

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

NOV 9 7 2015
Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Muirhead, Robert and Elizabeth, House

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 42W814 Rohrsen Road

City or town: Plato Center State: Illinois County: Kane

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B X C ___ D

<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>DSHPO</u>	<u>11/16/15</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:		Date
<u>Illinois Historic Preservation Agency</u>		
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>
Signature of commenting official:	Date
<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Muirhead, Robert and Elizabeth, House
Name of Property

Kane, Illinois
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

For Edson W. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

1-12-16
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Muirhead, Robert and Elizabeth, House
Name of Property

Kane, Illinois
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC:
single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC:
single dwelling

Muirhead, Robert and Elizabeth, House
Name of Property

Kane, Illinois
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT

OTHER: Usonian

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: **Brick, Wood, and Concrete**

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Muirhead House is located at 42W814 Rohrsen Road, approximately one and one-quarter miles northeast of the unincorporated hamlet of Plato Center, in rural Kane County, Illinois, which is roughly 42 forty-two miles west of the City of Chicago. The home is located on the Muirhead family farmstead, and is surrounded by flat cropland/restored prairie typical of the northern-Illinois landscape. Immediately south of the home is the Chicago Central and Pacific Railroad. The railroad track sits atop a raised bed, effectively blocking views of the home from Rohrsen Road. The property is accessed by a gravel drive, which runs under the railroad track and to the home. North of the home, and on a separate parcel, are several agricultural structures, including barns, corncribs, and several sheds.

Muirhead, Robert and Elizabeth, House
Name of Property

Kane, Illinois
County and State

The Robert and Elizabeth Muirhead House is a one-story Usonian House, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1951 and constructed between 1951 and 1953. The home sits on a concrete-slab foundation, is one story in height, and has a flat roof. It measures roughly 176-feet long and is positioned on the property along a northeast-southwest axis. Nearly all of the home's rooms are organized along this axis, making the home an "in-line" Usonian.¹ The house is laid-out on a four-foot grid and has an irregular-shaped footprint, with larger rooms projecting further away from the main axis. The home is divided into three distinct sections. From northeast to southwest, they include: the Service Wing, containing the kitchen, dining room, washroom, workshop/office, and carport; the Central Core, containing the living room, master bedroom and bathroom, and utility room; and the Bedroom Wing, originally containing five small bedrooms and a bathroom.

The walls are constructed of Chicago common brick, laid in a running bond with a weathered joint mortar profile. The home has a variety of window types, which are utilized in groups to reinforce the building's design. The flat roof is hidden from view by a three-foot-tall Cypress lapped-board parapet, which runs almost completely around the house, emphasizing the building's horizontality and conformity with the surrounding flat topography. Portions of the house - such as those containing the kitchen, workshop, utility room, bathrooms, and chimneys - are taller and have brick walls that extend well above the wood parapet, breaking-up the long horizontal lines of the home.

The Muirhead House's interior features include smooth concrete floors, which contain a radiant heat system, brick walls and fireplaces, bands of windows and doors, and plywood ceilings. The front door of the house is discretely located in the service wing of the house, near the carport. Upon entering the house, one may easily access an office and workshop to the right, or proceed down a long, enclosed gallery to the left. Just off the gallery are the kitchen and dining room, along with a pantry and washroom. In contrast to the relatively low ceilings (6'-9'') throughout most of the house, the kitchen has a tall ceiling (11'-0''), with clerestory windows along its southeast elevation. Narrow, side-hinged casement windows on the northwest and

southwest walls of the room allow additional light into the kitchen, as well as limited views from the kitchen to the back yard. Smooth-front, wood cabinets are located along three walls, forming a U-shaped work area. Proceeding through the kitchen, one enters the dining room. While the northeast wall of the dining room is completely windowless, the southwest wall and part

¹ William Allin Storrer, *The Frank Lloyd Wright Companion* (Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 1993), 354.

Muirhead, Robert and Elizabeth, House

Kane, Illinois

Name of Property

County and State

of the northwest wall contain a series of swinging French doors, which are original, and sliding doors, which are an alteration, and a floor-to-ceiling corner window. The extensive glazing allows unobstructed views of the back yard. A fireplace is integrated into the brick wall at the southwest end of the dining room.

The previously mentioned gallery connects the service wing to the central core of the house. Its southeast wall is lined with a continuous bank of smooth-front wood cabinets, four feet in height. Above the cabinets are a series of top-hinged casement windows, which are in groups of three, separated by brick piers that support the roof. The northwest wall of the gallery is comprised of a continuous bank of glass sliding doors (originally French doors), which permit views of the back yard.

The light-filled gallery leads to the living room, via a short, narrow hall that is comparatively dark, having only one window, which provides a view down the front elevation of the house, toward the front door and carport. The living room is the largest room in the house, and - like the kitchen - has a taller ceiling (9' 9"). Incorporated into the room's northwest wall is a large, brick fireplace. Built-in plywood seating and bookshelves line the northeast wall of the room, with four small side-hinged casement windows positioned high on the wall. The southeast and southwest walls consist of floor-to-ceiling fixed-sash windows, which flood the room with natural light and provide views across the front yard to the gravel drive and railroad tracks. A raised, brick plant bed is immediately adjacent to the living room and integrated into to the home's masonry construction. It is accessible via a set of French doors, which open onto a small terrace and a series of steps that lead down to the front lawn.

From the living room, one may access the master bedroom, which has its own bathroom and fireplace. A set a French doors open onto a small terrace that is made semi-private by a half-wall that partially encloses the space. Also located in the central

core of the house are a utility room and a narrow set of stairs that lead to the roof.

A corridor extends southwest from the living room along the main axis of the house and provides access to the bedroom wing. Originally, this section of the house contained five small bedrooms and one bathroom. Unlike the walls in the rest of the house, which are brick, the interior partition walls in the bedroom wing were constructed of Red Tidewater Cypress boards, oriented horizontally and beveled on their top edge, mimicking the mortar profile used in the masonry. The bedroom at the end of the wing is larger than the others in the wing and has its own

Muirhead, Robert and Elizabeth, House

Kane, Illinois

Name of Property

County and State

fireplace and a small private terrace, accessed by a set of French doors and enclosed by a half-wall.

Robert and Elizabeth Muirhead lived in their Usonian home until retiring to Wisconsin in the mid-1980s. The home was vacant for a short time, but remained in the family. Its most recent occupants were Robert and Elizabeth's late-grandson, Charles, and his wife.² During their residency, they made a number of changes to the home. Seven sets of French doors in the dining room and enclosed gallery were replaced with sliding doors. Also, the single-pane glass in most of the window sashes was replaced with insulated glass, and the master bedroom's covered terrace was enclosed to accommodate a hot tub, which was installed there.³

In 2003, the Muirhead family sold the cropland that had been in their family for over 140 years to the Kane County Forest Preserve, but retained ownership of their Usonian house and the agricultural structures to its north. The home was in a state of extreme disrepair when Sarah Muirhead Petersdorf (granddaughter of Robert and Elizabeth) and her husband, Michael Petersdorf, began an ambitious rehabilitation of the house in the fall of 2003.

During the home's fifty-year lifespan, its flat roof had been patched a number of times, but never replaced.⁴ Years of extensive water infiltration and repeated freeze-thaw cycles had

badly damaged large sections of the roof, parapets (both wood and masonry), and walls. In order to correct the damage,

portions of the roof structure and wood parapet were completely removed and rebuilt. While some of the original Cypress parapet boards were salvaged, many were replaced with new wood of the same species. Regarding the masonry work, the Muirhead's were fortunate that a generous supply of Chicago common brick, leftover from when the home was originally constructed, had remained on-site. From the stockpile of vintage brick, damaged sections of walls and masonry parapets were relayed. Care was given to match the mortar composition, color, and "weathered" joint profile, and this work is undistinguishable from the original.

Unrelated to the water damage elsewhere in the house, the concrete floor slab in the bedroom wing had cracked and unevenly settled several inches. This was most likely caused by the use of improper or poorly compacted fill applied to the site at the beginning of construction in 1951. Robert Castle Muirhead, son

² Robert Castle Muirhead, interviews by author, Spring 2004.

³ Sarah Muirhead Petersdorf, interviews by author, Spring 2004.

⁴ Ibid.

Muirhead, Robert and Elizabeth, House

Kane, Illinois

Name of Property

County and State

of Robert and Elizabeth, recalls that in order to compensate for the site's gentle slope, the contractor brought in additional soil to raise the level of the ground in the bedroom wing before pouring the concrete floor.⁵ Whether or not the contractor properly compacted the soil is unclear, but a photo taken during construction reveals that the added soil had a darker color, which supports the conclusion that it was rich in organic matter. Over time, the organic matter likely decomposed and naturally reduced in volume, leaving the floor without adequate support and causing it to crack.

To correct the problem, the Muirhead's carefully dismantled the Cypress partition walls in the bedroom wing, removed the original concrete floor, added additional gravel fill, and poured a new floor, matching the original in color and texture. This approach gave them the opportunity to run plumbing to two new bathrooms that will be constructed roughly where two of the four small bedrooms had been located. They plan to reuse the original Cypress boards in the reconstruction of the partition walls. This change represents the only spatial alteration of Wright's design for the home. Robert Castle Muirhead recalls, however, that one reason lightweight partition

walls were specified by Wright for the bedroom wing was so that they could be removed in order to combine and reconfigure sleeping spaces as the needs of the family evolved over time.⁶ In that sense, the Muirhead's plan seems consistent with the architect's philosophy about the Usonian house.

Finally, the Muirhead's have removed the hot tub and enclosure from the master-bedroom terrace, updated the home's heating and electrical systems, added air conditioning, replaced the water-damaged plywood ceilings throughout the house, and plan to reinstall the French doors, which were previously removed and are in storage. Renovation of the home was completed in December 2005 and the home was opened to the public as a Bed and Breakfast Inn and for tours. The Bed and Breakfast operation was ceased in June 2012 due to overwhelming public response. The house remains open for tours by appointment.

⁵ Robert Castle Muirhead, interviews by author, Spring 2004.

⁶ Ibid.

Muirhead, Robert and Elizabeth, House
Name of Property

Kane, Illinois
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for 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.

Muirhead, Robert and Elizabeth, House
Name of Property

Kane, Illinois
County and State

Criteria Considerations

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

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1951-1953

Significant Dates

N/A

Muirhead, Robert and Elizabeth, House
Name of Property

Kane, Illinois
County and State

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Wright, Frank Lloyd

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Robert and Elizabeth Muirhead House, near Plato Center, Illinois, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The house was designed by noted-architect Frank Lloyd Wright and is an excellent example of the Usonian style he developed late in his long and successful career. Wright completed the design for the Muirhead House in 1951, and it was built between 1951 and 1953, which is its period of significance.

The Muirhead House is locally significant as the only Wright-designed Usonian house in Kane County, and embodies all of the distinctive characteristics of the style. Its long, horizontal lines and low profile mimic the flat prairie landscape on which the house sits. Wright's selection of materials, including Chicago common brick for the walls, and plywood as a finish material throughout the house, reflect his effort to utilize economical materials in the design of homes for middle-income Americans.

Muirhead, Robert and Elizabeth, House
Name of Property

Kane, Illinois
County and State

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Robert and Elizabeth Muirhead first met Frank Lloyd Wright in the fall of 1948. The couple, along with four of their five children, stopped in Spring Green, Wisconsin to see Wright's Taliesin. The family was returning to their farm near Plato Center, Illinois from a weekend trip to Waupaca, Wisconsin, where several members of Elizabeth's family lived. Robert and Elizabeth had a keen interest in Frank Lloyd Wright's work, and followed his career in the pages of *Architectural Forum*, which frequently featured the architect's projects. While wandering

the grounds of Wright's home, farm, and school complex, the Muirheads met a gentleman who asked if they wished to meet the architect. He indicated that he was Wright's personal secretary and could arrange a spur-of-the-moment meeting with Wright. Within fifteen minutes, the couple found themselves talking with the architect about their idea to build a new home on their Kane County farmstead, which had been in the Muirhead family for roughly ninety years.⁷

Upon their return to Plato Center, the Muirheads decided that Wright should design their home, and began to correspond with him regarding their specific needs and desires.⁸ The design process was lengthy, however, and over the subsequent two years, the Muirheads wrote to their architect several times inquiring about the status of their house plans.⁹ In October 1950, Wright made an unscheduled visit to the Muirhead's farm, apparently to analyze the site and determine the best location for their new home.¹⁰ In February of 1951, Wright completed the design for a six-bedroom, two-and-a-half bathroom home for the Muirhead family, and construction began in the spring of the same year.¹¹ Allen Lape Davison, of Wright's Taliesin Fellowship, supervised the project on behalf of the architect.¹² Lamp Construction, of

⁸ Mr. and Mrs. Robert Muirhead to Frank Lloyd Wright, 14 October 1948, letter, Archives, Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, Scottsdale, Arizona.

⁹ Mr. and Mrs. Robert Muirhead to Frank Lloyd Wright or Eugene Masselink, 22 March 1949, 14 July 1949, 26 September 1949, 27 March 1950, letters, Archives, Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, Scottsdale, Arizona.

¹⁰ Mr. and Mrs. Robert Muirhead to Frank Lloyd Wright, 15 October 1950, letter, Archives, Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, Scottsdale, Arizona.

¹¹ Robert Castle Muirhead, interviews by author, Spring 2004.

¹² William Allin Storrer, *The Frank Lloyd Wright Companion* (Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 1993), 354.

Muirhead, Robert and Elizabeth, House

Kane, Illinois

Name of Property

County and State

Elgin, was the general contractor for the house, although Robert Muirhead and his son, Robert Castle Muirhead, completed all of the interior carpentry and finish work. Such owner-participation in the construction process was part of Wright's Usonian philosophy, and, in this instance, helped to reduce the final cost of the house.¹³

Long before the Muirhead's commissioned Wright to design their home, he was recognized internationally as one of the world's greatest architects. His development of the Prairie style in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries brought him

tremendous attention. Throughout his career, he adhered to a philosophy that buildings should blend with their environment, and advocated an "organic" architecture that was part of the landscape. A prolific architect, Wright designed commercial, religious, and institutional buildings across the United States and abroad. He is, however, best known for his residential projects.

The Muirhead House is one of Wright's Usonian homes, a term he coined to describe buildings uniquely suited for middle-income citizens of the United States of North American (USONA).¹⁴ "The house of moderate cost is not only America's major architectural problem," wrote Wright, "but the problem most difficult for her major architects."¹⁵ The Usonian house was his personal solution to the country's need for affordable housing. With the construction of the first Herbert Jacobs House in Madison, Wisconsin, in 1936, Wright established the Usonian home as a specific type, characterized by:

1. Elimination of the basement, in favor of a concrete slab foundation;
2. Elimination of the attic and, therefore, elimination of the visible roof;
3. Little, if any, painting or plastering - materials were generally sealed with clear oils or waxes;
4. Elimination of the garage, in favor of a carport;
5. Absence of radiators and heating grilles, as heat was provided by a radiant floor hot-water system; and
6. Floor plans designed according to a planning module, usually a multiple of four feet.

Early Usonian homes were built from relatively inexpensive materials such as plywood and boards with concrete floors. The use of brick was limited to chimneys and selected walls. Nearly all of the Usonians were designed with flat roofs. Over time,

¹³ Carla Lind, *The Wright Style* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1992), 104; and Robert Castle Muirhead, interviews by author, Spring 2004.

¹⁴ John Sargeant, *Frank Lloyd Wright's Usonian Houses* (New York: Whitney Library of Design, 1984), 16.

¹⁵ Frank Lloyd Wright, *The Natural House* (New York: Horizon Press, 1954), 79.

Muirhead, Robert and Elizabeth, House

Kane, Illinois

Name of Property

County and State

however, Wright experimented with alternative building materials and various plan and roof types.¹⁶

The Muirhead House exhibits all of the characteristics of Wright's Usonian architecture. It has a concrete slab foundation containing a radiant heat system, and is laid-out on a four-foot grid, which is clearly scored into the floor throughout the house. All interior and exterior surfaces are Chicago common brick, Cypress boards, or plywood, and the home's flat roof is hidden from view by a lapped-board parapet. Finally, the roof extends at the northeast end of the structure to form a carport. The organization of nearly all of the home's rooms along a central axis, which runs the full 180-foot length of the house, further-distinguishes the Muirhead House as an "in-line" Usonian.¹⁷

Consistent with Wright's philosophy that buildings should blend with their landscape, he designed the Muirhead House to have a very long, low profile, which conforms to the flat, northern-Illinois topography. Its horizontality is further emphasized by continuous bands of casement windows and the wood parapet, which runs almost completely around the house. Deep eaves along the home's front elevation cast a shadow on the building, giving the parapet added visual weight, making it appear as though it is holding the structure close to the ground. Isolated portions of the house, however, are taller, and have brick walls that extend well above the wood parapet. They provide visual relief, and help to break-up the more-dominant horizontal lines of the house. The home's modern architectural style is reinforced by its lack of applied ornament.

As is typical of Wright-designed homes, the front door of the Muirhead House is not given a prominent position on the building exterior, and is, therefore, not immediately obvious. Once inside the house, however, the architect juxtaposed its spaces for maximum visual drama. For example, the impact of the living room's heightened ceiling and continuous bank of floor-to-ceiling windows is emphasized by the fact that one enters the room via a narrow corridor with much-less light and a low ceiling. The contrast serves to emphasize the qualities of both spaces.

Other signature Wright elements include the use of clerestory windows to bring additional light into the kitchen, bathrooms, and workspaces, and his extensive use of floor-to-ceiling glazing (both windows and doors) to foster a visual (and physical) connection between interior and exterior spaces. In four rooms, including the living and dining rooms, and two bedrooms, Wright integrated fireplaces into the walls, using the same brick that is found throughout the house. Additionally, the living room

¹⁶ John Eifler and Kristin Visser, *Frank Lloyd Wright's Seth Peterson Cottage* (Madison, Wisconsin: Prairie Oak Press, 1997), 3-4.

¹⁷ William Allin Storrer, *The Frank Lloyd Wright Companion* (Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 1993), 354.

Muirhead, Robert and Elizabeth, House

Kane, Illinois

Name of Property

County and State

features built-in plywood seating and bookshelves designed by the architect.

In conclusion, the Robert and Elizabeth Muirhead House, designed by world-renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright, is an excellent candidate for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. It qualifies under Criterion C for Architecture. The home is an outstanding example of Wright's Usonian house, exhibiting all of the design characteristics and construction methods employed in the architectural style. After a period of deferred maintenance and a few inappropriate alterations, the Muirhead House - which remains in the Muirhead family - is undergoing extensive rehabilitation. Today, the home retains a very-high level of architectural integrity and the recent sale of the surrounding cropland to the Kane County Forest Preserve ensures that the home's historic setting among open fields will be preserved into the future.

Muirhead, Robert and Elizabeth, House
Name of Property

Kane, Illinois
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Unpublished and Primary Sources:

Muirhead, Mr. and Mrs. Robert, to Frank Lloyd Wright, 14 October 1948. Letter. Archives, Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, Scottsdale, Arizona.

Muirhead, Mr. and Mrs. Robert, to Frank Lloyd Wright, 22 March 1949. Letter. Archives, Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, Scottsdale, Arizona.

Muirhead, Mr. and Mrs. Robert, to Eugene Masselink, 14 July 1949. Letter. Archives, Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, Scottsdale, Arizona.

Muirhead, Mr. and Mrs. Robert, to Eugene Masselink, 26 September 1949. Letter. Archives, Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, Scottsdale, Arizona.

Muirhead, Mr. and Mrs. Robert, to Eugene Masselink, 27 March 1950. Letter. Archives, Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, Scottsdale, Arizona.

Muirhead, Mr. and Mrs. Robert, to Frank Lloyd Wright, 15 October 1950. Letter. Archives, Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, Scottsdale, Arizona.

Muirhead, Robert Castle. Interviews by author: Spring 2004.

Petersdorf, Sarah Muirhead. Interviews by author: Spring 2004.

Wright, Frank Lloyd. Construction drawings for the Muirhead House, dated 24 November 1950, revised 20 February 1951. The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation.

Published and Secondary Sources:

Muirhead, Robert and Elizabeth, House
Name of Property

Kane, Illinois
County and State

Eifler, John and Kristin Visser. *Frank Lloyd Wright's Seth Peterson Cottage*. Madison, Wisconsin: Prairie Oak Press, 1997.

Lind, Carla. *The Wright Style*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1992.

Sargeant, John. *Frank Lloyd Wright's Usonian Houses*. New York: Whitney Library of Design, 1984.

Wright, Frank Lloyd. *The Natural House*. New York: Horizon Press, 1954.

Storrer, William Allin. *The Frank Lloyd Wright Companion*. Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 1993.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

Muirhead, Robert and Elizabeth, House
Name of Property

Kane, Illinois
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.87

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| 1. Latitude: | 42.037108 | Longitude: | 88.451648 |
| 2. Latitude: | | Longitude: | |
| 3. Latitude: | | Longitude: | |
| 4. Latitude: | | Longitude: | |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Muirhead, Robert and Elizabeth, House
Name of Property

Kane, Illinois
County and State

The Robert and Elizabeth Muirhead House is located at 42W814 Rohrsen Road, in the vicinity of Plato Center, Illinois, on a parcel of land having the following legal description: THAT PART OF THE WEST HALF OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 16, TOWNSHIP 41 NORTH, RANGE 7 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID WEST HALF; THENCE NORTHERLY, ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID WEST HALF, 282.53 FEET TO THE INTERSECTION OF SAID EAST LINE WITH THE NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF THE ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY FOR A POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUING NORTHERLY, ALONG SAID EAST LINE, 574.4 FEET; THENCE WESTERLY, AT AN ANGLE OF 88 DEGREES 28 MINUTES 13 SECONDS, MEASURED CLOCKWISE FROM SAID EAST LINE, PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID QUARTER, 525.0 FEET; THENCE SOUTHERLY, AT AN ANGLE OF 91 DEGREES 31 MINUTES 47 SECONDS, MEASURED CLOCKWISE FROM THE LAST DESCRIBED COURSE, PARALLEL WITH SAID EAST LINE, 275.28 FEET TO SAID NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY; THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY, AT AN ANGLE OF 118 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 48 SECONDS, MEASURED CLOCKWISE FROM THE LAST DESCRIBED COURSE, ALONG SAID NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE, 597.26 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING (LESS EXCEPT THAT PART OF THE WEST HALF OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 16, TOWNSHIP 41 NORTH, RANGE 7 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID WEST HALF; THENCE NORTHERLY, ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID WEST HALF, 279.37 FEET TO THE NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF THE ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD FOR A POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUING NORTHERLY, ALONG SAID EAST LINE 577.56 FEET; THENCE WESTERLY, AT AN ANGLE OF 88 DEGREES 27 MINUTES 53 SECONDS, MEASURED CLOCKWISE FROM SAID EAST LINE, PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID NORTHWEST QUARTER, 180.06 FEET; THENCE SOUTHERLY, AT AN ANGLE OF 93 DEGREES 18 MINUTES 55 SECONDS, MEASURED CLOCKWISE FROM SAID PARALLEL LINE, 467.28 FEET TO SAID NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE; THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY, AT AN ANGLE OF 116 DEGREES 44 MINUTES 12 SECONDS, MEASURED CLOCKWISE FROM THE LAST DESCRIBED COURSE, ALONG SAID NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE, 221.37 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, IN PLATO TOWNSHIP, KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS. (PERMANENT INDEX NUMBER: 05-16-100-010.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries for the Robert and Elizabeth Muirhead House were chosen because they are the boundaries of the parcel of land on which the house and its surrounding landscape are located.

Muirhead, Robert and Elizabeth, House
Name of Property

Kane, Illinois
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: _____
organization: _____
street & number: _____
city or town: _____ state: _____ zip code: _____
e-mail _____
telephone: _____
date: _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer,

Muirhead, Robert and Elizabeth, House
Name of Property

Kane, Illinois
County and State

photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property:

City or Vicinity:

County:

State:

Photographer:

Date Photographed:

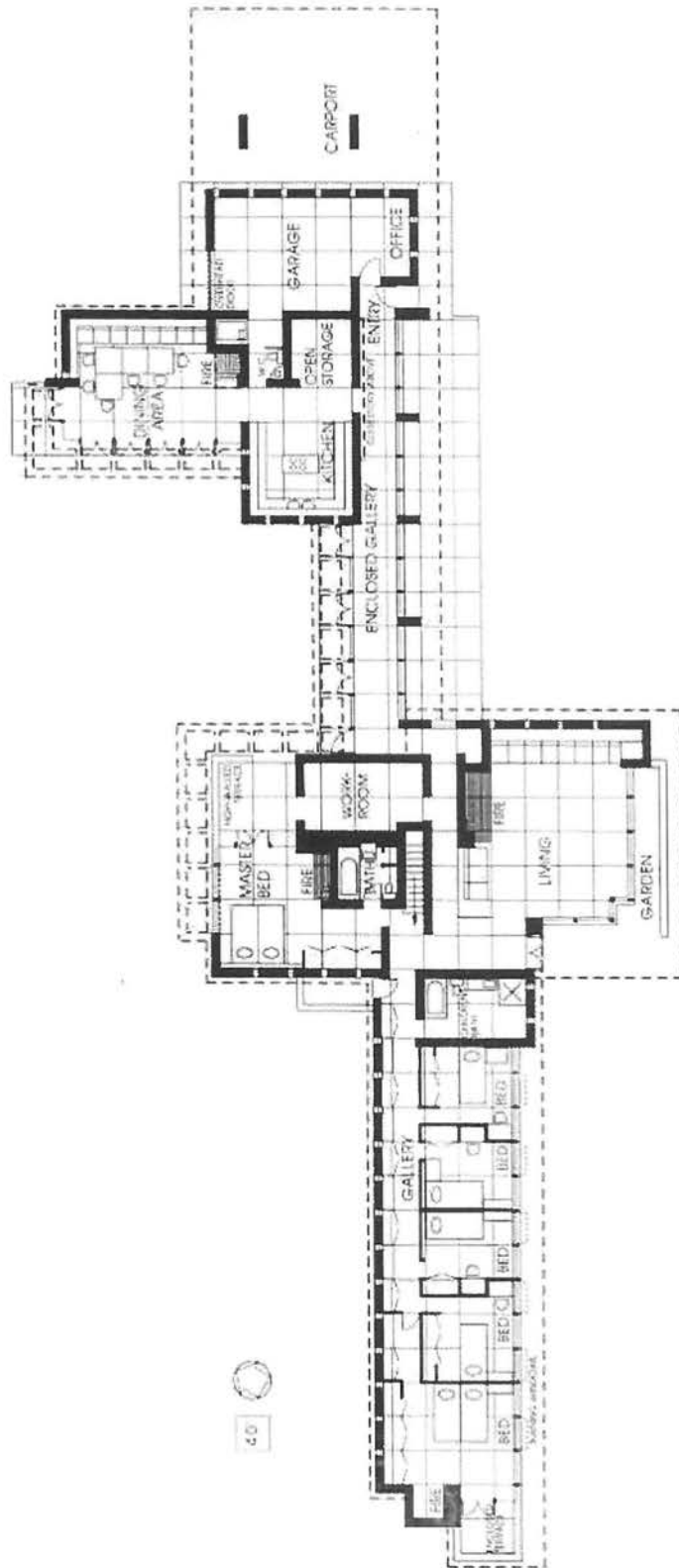
Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of ____.

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Muirhead, Robert and Elizabeth, House



Floor Plan for Robert and Elizabeth Muirhead House.

Source: Storrer, William Allin. *The Frank Lloyd Wright Companion*. Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 1993.

Muirhead, Robert and Elizabeth, House



Aerial View of Muirhead Farmstead, showing Usonian House and parcel lines.
Source: GIS-Technologies, Kane County, Illinois

NR Nomination Photograph Log Page

Name of Property: Muirhead Farmhouse (Robert and Elizabeth Muirhead House)
City/Vicinity: Hampshire / Plato Township
County: Kane
State: IL
Name of Photographer: Jeff Goldberg
Date of Photographs: September 11, 2015
Number of Photographs: 12

Photo #1

Front view of house and main yard

Photo #2

West end of house (bedroom wing)

Photo #3

Northwest corner of house (bedroom wing)

Photo #4

North face of house (master bedroom)

Photo #5

Rear side/North face of house (outside patio area)

Photo #6

Main Hallway/Breezeway (interior)

Photo #7

Kitchen (interior)

Photo #8

Dining Room (interior)

Photo #9

Living Room (interior)

Photo #10

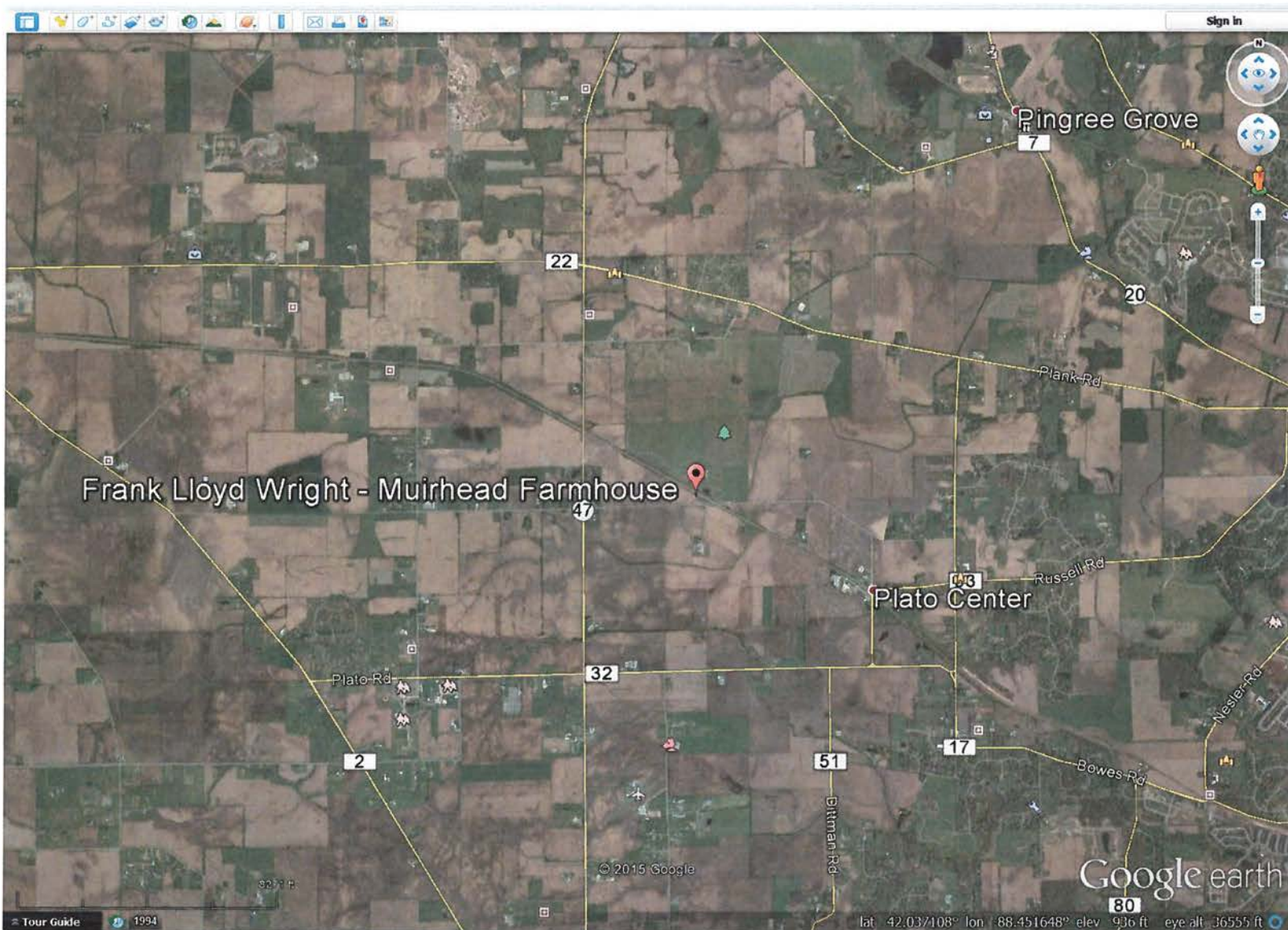
Master Bedroom (interior)

Photo #11

Bedroom Wing Hallway (interior)

Photo #12

Terrace Bedroom (interior)



Lat: 42.037108 Long: -88.451648



Construction Photographs, Robert and Elizabeth Muirhead House, 1951.



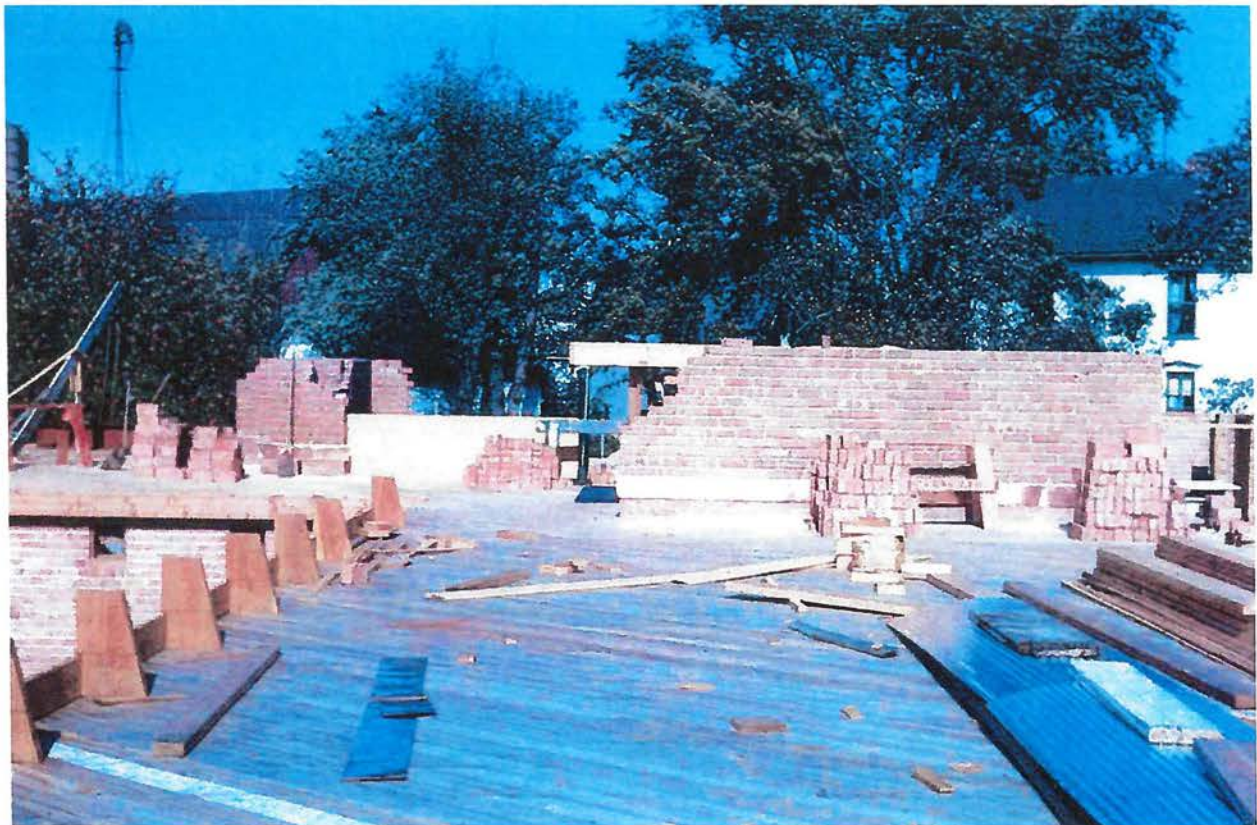


Construction Photographs, Robert and Elizabeth Muirhead House, 1951.





Construction Photographs, Robert and Elizabeth Muirhead House, 1951.



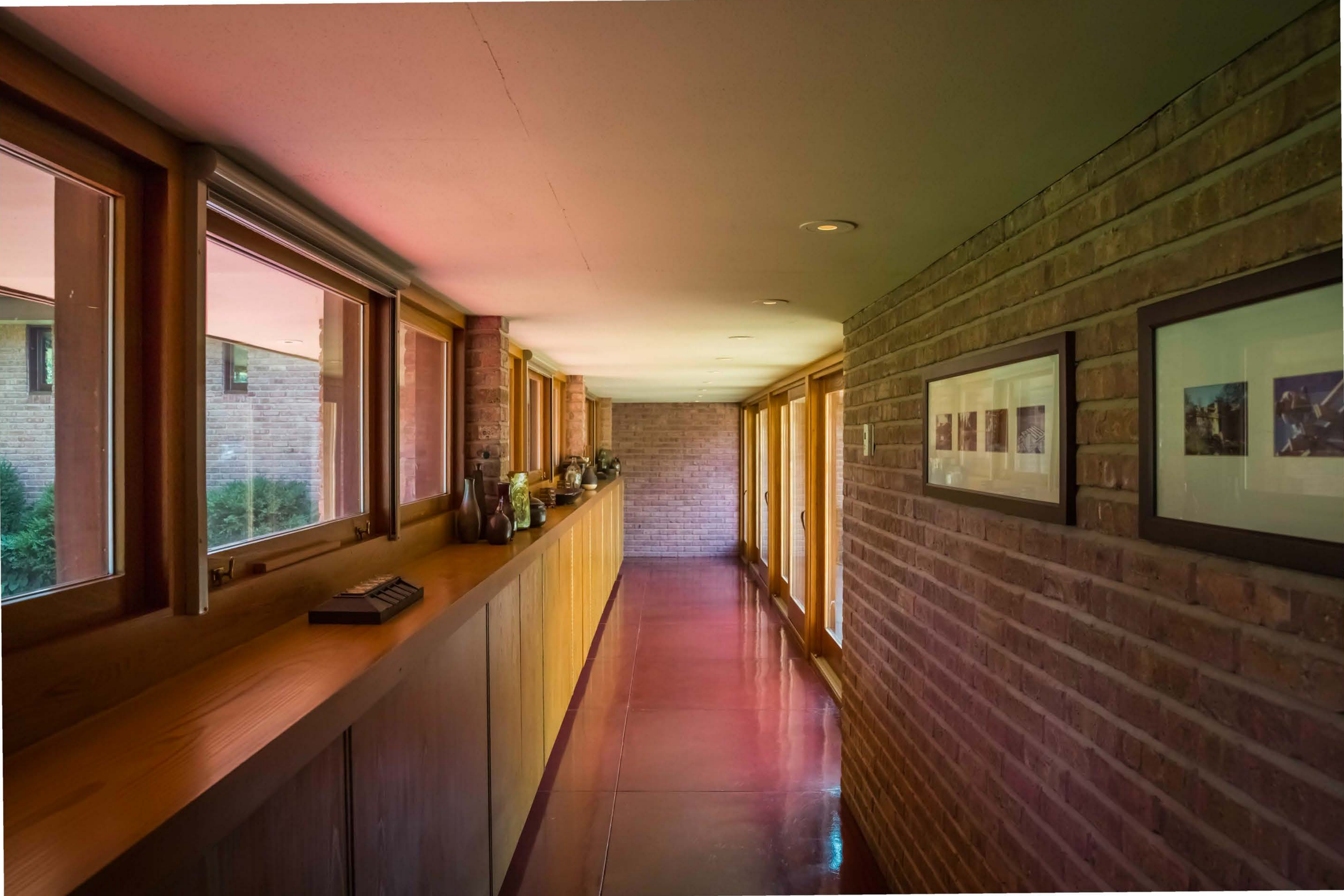
























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Muirhead, Robert and Elizabeth, House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ILLINOIS, Kane

DATE RECEIVED: 11/27/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/30/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/14/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/12/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000965

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 1.12.16 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
**The National Register
of
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



**Illinois Historic
Preservation Agency**

One Old State Capitol Plaza • Springfield, Illinois 62701 • www.illinois-history.gov • TTY 217.524.7128

RECEIVED 2280

NOV 27 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

November 19, 2015

Ms. Barbara Wyatt
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW Suite NC400
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Wyatt:

Enclosed for your review are the following National Register Nomination Forms that were recommended by the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council and signed by the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer. They are being submitted in a digital format on the enclosed disks, and they are the true and correct copies.

Robert and Elizabeth Muirhead House, Kane County

George E. Van Hagen House, Lake County

Please contact me at the address above, or by telephone at 217-785-4324. You can also email me at andrew.heckenkamp@illinois.gov if you need any additional information or clarification. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Andrew Heckenkamp
National Register Coordinator

Enclosures