



United States Department of the 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 Christian, John E. and Catherine E., House

other names/site number "Samara" 175-333-13010

2. Location

street & number 1301 Woodland Avenue N/A not for publication

city or town West Lafayette N/A vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Tippecanoe code 157 zip code 47906

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.)

Patricia R. Kelso 4-28-92
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
 State of 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 certifying official/Title Date

 State or Federal agency and bureau

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.
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other, (explain:)

Beth K. Savage 6/16/92
 Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Christian House
Name of Property

Tippecanoe County, Indiana
County and State

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
1	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is 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)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT

OTHER: Wrightian

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

GLASS

roof ASPHALT

other METAL: copper

CONCRETE

Narrative Description

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

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.

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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1956

Significant Dates

1956

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Wright, Frank Lloyd

Woods, Frank

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Frank Lloyd Wright Archives,
Scottsdale, AZ

Christian House
Name of Property

Tippecanoe County, Indiana
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	507090	4476190
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2			

3			
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John E. Christian, Ph.D.
organization N/A date December 16, 1991
street & number 1301 Woodland Avenue telephone 317/463-9879
city or town West Lafayette state IN zip code 47906

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 John E. Christian, Ph.D.
street & number 1301 Woodland Avenue telephone 317/463-9879
city or town West Lafayette state IN zip code 47906

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Christian House, Tippecanoe County, Indiana

Description

The Christian House, completed in 1956, is located on a one acre site within the city limits of West Lafayette, Indiana. The surrounding neighborhood is residential and is only several minutes drive from the Purdue University campus. The site is triangular in shape with sharply sloping terrain and the house is placed integral with its site along the fall of the hill at an angle being a part of the hill rather than placed on top of the hill. Thus, it fits naturally into the surrounding landscape and seems to be a part of it. The house seems to grow out off the site, its low, horizontal profile and earth colors being in sympathy with nature. The original brick drive winds up the hill to the carport. Mr. Wright specified that all trees on the site be retained and further supplied landscape plans to shelter the house. The landscape plans were, and are, followed to the letter by the client/owner Mr. Christian.

The Christian House consists of a lineal, central core with outdoor living area and a carport projections. Working with the clients, Wright based his plans on the SAMARA (the winged seed of a pine tree) motif. The concept of a winged seed in motion appears, abstracted, in the plans, elevations, details, fabrics, and furnishings. Wright further used the four-foot square module as the basis of the design, as he had for other Usonian homes.

Structurally, the house is a masonry dwelling with steel supports for roof sections and some glazed wall areas. The house rests on a four inch concrete slab, which was scored with four foot squares, illustrating the basic module of design. The concrete was colored Taliesin red by working iron oxide into the surface and then buffing the finished product with a Johnson Wax coating. Masonry sections are of pink toned brick which is exposed on the interior. Brick walls are of double construction with horizontal joints raked three-eighths of an inch deep. Vertical joints are flush. All wood elements of the house, inside and out, are of Philippine Mahogany.

The Christian House is situated with the longest elevations facing northeast and southwest. Facing toward Woodland Avenue is the northeast elevation. This elevation is a complex arrangement of projecting low terrace walls, window banks, and brick piers (Photo

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Christian House, Tippecanoe County, Indiana

1). Roughly centered is a brick wall area or pier. Left is a low wall enclosing a terrace area off of the living room. The lower roof slab is carried on steel posts sheathed in mahogany in this section. Cylindrical sections alternate with cubical forms on these posts. The roof slab is perforated into a pergola-like structure along the terrace. Floor to ceiling single light plate glass windows and French doors with wood framing face onto the terrace.

Right of the wall area is another low wall enclosing a roughly quarter-circle area. This is the grass-covered lanai, an informal outdoor living space. The dining room, enclosed within the blank wall section, opens to the lanai at its northern corner with French doors and a mitred corner window.

Set back from the dining area is a taller, chimney-like brick pier. Bedroom areas, each set progressively further back, also open onto the lanai.

Capping the terrace and extending toward the quarter-circle lanai is a low broad roof with deeply overhanging eaves. Although Wright called for this lower roof slab to have a geometrical copper "cornice," as built, it had a simple flat wood edge. Using original drawings and specifications, Mr. Christian had the cornice rebuilt with twenty ounce copper, robins-egg blue patina, in 1991. This lower roof slab surrounds most of the house. Set back and above the decorative edged roof is a smaller slab with plain copper fascia, creating a clerestory level in select rooms. The clerestory has narrow horizontal windows with perforated boards sandwiching plate glass. The boards produce a geometric SAMARA motif.

Covering both roofs are layers of built-up felt saturated with tar and then covered with marble chips. The white marble reflects and difusses light into the house. The roofing has been replaced recently.

The southwest elevation appears less open due to the tall masonry core forming the southwest wall of the living room (photo 4). Three tall, narrow windows perforate the brick mass. The central chimney is visible just beyond this.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 3

Christian House, Tippecanoe County, Indiana

Toward the left, the lower roof intersects the brick section. Under the roof is a glazed wall set forward from the brick section. The space between these sections allows room for the primary entry, facing southeast.

Following left, the low roof projects forward to encompass a two-car carport, supported at the far end by a brick tool shed. On the house proper along this section is a window bank set high on a brick wall. Three pair of casement windows alternating with fixed sash line the wall. At the corner is a mitred window.

The terrace of the northeast elevation wraps around to the southeast elevation (Photo 2). The low roof with copper cornice follows as well and terminates into a tall brick mass at the corner of the house.

The northwest elevation consists of the central core of the house offset by the projecting carport (right) and low-walled lanai (left). Projecting forward roughly centered is a blank brick walled bedroom. Visible right of this is the nursery with its high bank of windows. The lanai wall angles away to the left. The interplay of the roof masses can be well appreciated from this angle.

Mr. Wright's interior for the house is an open plan concept which causes distinct functional areas to blend to form a continuously flowing space. Its interior space consists of a large living area (24' x 32') with a high ceiling (10'-0") (Photos 7-11); double brick masonry walls with strong horizontal emphasis; a southeast exposure; a sizeable center section lowered by two broad steps; a large sunken fireplace with a cantilevered brick hood; clerestory windows, (perforated board design inside and outside); built-in decks; recessed indirect lighting; built-in shelving; built-in seats; built-in cabinets for phonograph, radio, speakers, and accompanying equipment; roof openings over the terrace; mitered glass corners; Philippine mahogany board and batten partitions with effective horizontal emphasis, floor-to-ceiling single pane glass on the east and south sides; eight floor-to-ceiling French doors which open to the outside terrace. The terrace itself is completely enclosed with a three foot eight inch high double brick wall.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Christian House, Tippecanoe County, Indiana

The dining room area (Photos 12-14) is unique for Mr. Wright in that it is more formal and is separate from the living room with a contrasting low ceiling (6'-8"), yet the fireplace is still visible. This was a compromise between the architect and his clients which turned out to be most satisfactory to both. The dining area opens out to the outside lanai area (under a broad overhang) with four floor-to-ceiling glass, French doors, and in addition four fixed floor-to-ceiling glass panels. It has built-in shelving with indirect built-in lighting; cabinets; indirect variac controlled recessed lights; and mitered glass corners. A sense of space is developed (as with the entire house) with manipulated ceiling heights.

A distinctive element of the house is the central workspace (Photo 15) immediately behind the fireplace masonry as an anchor to the whole plan of the house. It consists of an interior kitchen with built-in cabinets and an adjacent utility room and heating plant space. The area has a high ceiling with clerestory windows on each side which open and thus allow heat and cooking odors to rise and vent through the openings to the outside. It is so designed to draw and vent air from the whole house, allow light to filter in from above and thus provide for natural lighting and ventilation. The workspace opens to the dining area and the adjacent living area, to the entry, and to the bedroom-bathroom wing.

The bedroom-bathroom wing of the house is connected to the rest of the house with a long and relatively narrow hallway (Photo 16) which contains on one side a floor-to-ceiling storage wall. It has a low ceiling and indirect recessed lighting.

The master bedroom (Photos 17 and 18) has a high ceiling with decks on three sides and clerestory windows (perforated board design) which open to the west and north sides. Two floor-to-ceiling windows facing the east are fixed, and in between the two are two floor-to-ceiling glass doors which open to the grade level lanai, providing for a most intimate association with the outdoors. Philippine mahogany wardrobes, a dressing table, and shelving are all built-in, and these, along with board and batten walls, provide for an organized and uncluttered bedroom-sitting room area with an impressive, elegant character. Indirect lighting is recessed in the decks. It is a most beautiful and comfortable room.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 5

Christian House, Tippecanoe County, Indiana

In contrast to the master bedroom, the guest bedroom (Photos 19 and 20) is small with a low ceiling and brick walls on two sides, creating an intimate scale and a secluded, serene, and soothing type feeling. It has on the east side a mitered glass corner and floor-to-ceiling glass doors, again opening to the outside lanai. The south side is constructed of board and batten. It is the type of architecture that one seeks out when the mood calls for a more sheltered feeling. It has built-in storage space, a dressing table with a mirror above, and unique shelving extending over the mirror. The mirror reflects to the outside when you enter the room, giving a feeling of much larger space than actually exists. Of this room is a complete, small guest bathroom with built-in shelving and board and batten walls. The shower and bathrub combination has 2" x 2" tile walls. This room has a high ceiling with decks and clerestory windows (perforated board design) on two sides providing for ventilation and natural lighting from above.

The nursery has brick walls along the west and north sides halfway up, above which are long rows of glass, a mitered glass corner, and six casement windows which open outward. The other two sides of the low ceilinged room are board and batten construction from floor to ceiling. A long study area (under the north casement windows) has a desk and shelving built-in. Closet and storage space is also provided. The combination of brick and wood with excellent external light from two sides and indirect recessed light sources gives the room a warm and most comfortable feeling conducive to reading, sleeping, and most important of all in a child's room, to studying.

The master bathroom (Photo 17) is of more than adequate size, again with board and batten walls, closet space, and on the west a raised window wall above the brick. Two casement windows open out and are protected by the deep overhanging roof of the carport.

An individual enters the house (Photo 21) through a half-hidden front door off a red, iron oxide colored concrete entrance way, two long steps up to the door. One whole wall of the entry is fixed one-quarter inch plate glass which again is sheltered by an extended cantilevered overhang protecting the whole entrance area from the elements. The inside entry way contains a three-door clothes closet and a set of four doors closing in a storage area. The entry way has a low ceiling and as one passes from this area

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

Christian House, Tippecanoe County, Indiana

under a low deck with a clerestory window above, the living room opens up to a high ceiling, giving a rather dramatic view of the room and the adjacent outside open area with its terrace and natural foliage on the east and south sides (Photo 9). Here again, Mr. Wright takes full advantage of the development of an extraordinary feeling of spaciousness with manipulated ceiling heights, decks, and clerestory windows.

The lanai area off the dining room and the two bedrooms (Photo 5) has a four and one-half to five foot brick wall completely surrounding the area, providing for complete privacy. The east wall is curved, being the only curved element in the house construction. The area is landscaped according to Wright's recommendations and plans.

The driving surface of the long driveway up a hill from a dead-end street (Woodland Avenue) and the two-car carport is of paving brick matching the house brick. A storage area made of brick for garden tools and supplies supports the west end of the open carport sheltering roof. The house has no basement, no attic, no gutters, no downspouts, and no garage, all of which combined to make for less costly construction and still maintain the all important artistic and overall aesthetic effect that Mr. Wright wanted in his homes.

Mechanical heating and cooling systems are well concealed. Copper pipes imbedded in the floor slab carry warm water which radiates into the house. The heat exchanger and fans are located in the furnace room. Wright championed this form of radiant or gravity heating and often used it in his Usonian homes. Air conditioning equipment is concealed behind the carport.

Mr. Wright selected carpets and the style and color of fabrics for the drapes, built-in seats, upholstered furniture, hassocks, table runners, pillows and bedspreads. The fabrics were Wright designed for the "Schumacher Corporation" line in 1955. The draperies were recently replaced by Schumacher duplicated original fabric in a special weaving run. Varying "SAMARA" type designs were supplied by Mr. Wright for tablecloths and linens, bathroom linens, bedspreads, writing materials, business cards, and even picture frames. Mr. Wright even specified decorative accessories, dinner china, silverware, and many of the house plants.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 7

Christian House, Tippecanoe County, Indiana

In addition to built-in furniture already referenced, Mr. Wright supplied plans (specific for the Christian house) for the dining room table (two sections) and chairs (note SAMARA take-off design), hassocks, coffee table, lamp tables, planters, wastepaper baskets, bedside tables, beds, lamps, a set of 12 small television tables, stack tables and a television cabinet. These were all closely integrated with the architecture, have all been made, and are still in use. The furniture was all skillfully crafted of especially selected Philippine mahogany and is very sturdy, of low construction, geometrical, and flexible. It is very fine furniture designed for beauty and versatility. Mr. Wright also specified the placement of furniture pieces in the rooms and this placement is still as originally detailed. Plans for a few additional furniture items are available but these have not yet been made.

Mr. Wright designed a special entrance gate, planter, and mail box (Photo 6) located at the beginning of the entrance drive off Woodland Avenue. Woodland Avenue is dead-end at this point. The planter is a five-sided structure (with no parallel sides) made of brick and stands four feet high. It is filled with overhanging junipers. The mail box (Philippine mahogany covered with copper, patina color) is placed in the center of the front face and a decorative wrought iron gate (patina color) of specific design is attached to the brick masonry. A flat metal plate on the gate carries the address and the name of the house (SAMARA). The gate is a contributing structure.

Mr. Wright provided a most detailed landscaping plan, the majority of which was conscientiously accomplished over the first five-year period of occupancy and then added to and replaced over the next thirty years and is being continued to date. Since Mr. Wright liked evergreens (one reason being winged seeds in the cones), he specified many different varieties of these and where possible to be used, he specified irregular, knarled, crooked trunks to emphasize Oriental effects. Near the building, he used low species such as horizontal junipers, andora junipers, pfitzer junipers, mugo pines, and various dwarf species. Elsewhere, and especially on the north and west boundaries of the property and in the valley, he specified high species of evergreen (American arborvitae, white pine, scotch pine, red pine, Norway spruce, sargent juniper, Japanese red pine, blue spruce, Chinese arborvitae, and different species of yews, as examples). In

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 8

Christian House, Tippecanoe County, Indiana

addition to the major plan, he specified a list of over seventy plant species of many varied types (and suggested locations on the site for them) to be used as ground cover, flowering shrubs, ornamental trees, and small flowering plants. He was especially fond of various varieties of euonymous, Japanese maples (winged seeds), rhododendron, weeping cherry, and yucca plants. With respect to evergreens (the species most specified), there are now over 500 of these different varieties ranging from small (six inches) to very tall (forty-five feet) growing on the site. The majority of the other species specified are growing at the recommended locations. The landscape is a contributing site.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

Christian House, Tippecanoe County, Indiana

Statement of Significance

The Christian House meets Criterion C in the area of architecture. The Christian House is an exceptionally complete and fully intact example of Frank Lloyd Wright's mature Usonian phase. It is one of only six Wright designed buildings (all residences) in Indiana and it is the only example in Tippecanoe County. Because Wright's work during this phase was national in character and scope, the Christian House should be evaluated for national significance. The Christian House meets Criterion Consideration G for several reasons. Frank Lloyd Wright was an acknowledged master, and although he practiced well into 1950s, his works have been thoroughly studied. It is unlikely at this point that Wright's standing as a master will be placed in doubt or that much additional substantive data will be uncovered about the Christian House or other works.

Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959) first earned recognition during his Prairie period from 1900 until 1914. During the teens and twenties Wright suffered a personal tragedy and began an experimental phase of his career. Beginning in the mid 1930s, Wright reemerged as a influential architect, thanks to two major commissions- "Fallingwater" (Edgar Kaufmann House) in 1935 and the Johnson Wax Administration building in 1936. Wright had long hoped to reshape American domestic architecture, and it was at this time that he designed and advocated Broadacre City. The basis of this suburban village proposal was the free-standing single family home on a spacious one acre lot. This was the Usonian House, a relatively inexpensive, practical dwelling intended to harmonize with its site ("Usonia" was Wright's euphonious name for the United States; "Usonian" referred to homes which embody American ideals of free and simple living, in touch with nature, for average middle class families).

Most of Wright's residential work from 1936 until his death in 1959 was Usonian in character. The first Usonian home Wright designed was for Herbert Jacobs near Madison, Wisconsin in 1936. The Jacobs House has the trademarks of Usonian design: modular design, integrated landscaping, no basement (floor slab construction), no garage, banks of glazing opening to the exterior, interior walls of veneered plywood construction, flat roofs, and exterior walls of horizontal boards of brick. These characteristics remained fairly constant.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9

Christian House, Tippecanoe County, Indiana

Wright hoped to design clusters of Usonian homes, but was unable to find such a commission. Instead, these homes remained individual and specialized works. World War II held up residential work, but in the fourteen years after the war, many people turned to Wright to design their home. About 120 Usonian-type houses were designed by him. This mature phase of his career represents a culmination of his organic architecture ideals given new authority by his experience and interest in affordable, but artistic, housing.

The Christian House is a fine representation of a Usonian dwelling. It has all the characteristics of mature Usonian design, but is also unique, as Bruce Brooks Pfeiffer explains:

"In the John Christian house, we once again see all these forces and forms at work, and once again in fresh newness of form and plan, and vitality of individual expression. To study the Christian plan is to find a great many similarities to other Usonian houses, but at the same time we come upon a disposition of spaces and rooms that is totally individual unto itself. It would seem that just at the point where we know what his "system" was, Frank Lloyd Wright continues to surprise us..." (Frank Lloyd Wright Monograph, 1951-1959, Vol. 8.)

Unlike a number of Usonian homes, the Christians chose the complete design package (Wright gave customers their choice, ranging from house planning to drapery selection). Everything from the landscape plan to the picture frames was designed by Wright. The Christian property illustrates Wright's penchant for total organic design in a most complete and intact manner. The Christian House is one of only six Frank Lloyd Wright commissions in Indiana. All are residences; DeRhodes, South Bend, 1906; Armstrong, Ogden Dunes, 1939; Mossberg, South Bend, 1948; Haynes, Ft. Wayne, 1950; and Davis, Marion, 1950. The DeRhodes House is a Prairie Style dwelling and was listed on the National Register as part of West Washington Street Historic District on January 17, 1975. Compared to other Usonian homes throughout the country, the Christian House is of equal or perhaps even greater significance due to its very intact condition. Wright worked with clients throughout the country at this time, and for this reason the Christian House is best evaluated for national significance. Indiana

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10

Christian House, Tippecanoe County, Indiana

had no body of clientele or regions in which Wright developed a body of works such as Illinois, Iowa, or Wisconsin have. This also compels one to evaluate the Christian House in light of other Usonian homes in the United States. The Christian House is an exemplar from an important phase of Wright's career, giving it national significance under Criterion C.

The integrity of the property (house and site) in regard to the original designs, drawings, setting, location, and construction details, as prescribed by the architect, is exceptionally complete. John E. and Catherine E. Christian commissioned Mr. Wright to design the house, worked with him over a period of five years on designs and construction details, have been the sole occupants and have conscientiously maintained rigid adherence to prescribed concepts and ideas. Wright designed the house from 1953 to 1955, and construction was accomplished from 1955 to 1956. The contractor-builder, Mr. A. Frank Woods, was selected to construct the house well before plans became available. He was deeply devoted and dedicated to Mr. Wright's architectural concepts, read widely on Mr. Wright's work, and even visited Taliesin and several finished Wright structures before construction on the Christian home began. Consequently, he took great pride in the perfection of construction details of all aspects of the house and its furnishings. Mr. Wright, because of his busy schedule in his later years, did not visit the site during construction; however, he was always available by phone or visitation to answer questions as they arose. As a check on the builder following the details of the plans and to answer interpretations of the drawings as needed, Mr. Wright's chief engineer, William Wesley Peters, visited the site on numerous occasions and one of Mr. Wright's architect apprentices, Edward Kipta, lived locally and supervised the on site construction for eight months during the more critical stages of the building process.

John E. Christian, Ph.D., is still the owner of the house. Mr. Christian is a professor emeritus of bionucleonics and health sciences at Purdue University.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 11 Christian House, Tippecanoe County, IN

Major Bibliographical References

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- Brooks, H. Allen, "Writings on Wright", The MIT Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts (1981).
- The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, "Frank Lloyd Wright Original Drawings: The John E. Christian Residence, West Lafayette, Indiana", Compiled by The Frank Lloyd Wright Archives, Scottsdale, Arizona (Drawing Numbers 5405.001 thru 5405.020). Twenty-one drawings, the first three of which are colored renditions (1989).
- Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana (Davis, Ann C., Survey Coordinator and Architectural Historian), "Indiana Historical Sites and Structures Inventory - Tippecanoe County Interim Report", Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, Indianapolis, Indiana (1990).
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- Sweeney, Robert L., "Frank Lloyd Wright: An Annotated Bibliography", Hennessey and Ingalls, Inc., Los Angeles, CA (1978).
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- Wright, Frank Lloyd, "The Natural House", Horizon Press, New York, NY (1954).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 12

Christian House, Tippecanoe County, Indiana

Verbal Boundary Description

Lot numbered eight (8) in Woodland Heights Addition to the City of West Lafayette, Indiana, as platted upon part of the east half of the southwest quarter and part of the west half of the southeast quarter of section eighteen (18) township twenty-three (23) north, range four (4) west, and recorded in the office of the County Recorder in Plat Book 6 at page 17. Located in Wabash Township, Tippecanoe County, Indiana

Boundary Jusitication

The verbal boundary description encompasses the entire site which totals one acre and consists of the Christian house, its objects, entrance gate, and the total surrounding landscaping. It is being nominated in its entirety because the total site is an integral part of the Usonian style in terms of Wright's philosophy of promoting pleasing interaction in every day living between indoor and outdoor elements of the overall design.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

(Photographs)

Section number _____ Page 13

Photographs:

The following information is the same for all photographs submitted:

1. Name of Property - Christian, John E.
2. City and State Where Located - West Lafayette, Indiana
3. Name of Photographer - Marsh Davis, Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana
4. Date of Photographs - November 18, 1991
5. Location of Photographic Negatives - Marsh Davis, Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana

(All prints are on fiber-base paper)

Photograph 1

Description of View with Direction of Camera:

The direction of the camera is southwest looking toward the external side of the curved brick wall of the lanai and the terrace area off the living room (northeast facade). Note the three-dimensional copper fascia on the lower roof. This extends all around the house as seen in subsequent photos. The brick chimney is visible.

Photograph 2

Description of View with Direction of Camera:

The direction of the camera is northwest looking toward the southeast terrace area off the living room (southeast facade). The flat copper fascia of the upper roof is visible.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

(Photographs)

Section number _____ Page 14

Photograph 3

Description of View with Direction of Camera:

The direction of the camera is north looking toward the terrace off the living room (southeast facade).

Photograph 4

Description of View with Direction of Camera:

The direction of the camera is east looking toward the bedroom wing and the carport (west facade).

Photograph 5

Description of View with Direction of Camera:

The direction of the camera is southeast looking toward the inside curved wall of the lanai and the outside corner of the dining room. (northwest facade). A close-up of the fascia is in view.

Photograph 6

Description of View with Direction of Camera:

The direction of the camera is southwest looking toward the entrance driveway, entrance gate, and mailbox in a brick planter. A special designed lantern above the planter and a light spike are visible.

Photograph 7

Description of View with Direction of Camera:

The direction of the camera is southeast looking from the entryway of the living room toward the west and south sides. It shows the long built-in seats, bookshelves, indirect lighting, built-in high-fidelity

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

(Photographs)

Section number _____ Page 15

sound cabinet, television tray, stack tables, hassocks, and a portion of the southeast plate glass windows and clerestory windows above the deck with the "SAMARA" perforated board designs, as major components.

Photograph 8**Description of View with Direction of Camera:**

The direction of the camera is south looking from the middle of the living room toward the south and west sides. It shows the long built-in seats, bookshelves, indirect lighting in both the bookshelves and the deck, the deck with the clerestory windows, built-in high-fidelity sound cabinet, stack tables, hassocks, drapes, triangular coffee tables, plants and upholstered furniture, as major components.

Photograph 9**Description of View with Direction of Camera:**

The direction of the camera is southeast looking from the center of the living room toward the southeast exposure of the room. It shows the floor-to-deck fixed glass panes and the glass doors, the deck area, clerestory windows with the perforated board designs, indirect lighting in the decks, the terrace areas, mitered glass corner, furniture as previously described and plants.

Photograph 10**Description of View with Direction of Camera:**

The direction of the camera is north looking from the south end of the living room toward the entrance to the living room, the fireplace, and the dining room area. It shows the deck and clerestory window over the entrance, the fireplace, Philippine mahogany board and batten wall, and in the distance the dining room furniture, as well as additional living room furniture in the foreground and an additional section of the living room deck, clerestory, and indirect lighting.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

(Photographs)

Section number _____ Page 16

Photograph 11

Description of View with Direction of Camera:

The direction of the camera is northwest looking from the center of the living room toward the fireplace. It shows the fireplace hood, the grate, the crane, a portion of the board and batten wall to the right, and in the foreground a portion of the colorundum colored concrete floor.

Photograph 12

Description of View with Direction of Camera:

The direction of the camera is northeast looking into the dining room from the steps which separate this room from the living room. It shows the dining room table and chairs, the lowered ceiling with indirect lighting and the mitered glass corner looking out to the lanai.

Photograph 13

Description of View with Direction of Camera:

The direction of the camera is southeast showing the detail of the dining room chairs and the table, dining room shelving, a small planter, and the northeast brick wall of the room.

Photograph 14

Description of View with Direction of Camera:

The direction of the camera is south looking at the dining room table and chairs, dining room shelving, cabinet, mitered-glass corner, and in the distance the shelving and long built-in seats in the living room.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

(Photographs)

Section number _____ Page 17

Photograph 15

Description of View with Direction of Camera:

The direction of the camera is southwest looking into the workspace from the dining room. It shows the dishwasher with counterspace and cabinets above, dining room shelving and cabinets, telephone station with shelving above, refrigerator, microwave with cabinets below and storage space above, the freezer, a portion of the deck and clerestory windows above, and a portion of the workspace exit into the bedroom hallway.

Photograph 16

Description of View with Direction of Camera:

The direction of the camera is northwest looking down the bedroom hallway toward the guest bedroom. It shows the board and batten walls, the entrance to the master bathroom on the left, the entrance to the master bedroom on the right, the entrance to the nursery on the left and opposite that a storage wall. At the end of the hallway is the entrance to the guest bedroom and beyond that a bedside table and a Frank Lloyd Wright lamp. The photograph shows the low ceiling with indirect lights.

Photograph 17

Description of View with Direction of Camera:

The direction of the camera is northeast. It is taken from the master bathroom looking across the hall into the master bedroom. It shows the board and batten walls, a corner of the bathtub and a corner of the bedside table, bed, and a Frank Lloyd Wright chair.

Photograph 18

Description of View with Direction of Camera:

The direction of the camera is southwest taken from one corner of the master bedroom. It shows the bed, two bedside lamp tables, closet doors with storage area above, the deck with indirect lighting and the clerestory with the perforated board designs. The board and batten wall above the bed is detailed.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

(Photographs)

Section number _____ Page 18

Photograph 19

Description of View with Direction of Camera:

The direction of the camera is northeast looking from the guest bedroom entry door toward the outside lanai area. It shows the corner of a bed, closet doors, built-in dressing table, mirror, mitered glass corner, drapes, and a small planter. Beyond the glass, the north brick wall of the lanai is visible.

Photograph 20

Description of View with Direction of Camera:

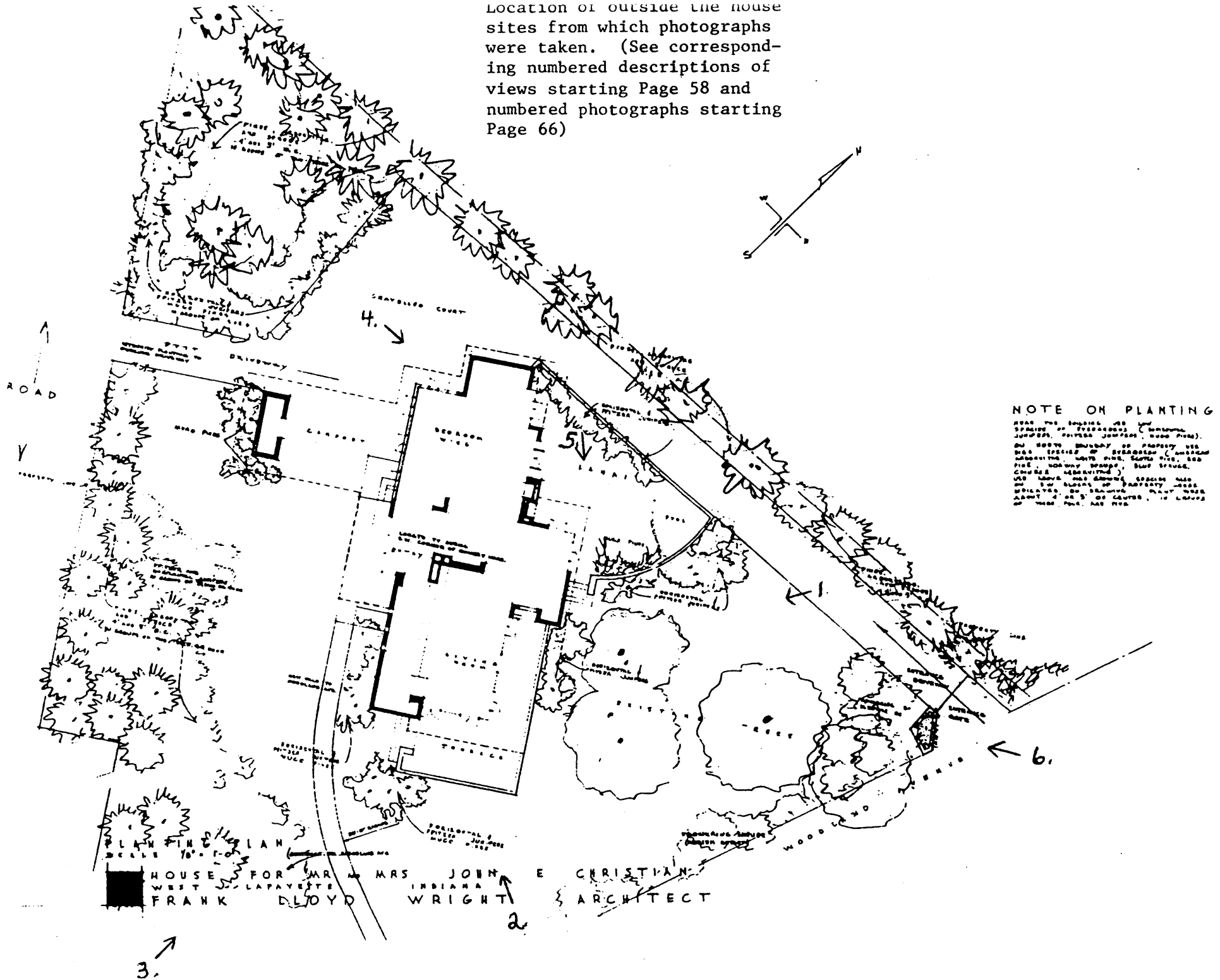
The direction of the camera is south looking across the guest bedroom. It shows a bed, bedside table, lamp, exit door to the hallway, board and batten walls, and a view into the guest bathroom through the open door. The guest bathroom lavatory, a mirror, built-in shelving, indirect lighting, and a small waste container are in view.

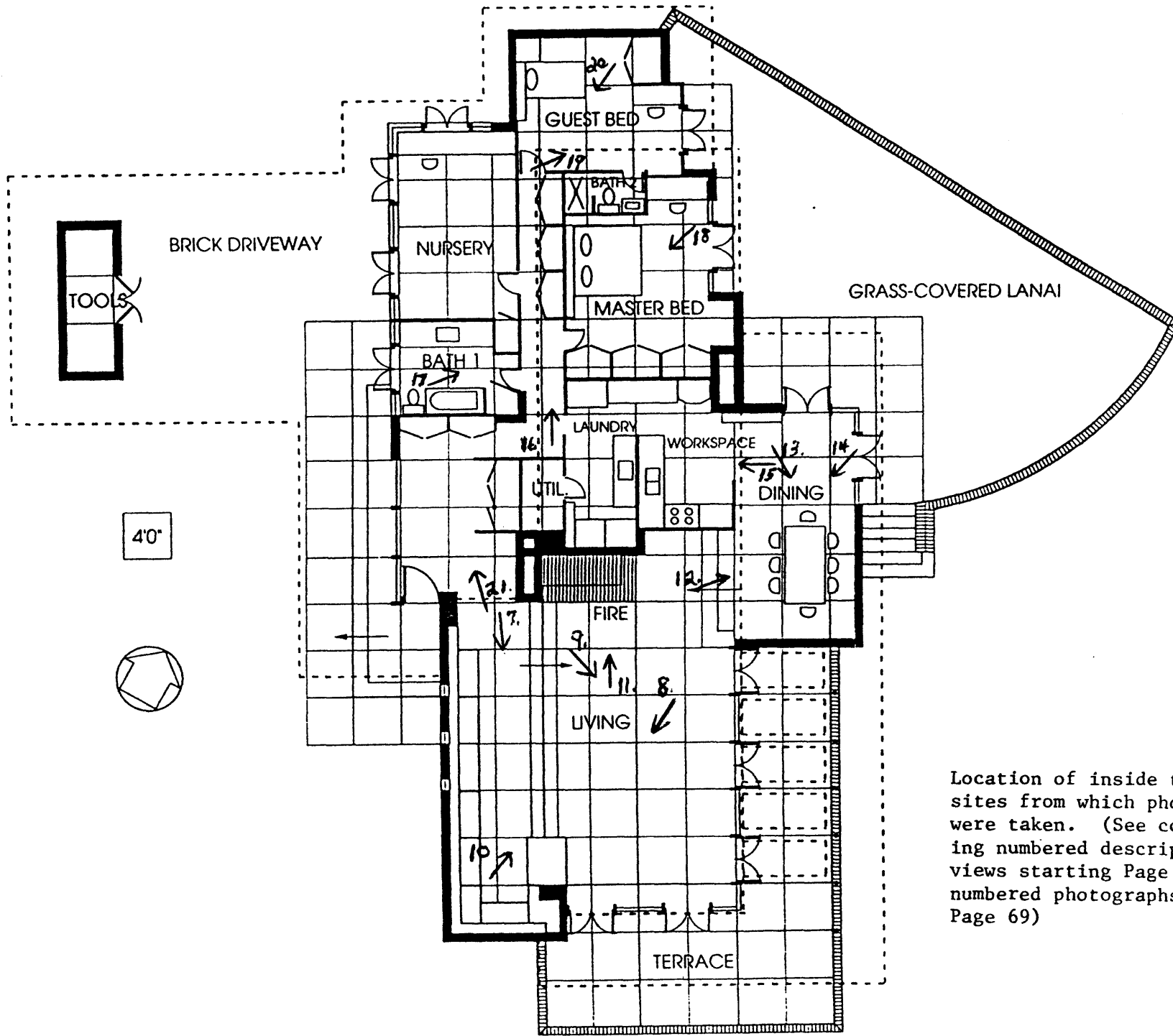
Photograph 21

Description of View with Direction of Camera:

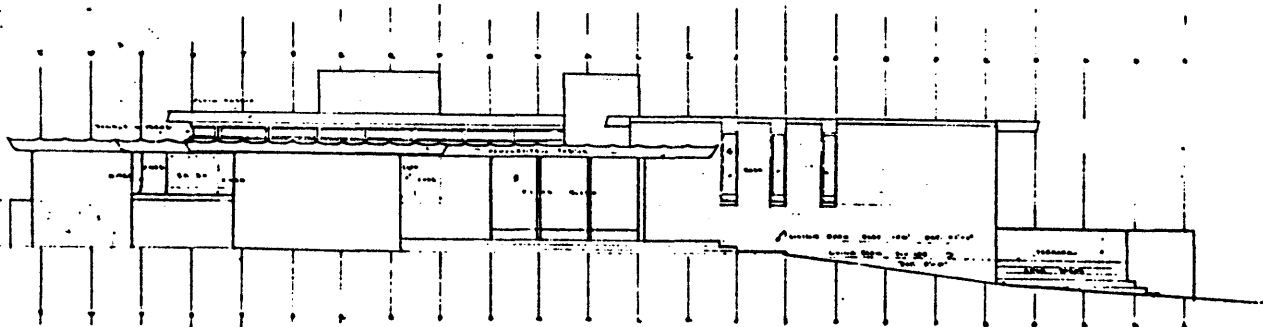
The direction of the camera is northwest looking from the living room entrance across the entry area. The photograph shows the cushions on two chairs on the right, board and batten wall of closet space, a television table, indirect lighting, doors to a storage area, drapes and fixed glass panes. Beyond the glass there is a view of the carport area plus the corner of a brick wall enclosing the garden tool storage space.

Location of outside the house sites from which photographs were taken. (See corresponding numbered descriptions of views starting Page 58 and numbered photographs starting Page 66)

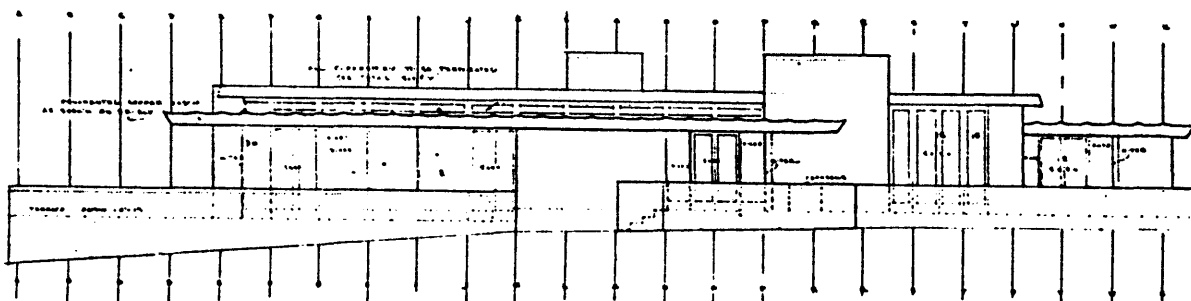




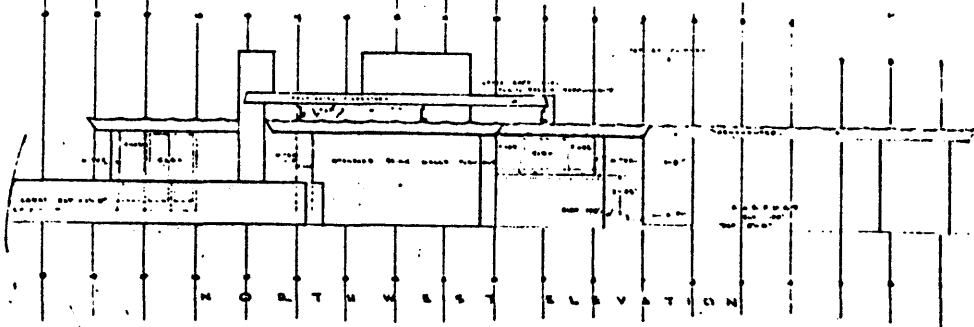
Location of inside the house sites from which photographs were taken. (See corresponding numbered descriptions of views starting Page 58 and numbered photographs starting Page 69)



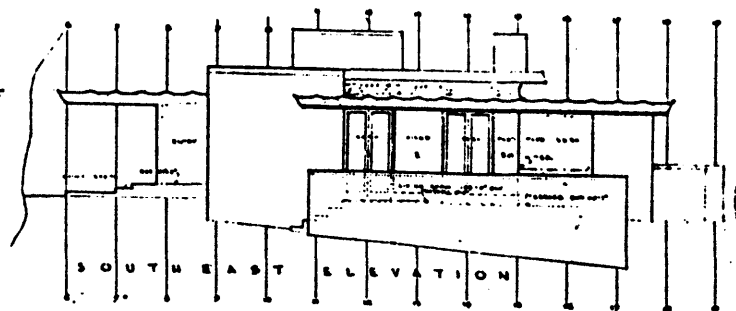
SOUTH WEST ELEVATION



NORTH EAST ELEVATION



NORTH WEST ELEVATION

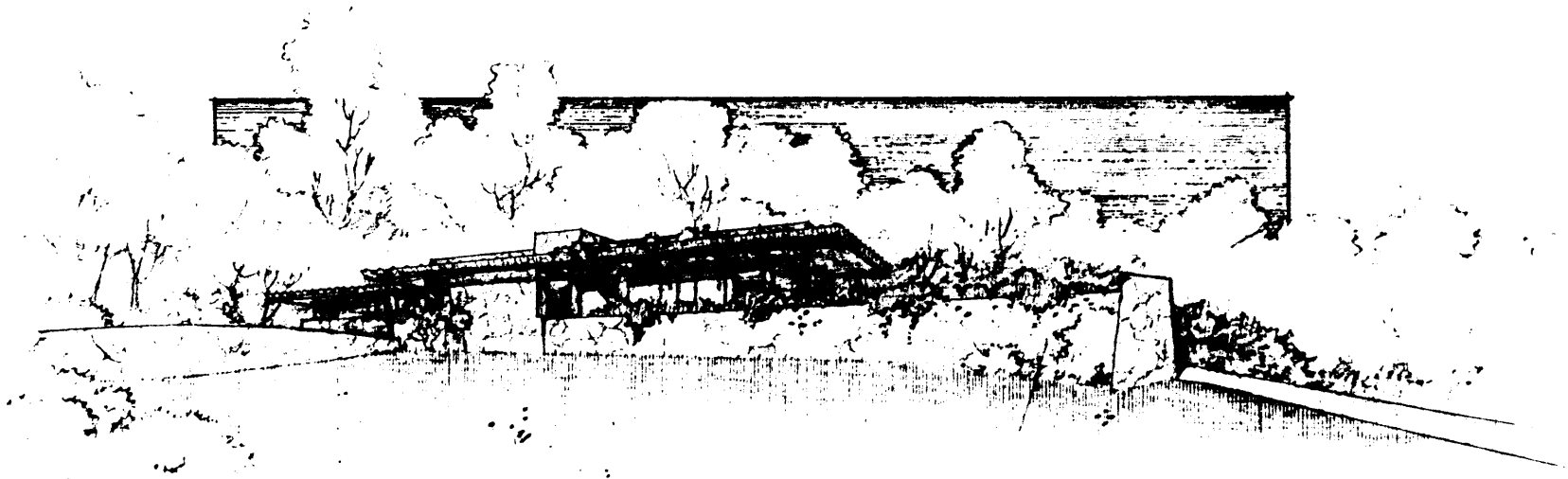


SOUTH EAST ELEVATIONS

HOUSE FOR MR & MRS JOHN E CHRISTIAN
WEST LAFAYETTE INDIANA
FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT ARCHITECT

SHEET 4
SCALE 1/2" = 1'-0"
ELEVATIONS

REVISED PLAN SET



VIEW FROM SOUTHEAST
HOUSE FOR MR. AND MRS. JOHN E. CHRISTIAN
WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA
FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT ARCHITECT