

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0685461

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED <b>OCT 2 1978</b>	DATE ENTERED <b>DEC 8 1978</b>

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC Broad Margin

AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
9 West Avondale Drive

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Greenville

VICINITY OF

#4

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

South Carolina

CODE  
045

COUNTY  
Greenville

CODE  
045

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Roy A. and Caryl Palmer

STREET & NUMBER  
9 West Avondale Drive

CITY, TOWN

Greenville

VICINITY OF

STATE  
South Carolina

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Greenville County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  
East North Street

CITY, TOWN

Greenville

STATE  
South Carolina

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE  
1973 (update)       FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS South Carolina Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN  
Columbia      STATE  
South Carolina

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED (minimal)	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated near downtown Greenville, South Carolina, Broad Margin is a private residence designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. Completed in 1954, the house was named "Broad Margin" by Wright.

The structure is located on a two-acre sloping lot which is heavily wooded and is bordered by two creeks. Mr. Wright so located the house that it cannot be seen from the street or any other residences in the area. The house is constructed into the slope of the property and the roofline begins at the ground level on the northern side. Hence, upon entering the property from the north, only the roofline is visible. Upon reaching the house level, it becomes evident that the house projects out of the earth and is about 20' above ground level (at the bottom of the slope).

The structure is built of 12" thick steel-reinforced concrete walls and cypress wood. Its roof has a low pitch and has up to an 8' overhang on all sides except the northern side (where there is only a 2' overhang). A wood molding with a type of "dentil" design, extends along the soffit. The structure has concrete and stone walls. Windows 48" high extend continuously along three sides of the house.

The entrance, located at the northeast corner, opens into a hall which serves as a "spine" to the house, from which rooms extend downhill (to the south). The entrance thus provides easy access to every part of the house, and each room is open to direct sunlight and an exterior view.

The floors are highly polished red-colored concrete slabs, with copper pipes running through them. Hot water is circulated through these pipes to provide heating. Cypress boards form the ceilings, and two-way lights are located in overhead decks. Cypress is also used for the walls.

The main area of the house features a large living area and a smaller dining area. There is a massive stone fireplace, and a built-in couch is also notable. Located adjacent to the dining area is a small kitchen with an 18' high ceiling which culminates in a skylight. These three rooms form the core of the house, while a wing which projects to the west contains two baths and three bedrooms.

Throughout the house almost all of the furniture is of cypress and was specifically designed for the house. All of the hardware throughout the house is solid brass, and all of the doors, windows, and light fixtures were made on the site out of heart cypress.

The structure has only been altered by the replacement of a portion of the kitchen cabinets (damaged by fire). Additionally, although Wright's plans called for a cedar shingle roof, it is covered by asphalt shingles. The owners hope to eventually roof the structure according to the original plans.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES                      1954                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT                      Frank Lloyd Wright

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Broad Margin gains its primary significance from the fact that Frank Lloyd Wright was its architect. Designed in 1951 and completed in 1954, the house is a fine example of Wright's natural (or "Usonian") homes. This is one of less than 20 of Wright's buildings in the Southeast and one of only two in South Carolina. (The other Wright building in South Carolina is Auldbrass, Beaufort County, National Register of Historic Places, 1976).

The house is a case study for Wright's dictum: "Shelter should be the essential look of any dwelling."<sup>1</sup> Broad Margin's massive roof, native stone walls and massive stone chimney reflect this idea. Other construction techniques used in the structure include heated concrete floors and walls assembled with brass screws instead of nails. These unique residential building methods are exemplary of Wright's architectural philosophy as well as his attention to detail.

The heating system is provided by hot water circulated through copper pipes in the concrete floor. The heat warms objects rather than the air, eliminating heat loss through windows and other openings.

Broad Margin is the name given to the property by Wright. The term comes from Thoreau's Walden in which he states, "I love a broad margin to my life." The structure consists of about 1900 square feet of living space in addition to a carport, tool storage area, and patio. Broad Margin exemplifies Wright's love for natural materials, his desire for open planning and his sense of the natural surroundings. His attempts to end the distinction between interior and exterior space and to create an architecture having integrity are visible in Broad Margin.

The fifty-year age requirement for National Register status should be waived for Broad Margin for the following reasons:

1. the architect was Frank Lloyd Wright,
2. this is one of only two Wright houses located in the State of South Carolina, and
3. the unique design and construction techniques of the house merit this recognition.

<sup>1</sup>"Three New Houses by Frank Lloyd Wright," House and Home Magazine, August 1958.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Greenville News/Piedmont, October 1958.

Kaufmann, Edgar and Ben Raeburn, eds. Frank Lloyd Wright: Writings and Buildings.  
New York: Horizon Press, 1960, pp. 334-335.

continued

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2

QUADRANGLE NAME Greenville

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62,500

UTM REFERENCES

377A 17 37,19,0,0 3,8,5,9,6,5,0  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is bounded on the east by property belonging to Joe Heller, on the south by Richland Creek, on the west by the Francis Hipp Estate, and on the north by West Avondale Drive.

## LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Georgianna Graham, Appalachian Council of Governments  
Kappy McNulty

Roy Palmer, Owner

ORGANIZATION

DATE

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

July 31, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

P.O. Box 11,669, Capitol Station

(803) 758-5816

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Columbia

South Carolina

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Charles E. Lee*

TITLE Charles E. Lee  
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

9/19/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12-8-78

ATTEST: *Janet H. Malone*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12/8/78

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Storer, William A. The Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright, A Complete Catalog.  
Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1974.

Taped interview with Misses Charlcy and Gabrielle Austin, 1977. In the  
possession of Roy A. Palmer.

"Three New Houses by Frank Lloyd Wright." House and Home Magazine. August 1958.

Wright, Frank Lloyd. "House for the Misses Charlcy V. and Gabrielle Austin,"  
(architectural plans), 1951.

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