’s work for the period during which the Schwartz House was designed. Frank Lloyd Wright was born in Richland Center, Wisconsin, in 1867, the son of William Carey and Anna (Lloyd-Jones) Wright. He spent many of his formative years in Madison, where he and his family moved in 1878. After working in the architectural office of Allan Conover and two terms at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, he left for Chicago to find work in the field of architecture. From 1887 to 1893, he worked in the office of Adler & Sullivan, working as Louis Sullivan’s chief of design. In 1893, Wright established his own office, which he continued until his death in 1959. Wright’s earliest work

⁷⁷ Work completed during Ditmer’s ownership is identified in Section 7.

⁷⁸ Gary Ditmer, Email Correspondence with Gail Fox, December 7, 2017, Copy on file in Fox Collection.

⁷⁹ Barbara Wyatt, ed., 3 vols. *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin* (Madison: Division of Historic Preservation, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986), 6/1-2.

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was influenced by his mentor Sullivan. He would then go on to develop his Prairie style homes, which continued to reflect the geometry of his earlier work and with an emphasis on the use of native materials. It was during this period that he designed the Frederick C. Robie House (1908) in Chicago. Following a few years in Europe, Wright returned to the United States and, to Wisconsin, where he began construction of Taliesin in 1911. Although a 1914 fire destroyed Taliesin, as well as the woman he loved, he rebuilt it in her memory. Shortly thereafter, he left for Japan, where he spent much of his time until 1922; during which time he designed the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo.⁸⁰

Although commissions were somewhat scarce in the 1920s, it was during these years that he produced the textile block homes (in California) of Alice Millard (1922; “La Miniatura”) and John Storer (1923), among others. In 1928, he wed Olgivanna Lazovich, with whom he established in 1932 the Taliesin Fellowship, a school of architecture that continues today (as The School of Architecture at Taliesin). It was there that, along with the Fellowship, he developed the concept of the Broadacre City. A model of that community, built by the fellows, traveled across the country. Notably, within that model were homes planned at modest cost. The years 1935-36 reflected a turning point in Wright’s career or, as some have put it, his “second career.” Aside from various significant and large commissions, including the Edgar Kaufmann House (1935; “Fallingwater”) in Mill Run, Pennsylvania, and the S.C. Johnson Wax Administration Building (1936) in Racine, Wisconsin, it was at this time that he developed the Usonian home, with the Herbert and Katherine Jacobs First House (1936) being the initial Usonian to be physically realized in 1937. Three years later, the Bernard and Fern Schwartz House was completed. Wright’s “Late Work” (1940s-1950s) consisted of such notable buildings as the Guggenheim Museum (1956) in New York, New York, and the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church (1956) in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. During Wright’s lifetime, he produced over 1,100 designs; however, only approximately 530 were built. His work included various types of buildings, including hotels, commercial buildings, museums, churches and residences. His artistic gifts were also expressed in his designs using other mediums including, but not limited to, art glass, textiles and furniture. His extant buildings are largely located in the United States; however, a total of four are located in Japan and Canada.⁸¹

⁸⁰ Biographical information for Wright (including that found in the following paragraph) is gleaned from various published sources, including the recently National Register-listed nomination for the Charles L. and Dorothy Manson House, Wausau, Marathon County, Wisconsin, NR#16000149, as well as information provided on the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation website, <https://franklloydwright.org/frank-lloyd-wright/>, Accessed October 2018; A comprehensive list of Wright’s work can be found on the website of the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy, at www.savewright.org/all-wright-buildings/, Accessed October 2018.

⁸¹ National Historic Landmarks Program, Herbert and Katherine Jacobs First House, Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin, listed 7/31/2003; The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation cites a total of 1,114 designs created by Wright, with 532 having been built (note that the “built” number differs from the “estimated 430” and “over 400” provided later in this document).

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Supervising Architect—Edgar Tafel

Edgar Tafel was born in 1912 in New York, the son of Russian immigrants Samuel and Rose Tafel. Following high school graduation and during his first year in the architecture program at New York University, he was exposed to the work of Frank Lloyd Wright through a 1932 exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art, the same year that Wright's *Autobiography* was published. That summer, Tafel learned that Wright was planning to start his own architectural school and was in search of apprentices. Despite his inability to pay the full tuition, Tafel wrote to Wright and was accepted into the Taliesin Fellowship, where he remained until 1941. During his time with Wright, he worked on the drawings for Fallingwater and the Johnson Wax Administration Building, as well as supervised their construction. While still at Taliesin, Tafel received inquiries for home design and, while still there, he completed his first solo commission. That work led to Tafel's departure from Taliesin the summer of 1941. In 1943, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in Photo Intelligence for two years. Upon his return, he settled in his home state of New York. After working briefly for Walter Blum, he began his own practice out of his house; a career that would last into the 1990s. Tafel's admiration for Wright was strong and, as a result, he wrote two books that focused on Wright: *Apprentice to Genius: Years With Frank Lloyd Wright* (1979) and *About Wright: An Album of Recollections by Those Who Knew Frank Lloyd Wright* (1993). Tafel's work, which ranges from homes to religious buildings and colleges, are located in a number of states, including New Jersey, New York, Florida and Wisconsin, among others. Tafel died in 2011, at the age of ninety-eight.⁸²

Builder—Bernard “Ben” Pawlitzke

Bernard E. (Ben) Pawlitzke was born in Two Rivers on January 2, 1882, the son of William and Amelia Ribitzky Pawlitzke. He attended St. John Lutheran School but quit early in order to provide for his family, following the untimely death of his father who worked as a carpenter. After working in the local pail factory, he would go on to learn the carpenter trade with the firm of Reis and Levenhagen (John and Ira, respectively) of Two Rivers. Following work as a self-employed carpenter, he established his own contracting business. In 1909, he wed Cecilia Greenwood; she died in 1935. Three years later, he married Mrs. Emma Kiel, who died in 1951. While the Schwartz house was likely the most notable home he built, he was responsible for the construction of a number of homes and buildings in Two Rivers including: the D. Joseph Eggers House (1906) at 2416 Washington Street; Henry Gowran House (1908) at 2403 Jefferson Street; J.K. Stephany Drugstore, (1907) at 1618 Washington Street; and the Schnoor Block (1914) at 1612 Washington Street—the lattermost two of which are listed as contributing buildings in the National Register-listed, Central Park Historic District and are part of the city's commercial downtown. Following the dissolution of his contracting firm, but prior to his retirement, Pawlitzke worked as an estimator for the Hamann Construction Company of

⁸² Biographical information on Edgar Tafel is provided in association with his collection of records and papers, which are located in the Avery Architectural Archives at Columbia University in New York, a finding aid of which is available online at http://findingaids.cul.columbia.edu/ead/mnc-a/ldpd_10226981/summary, Accessed December 2017.

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Manitowoc. He died in 1973.⁸³

Evaluation of Significance

Not all designs by Frank Lloyd Wright are significant simply because they were produced by Wright. Indeed, the significance of the Bernard and Fern Schwartz home should be discussed within the appropriate context relating to Wright's overall career, which spanned from 1887 to his death in 1959 (although Wright-designed buildings were built thereafter). Beginning in 1998, the National Historic Landmark (NHL) program of the National Park Service endeavored to review Wright's over 400 built (and extant) buildings to properly determine which buildings in his oeuvre should be considered for NHL designation. Three nationally recognized Wright scholars—Dr. Paul E. Sprague, Dr. Paul S. Kruty and Mr. Randolph Henning were asked to complete the review. Wright's work was broken down into five periods: 1) Early Period (to 1900); 2) First Mature Period (1900-1912; Prairie); 3) Second Period (1913-1929; Decorated); 4) Third Period (1930-1941; Usonian); and 5) Fourth Period (1941-1959; Late Work). Criteria used within each of the chronological periods included a) aesthetic character; b) importance as a contribution to the evolution of Wright's style during that period; c) uniqueness to the period; and d) notice given the building in the scholarly and popular literature. As a result of that study (completed in 2007), fifty-six properties were identified for potential NHL listing. The Bernard and Fern Schwartz House falls within the Third Period and was among the fourteen properties, from the Third Period, identified for potential landmark listing.⁸⁴

Sheathed with Tidewater red cypress and red brick (instead of the stucco and stone depicted on the 1938 *Life* house), the Bernard and Fern Schwartz House is among the earliest, and most significant extant examples of Wright's Usonian house plans and, as noted in the NHL study, an unprecedented example of a two-story Usonian design.⁸⁵ Key construction components of the Usonian concept included the use of board and batten walls, the planning grid, and in-floor heating, all of which are employed in the Schwartz House. The board and batten walls of the Schwartz House are of a "sandwich" construction, with cypress on both the exterior and interior, between which was a plywood

⁸³ Bernard "Ben" Pawlitzke," Obituary, *Herald Times Reporter*, December 18, 1973, 3/2; Draft of biographical information on Pawlitzke, compiled by Gail Fox, in possession of Fox, Fox Collection.

⁸⁴ "Frank Lloyd Wright Properties Proposed for Designation as National Historic Landmarks in the 1998 NHL Program Study," 21-page summary (2007; updated 2009 and June 2014), 9, 15-16, Available online at www.nps.gov/nhl/learn/specialstudies/Wright.pdf, Accessed January 2018.

⁸⁵ The total number of Usonian houses designed and built by Wright differs between sources. However, the NHL nomination for the Herbert and Katherine Jacobs First House, written by Paul Sprague, cites the following from Don Kalec, "from 1936 to 1959, Wright designed 308 of these modest cost homes and saw 140 of them built all across the country," Don Kalec, "The Jacobs House I," in Paul Sprague, ed., *Frank Lloyd Wright and Madison: Eight Decades of Artistic and Social Interaction* (Madison, WI: Elvehjem Museum of Art, 1990), 91.

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core and a damp-proof membrane. The battens were screwed into the core and held the boards in place. While Wright included the more complicated hexagons in his greater system of planning grids, the Schwartz house was based on a rectangular 7' x 7' grid, an unusually large unit. Finally, the in-floor heating of the Schwartz home incorporated a newly developed, hot-water radiant system, which is elaborated on to follow. Additional Usonian exterior features seen on the Schwartz house include cantilevered flat roofs, wide overhanging eaves, and no gutters, basement or garage. Likewise, on the interior, the house retains its original layout and open plan, much of its original built-in furniture, as well as its original cypress and brick finishes.

The two-story Schwartz house belonged to Wright's early period of exploration and elaboration of the Usonian house before World War II. Based on conversations and correspondence with Edgar Tafel, it can be concluded that it was part of a highly creative, experimental stage when problems were still being worked out on the job. The solutions learned at one site might well be employed at the next Usonian house locally or across the country. For example, while the final Schwartz house construction documents were in preparation, Wright was collaborating with Westerlin & Campbell, a Chicago heating company, to develop a brand new hot-water radiant heating system. This system was then used in the Schwartz house, thus abandoning his earlier plan to use steam heat. Notably, the steam radiant heating system in his first-built Usonian house for the Jacobses in Madison, was converted to a hot-water radiant heating system in February 1940, as hot-water radiant heating was less expensive than steam. The evolution of the Usonian house was organic and improvements often came through experimentation.⁸⁶

SUMMARY FOR NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

To reiterate, the NHL study evaluated all extant Wright buildings, within their respective chronological periods, as well as according to four specific criteria: a) aesthetic character; b) importance as a contribution to the evolution of Wright's style during that period; c) uniqueness to the period; and d) notice given the building in the scholarly and popular literature.. Regarding the Schwartz home's *aesthetic character*—which could be construed as a subjective criterion—even Wright himself, acknowledged it as a thing of beauty in speaking about the house. The house was the Usonian type, in Wright's words "...a strong virile type, in which there is no predominating feature, but in which the entire is so coordinated as to achieve a thing of beauty."⁸⁷

The Schwartz home's *contribution to the evolution of Wright's style during the period* is perhaps best

⁸⁶ Tafel, Taped communication to Fox, December 8, 1989; Tafel to Schwartz, Letter of Correspondence, July 3, 1939, FLWFA © 1986 (MoMA/Avery); Herbert Jacobs, *Building with Frank Lloyd Wright: An Illustrated Memoir* (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1978), 59.

⁸⁷ Seidl, "Architect Frank Lloyd Wright Praises New Schwartz House," 5.

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illustrated through a direct comparison with the Jacobses First House, a designated National Historic Landmark. Indeed, the Jacobs house was *the* first Usonian that was constructed and Wright himself began to refer to the home as Usonia No. 1. While still maintaining all of the general characteristics of a Usonian plan, it was through experimentation at the two-story Schwartz house that one of Wright's hallmark home features – that of the in-floor radiant heating system – was improved by the use of hot water rather than steam (the latter of which was used at the Jacobs house).⁸⁸ The importance of the Schwartz house, Tafel asserted, was that it was an early break from the first Usonian house for the Jacobses: a one-story house on a relatively small urban parcel.⁸⁹ The Schwartz's proposed location was on a larger rural property and could accommodate a larger two-story house for an upper middle-class family. Despite Tafel's challenge regarding "how to bring the hot-water heating up to a second floor without using radiators," he was ultimately able to work it out successfully.⁹⁰

Next, speaking to the home's *uniqueness*, the NHL study summary (regarding the Schwartz House) reads, "Its two stories suggest a designation never accorded it by the architect himself, the "two-story Usonian" structure." Indeed, a two-story Usonian was unprecedented. Finally, and perhaps most notably, and in reference to *notice given the building in scholarly and popular literature*, the Schwartz home was developed directly from the plans Wright submitted in 1938 to *Life* magazine, as the modern-styled "dream house" for a family that earned an annual income between \$5,000 and \$6,000. Although not an exact replica of the published 1938 design, the Schwartz home – designed in 1939 and completed in 1940 – has since been lauded as the "*Life* magazine dream house."⁹¹ Not surprisingly, the national attention to Wright's work resulted in regional and local news outlets picking it up and reporting on it. This national exposure which in turn generated new local and regional exposure, brought Wright's Modern designs to a new audience—one that may not have been reading *LIFE* or *Architectural Forum*. The Schwartz House has the distinction of being the first house to be highlighted in *The Milwaukee Journal's* attempted entrée into a feature that focused on "Modern" houses. The paper's intent was to answer questions related to "modern" house construction, for those that might be interested in building such a home. Questions posed at the article's start included: "Does it live well and does it wear well? Is it comfortable and homey? Is it difficult to furnish?" Entitled "This Modern House Has Proved Livable," the September 1945 article included photos of the Schwartz house—both inside and out and an extensive description, along with information provided by the Schwartzes which

⁸⁸ NHL, Herbert and Katherine Jacobs First House nomination, 14.

⁸⁹ Tafel to Fox, Taped communication and conversation.

⁹⁰ Tafel to Fox, Taped communication and conversation.

⁹¹ "Frank Lloyd Wright Properties Proposed for Designation as National Historic Landmarks in the 1998 NHL Program Study," 16; Please note that the Schwartz house was not the only (albeit modified) iteration of Wright's "Life" house. Wright's plan would be brought out again for the design of the Gordon House in Oregon (originally in Wilsonville but later moved to Silverton). Designed in 1957, the house would not be completed until 1963, four years after Wright's death, National Register of Historic Places, Gordon House, Silverton, Marion County, Oregon, NR#04001066.

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confirmed the home's "livability."⁹²

CONCLUSION

In summary, this house embodies all of the qualities and characteristics that define an exceptional Usonian style home: including board and batten walls, a planning grid, in-floor radiant heating, broad overhanging eaves, cantilevered flat roofs and a carport. Although many of the original doors were replaced with windows, the original expanses of glass—where one could look out to nature—remain intact as a result of those alterations. Likewise, the open plan of the home remains intact as does much of its original built-in furniture and finishes (cypress, brick and concrete). Further, the house exhibits innovations that help set it apart as a wholly unique design, representing Wright's Third Period of innovation within the national context of his body of work. These reasons contribute to why the 2007 National Historic Landmark study identified the Bernard and Fern Schwartz House as among Wright's most significant works and can; therefore, confirm this house as National Register-eligible as a work of a master at the national level of significance.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

Due to its urban nature, no archaeological survey has been done on the subject parcel. Although no archaeological deposits have been reported, the archaeological potential for this area remains unassessed.

PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES

In 2003, and aware of its historical significance, the home's third owners – Terry Records and Jason Nordhogen – had undertaken a significant restoration effort, following years of deferred maintenance, as well as alterations. The home's current owner (since 2006)—Gary Ditmer—along with property manager Michael Ditmer, have done additional work to preserve and maintain the house.

⁹² Dorothy Dawe, "This Modern House Has Proved Livable," *The Milwaukee Journal*, September 21, 1945, Women's Pages and Society, 1/1-8; 3/1-3. The second house featured in the "series" was the Manitowoc home of Ruth St. John and John Dunham West, known as West of the Lake and built in 1934. The house remains, albeit expanded since 1934, at 915 Memorial Drive and today serves as the offices of the Ruth St. John and John Dunham West Foundation, Inc.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Fuldner Heritage Fund paid for the preparation of this nomination. The endowed fund, created through a generous donation by the Jeffris Family Foundation and administered by the Wisconsin Historical Society, supports the nomination of historically and architecturally significant rural and small town properties.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary corresponds to the legal parcel and is a polygon that measures 150 feet (west) x 229 feet (north) x 158 feet (east and concurrent with the river bank) x 247 feet (south). These measurements were taken from Manitowoc County GIS mapping records.

Boundary Justification

The boundary equates to the current legal description for the property, which is described as follows: STILL BEND ADD LOT 6 BLK 8 S 36 T20N R24E, as recorded at the Office of the Register of Deeds, Manitowoc County and includes the property historically associated with this house.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Name of Property: Bernard and Fern Schwartz House

City or Vicinity: Two Rivers

County: Manitowoc

State: Wisconsin

Name of Photographer: Traci E. Schnell

Date of Photographs: September 2017

Location of Original Digital Files: State Historic Preservation Office, Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin

Number of Photographs: 14

Photo #1 (WI_Manitowoc County_Bernard and Fern Schwartz House_0001)
Southwest (primary/entrance) elevation, view to northeast

Photo #2 (WI_Manitowoc County_Bernard and Fern Schwartz House_0002)
Southwest (primary/entrance) elevation, view to north northeast

Photo #3 (WI_Manitowoc County_Bernard and Fern Schwartz House_0003)
Southeast elevation, view to northwest

Photo #4 (WI_Manitowoc County_Bernard and Fern Schwartz House_0004)
Southeast elevation, view to west northwest

Photo #5 (WI_Manitowoc County_Bernard and Fern Schwartz House_0005)
Northwest elevation, view to southeast

Photo #6 (WI_Manitowoc County_Bernard and Fern Schwartz House_0006)
Northwest elevation, view to south

Photo #7 (WI_Manitowoc County_Bernard and Fern Schwartz House_0007)
Exterior Detail: Perforated board at entrance, view to northeast

Photo #8 (WI_Manitowoc County_Bernard and Fern Schwartz House_0008)
Interior: Entry (right) and master bedroom, view to northwest

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Photo #9 (WI_Manitowoc County_Bernard and Fern Schwartz House_0009)

Interior: Recreation (living) room (west end), view to northeast

Photo #10 (WI_Manitowoc County_Bernard and Fern Schwartz House_0010)

Interior: Recreation (living) room (east end), view to north northeast

Photo #11 (WI_Manitowoc County_Bernard and Fern Schwartz House_0011)

Interior: Recreation (living) room, view to southwest

Photo #12 (WI_Manitowoc County_Bernard and Fern Schwartz House_0012)

Interior: Recreation room (dining space), view to southeast

Photo #13 (WI_Manitowoc County_Bernard and Fern Schwartz House_0013)

Interior: Recreation room (dining space) ceiling

Photo #14 (WI_Manitowoc County_Bernard and Fern Schwartz House_0014)

Interior: South (maid's) bedroom, view to northeast

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- 1) Model of Bernard Schwartz House, WHS Museum Collection, Wisconsin Historical Society
- 2) Schwartz House under Construction, 1939 [Image ID 35076]. This photo and all photos to follow from the John H. Howe Collection, 1913-1997, Mss842, Wisconsin Historical Society.
- 3) Schwartz House Exterior, north elevation, 1939 [Image ID 36365].
- 4) Schwartz House Interior, entry and view to master bedroom. [Image ID 36377].
- 5) Schwartz House Interior, recreation room. [Image ID 36375].
- 6) Schwartz House Floor Plan, First Floor, Drawn by William Allin Storrer. Original drawing, copyright 1976, The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation; Storrer's drawing copyrighted 1993 by The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation.
- 7) Schwartz House Floor Plan, Second Floor, Drawn by William Allin Storer. Original drawing, copyright 1976, The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation; Storrer's drawing copyrighted 1993 by The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation.

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Figure 1: Model of Bernard Schwartz House.



Figure 2: Schwartz House under construction, Southeast elevation, 1939.

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Figure 3: Schwartz House exterior, Northwest elevation, 1939.



Figure 4: Schwartz House interior, Entry and view to master bedroom, 1940.

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Figure 5: Schwartz House interior, recreation room, 1940.

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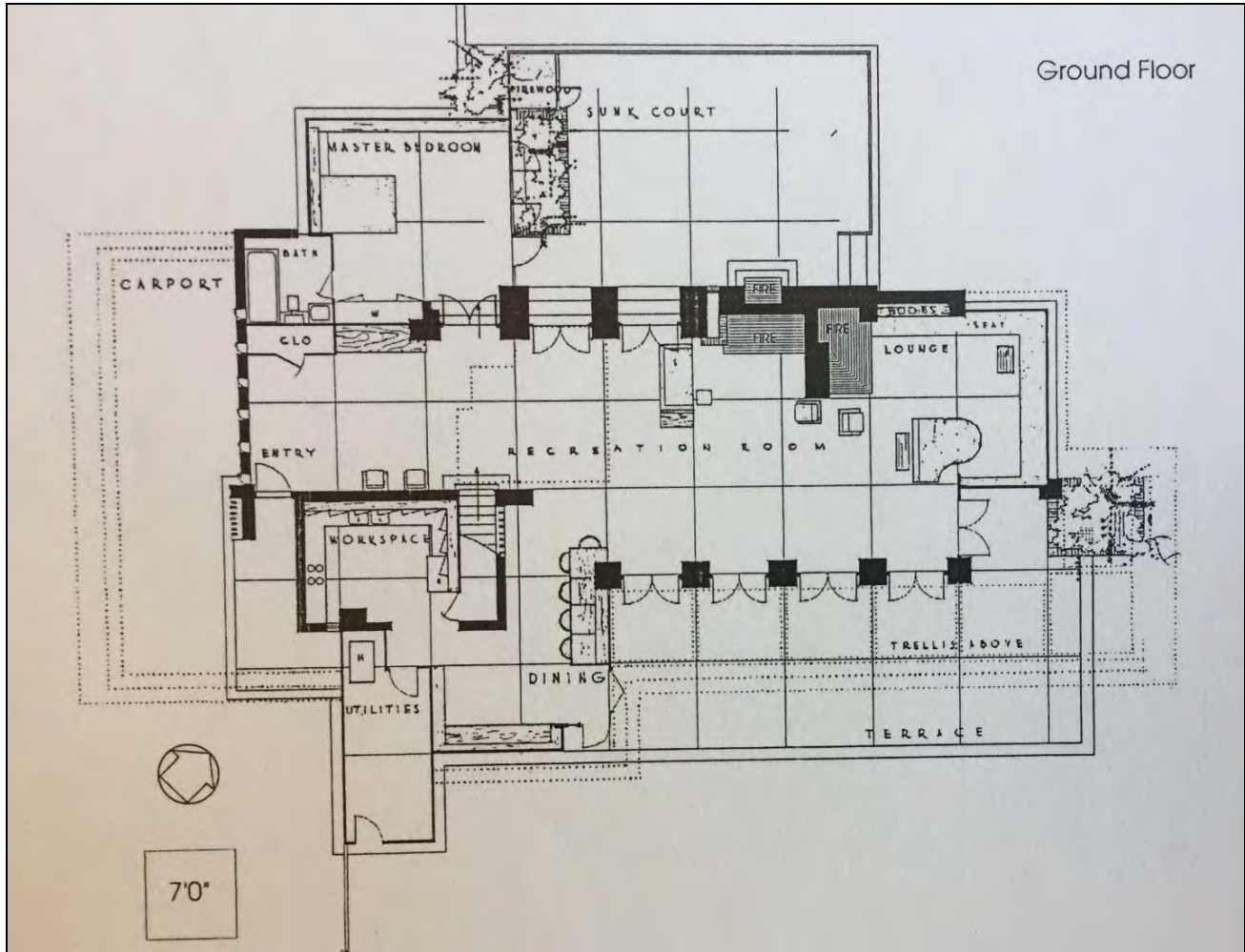


Figure 6: First Floor Plan, drawn by William Allin Storrer.

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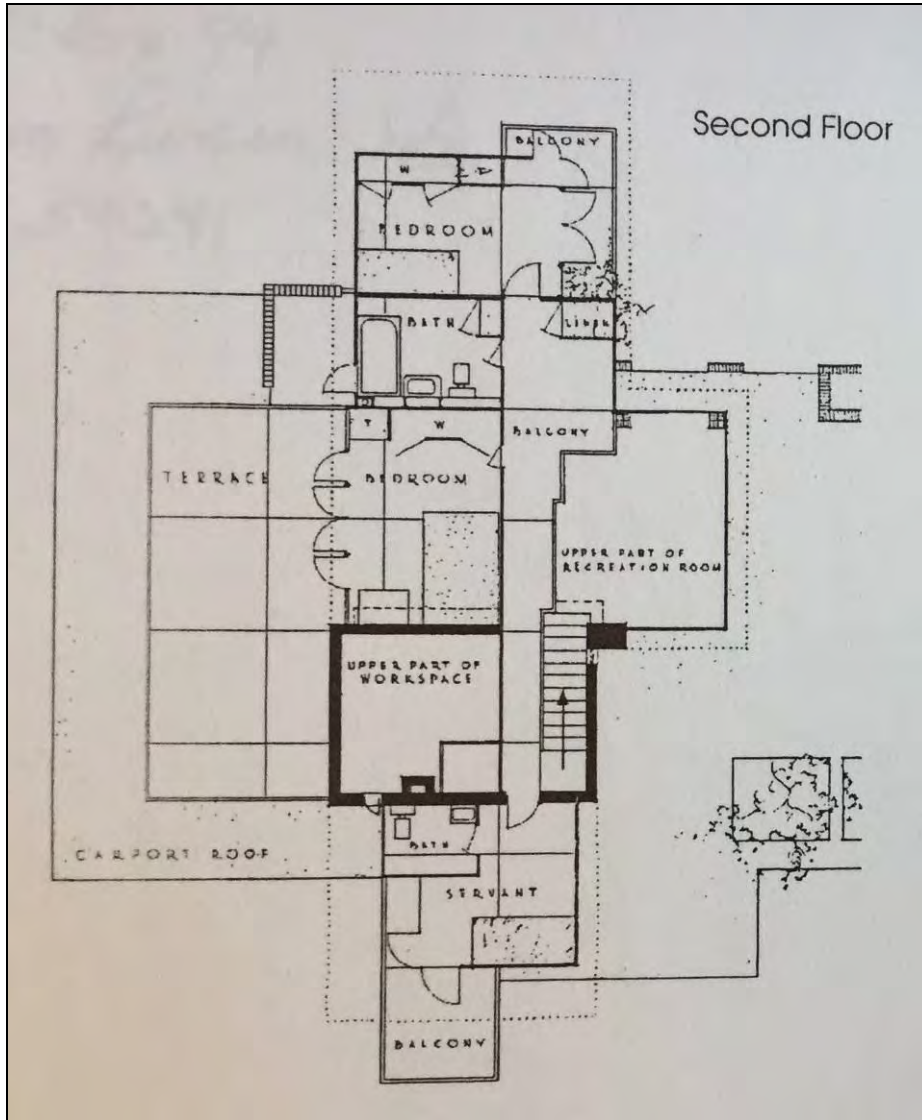
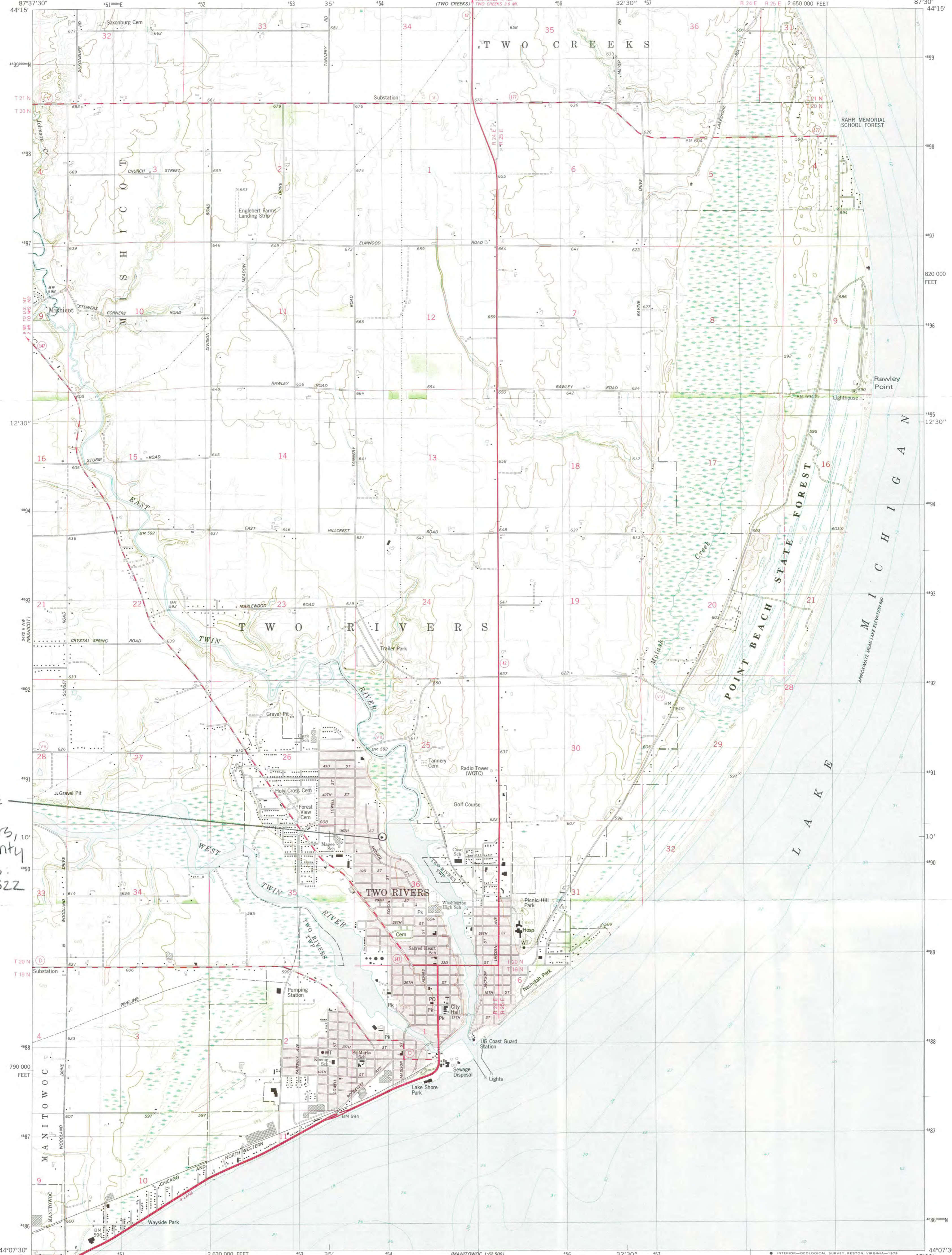


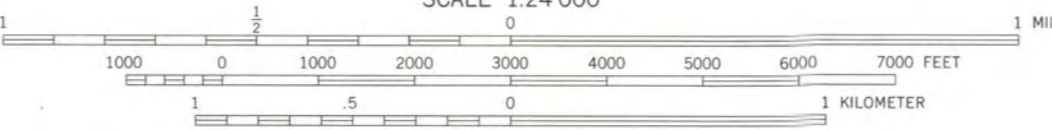
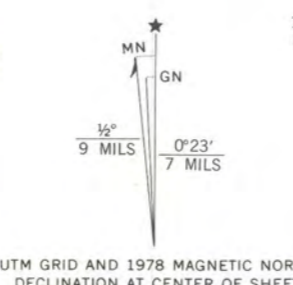
Figure 7: Second Floor Plan, drawn by William Allin Storrer.



BERNARD AND
FERN SCHWARTZ
HOUSE
City of Two Rivers,
Manitowoc County
UTM Coordinates:
14453037/4890322

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
in cooperation with the Wisconsin Division of Highways
and Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1976. Field checked 1976. Map edited 1978
Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS/NOAA
Chart 14903 (1975). This information is not intended
for navigational purposes
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Wisconsin coordinate
system, south zone (Lambert conformal conic)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 16
1927 North American datum
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries
of the National or State reservations shown on this map



SCALE 1:24 000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET-DATUM IS LOW WATER 576.8 FEET
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND WISCONSIN GEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY, MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

TWO RIVERS, WIS.
NE/4 MANITOWOC 15' QUADRANGLE
N4407.5-W8730/7.5

1978
AMS 3472 II NE-SERIES V661



























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 2/12/2019 Date of Pending List: 3/7/2019 Date of 16th Day: 3/22/2019 Date of 45th Day: 3/29/2019 Date of Weekly List: 4/5/2019

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 3/28/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria

Reviewer Barbara Wyatt Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2252 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

GLENN GROTHMAN
6TH DISTRICT, WISCONSIN

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM



UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



24 WEST PIONEER ROAD
FOND DU LAC, WI 54935
(920) 907-0624

1217 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2476

GROTHMAN.HOUSE.GOV

November 12, 2018

Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board
C/o Peggy Veregin
Wisconsin Historical Society
816 State Street
Madison, WI 53706

Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board:

I am writing in support of the Bernard and Fern Schwartz House nomination to the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Place. The house, located in Two Rivers, is part of the Sixth Congressional District which I represent.

The Bernard and Fern Schwartz house is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, nationally significant under Criterion C, as the work of a master, built in 1940. An example of a pre-World War II, this home is an Usonian plan home designed by master architect Frank Lloyd Wright. Sheathed with both red brick and red tidewater cypress, horizontal board-and-sunk-batten siding, the Schwartz home features the following characteristics common to Wright's Usonian homes: a planning grid; cantilevered, flat roofs with overhanging eaves; board and batten walls; in-floor, radiant heating; and a carport. The Schwartz home was not the prototypical one-story, but a unique and unprecedented, two-story iteration. Furthermore, it was in the Schwartz house that one of Wright's hallmark home features was improved by the use of hot water rather than steam. Finally, and perhaps most notably, the Schwartz home was developed directly from the plans Wright submitted in 1938 to *Life* magazine, as the modern-styled "dream house." Although not an exact replica of the published 1938 design, the Schwartz home has since been lauded as the "*Life* magazine dream house." The Schwartz House, was one of just fourteen "Third Period" buildings endorsed for National Historic Landmark distinction.

Please give all due and fair consideration consistent with current federal and state laws and agency regulations. Keep me apprised of your efforts and findings by contacting my District Director, Alan Ott, at 24 West Pioneer Road Fond du Lac, WI 54935 or by calling (920) 907-0624. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress

NOV 16 2018

BY: ...



ANDRÉ JACQUE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 2nd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

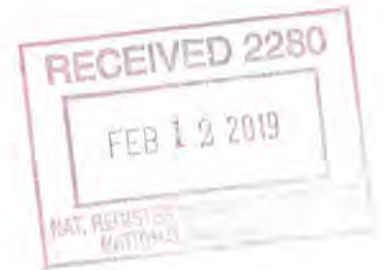
(608) 266-9870
Fax: (608) 282-3602
Toll-Free: (888) 534-0002
Rep.Jacque@legis.wi.gov

P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708-8952

NOV 13 2018

November 8, 2018

Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board
Wisconsin Historical Society
816 State Street
Madison, WI 53706



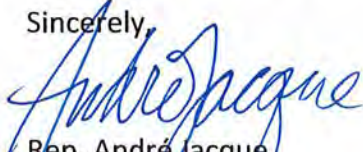
Dear Board Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for the nomination of the Bernard and Fern Schwartz House in Two Rivers, Wisconsin to the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places. Two Rivers is a community in the 2nd Assembly District, and the inclusion of the Schwartz House on the Register of Historic Places would be not only well deserved but also a wonderful asset to the City of Two Rivers.

Frank Lloyd Wright, the prodigious American architect from Wisconsin, designed this “dream house” for a “typical American family” as part of a 1938 LIFE magazine competition. Bernard and Fern Schwartz had the plans built near the East Twin River and it became their permanent residence. It was sold in 1971 to a family who lived there for 33 years and raised five children in the residence. It is currently owned by brothers Gary and Michael Ditmer and is available for public tours and rental.

Adding this unique and historical property to the Register will help protect the legacy of Frank Lloyd Wright for future generations, promote tourism to the area and spur the local economy. I fully support the addition of this historically and economically valuable property to the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places and National Register of Historic Places.

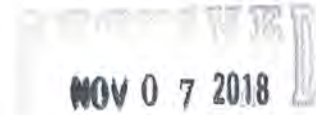
Sincerely,


Rep. André Jacque
2nd Assembly District

Council Manager Government Since 1924



Office of the City Manager
1717 East Park Street
Post Office Box 87
Two Rivers WI 54241-0087
Telephone 920/793-5532
FAX 920/793-5563



November 5, 2018

Ms. Peggy Veregin, National Register Coordinator
Wisconsin Historical Society
816 State Street
Madison, WI 53706

RE: Nomination of the Bernard and Fern Schwartz House, 3425 Adams Street,
City of Two Rivers, Manitowoc County, to the Wisconsin State Register
Of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Ms. Veregin:

The City of Two Rivers, proud to be home to "Still Bend," the Bernard and Fern Schwartz House, enthusiastically supports its nomination to the Wisconsin and National historic registers.

Wright's contribution to a feature titled "Eight Houses for Modern Living" published in a 1938 issue of *Life Magazine*, this home of "Usonian" design was intended to be a dream house that was attainable to the average American middle class family. It was ultimately constructed for the Schwartz family of Two Rivers in a neighborhood with sweeping views of the East Twin River.

This house is noteworthy not only based on its design and its designer, but also for its setting in a typical residential neighborhood in our small city, and for its contributions to raising public awareness of Wright's work. As a vacation rental and venue for special events and gatherings, this Wright-designed home hosts hundreds of guests each year, and allows those guests to experience a Wright-designed home "up close and personal."

Still Bend is a treasure of our community, a piece of living history that this city and the house's owners are proud to share with the world. We trust that you will agree that this property merits nomination to the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places and to the National Register of Historic Places.

Thank you for considering this letter in support of the nomination.

Sincerely,

CITY OF TWO RIVERS

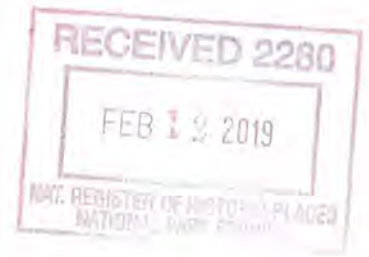
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory E. Buckley".

Gregory E. Buckley
City Manager

CC: City Council



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



TO: Keeper
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Peggy Veregin
National Register Coordinator

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this Seventh day of February 2019, for the nomination of the Bernard and Fern Schwartz House to the National Register of Historic Places:

- 1 Original National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form
- 1 CD with NRHP Nomination form PDF
- Multiple Property Nomination form
- 14 Photograph(s)
- 1 CD with image files
- 1 Map(s)
- 7 Sketch map(s)/figures(s)/exhibit(s)
- 3 Piece(s) of correspondence
- Other:

COMMENTS:

- Please ensure that this nomination is reviewed
- This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- The enclosed owner objection(s) do or do not constitute a majority of property owners
- Other: