

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

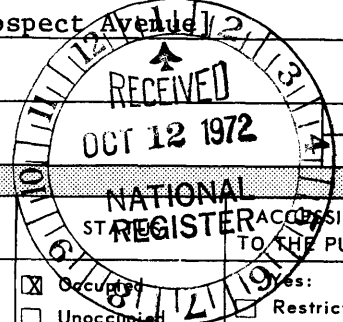
STATE: Wisconsin	
COUNTY: Dane	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 14 1973

1. NAME

COMMON: "Airplane" House	Congressmen to be notified: Sen. William Proxmire
AND/OR HISTORIC: Gilmore, Eugene A., House	Sen. Gaylord A. Nelson Rep. Robert W. Kastenmeier (2nd Cong. Dist.)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 120 Ely Place [Originally listed as 143 North Prospect Avenue]		
CITY OR TOWN: Madison		
STATE: Wisconsin	CODE: 55	COUNTY: Dane
		CODE: 025



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments Single family house

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mrs. Howard Weiss		
STREET AND NUMBER: 120 Ely Place		
CITY OR TOWN: Madison	STATE: Wisconsin	CODE: 55

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Dane County Register of Deeds, City-County Building		
STREET AND NUMBER: 210 Monona Avenue		
CITY OR TOWN: Madison	STATE: Wisconsin	CODE: 55

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Survey of the Madison Landmarks Commission		
DATE OF SURVEY: 1971 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local		
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: City Planning Department, Room 414		
STREET AND NUMBER: 210 Monona Avenue		
CITY OR TOWN: Madison	STATE: Wisconsin	CODE: 55

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Wisconsin	FOR NPS USE ONLY
COUNTY: Dane	
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

[Statement prepared by Gordon Orr for the City of Madison Landmarks Commission. Material in brackets added for clarification.]

The Eugene A. Gilmore House is constructed in a manner typical of the best of the Prairie School architecture. The house exhibits strong horizontal lines by virtue of extended walls, sweeping eaves and windows grouped together in horizontal bands. Wood trim, set against the stucco, encircles the house, further emphasizing the feeling of a building united with the site. The casement windows contain lights with geometrical patterns of leaded glass. The skin-effect of stucco, as an exterior material, provides sharp junctures at the corners of the building, and where building forms join one another. The batten-seam roof of copper uses a material that Frank Lloyd Wright was fond of, although found only infrequently in his homes. Usually less expensive materials with shorter lives were used.

The house has remained virtually unchanged except for a minor alteration at the front entrance, and the addition of a three-car garage to the rear, all constructed in 1929 and designed by the firm of Law, Law and Potter [a local Madison architectural firm now called Law, Law, Potter and Nystrom.] The altered front entrance now allows one to enter the house at the main level. Originally one entered the house via a ground-level entrance, similar to the forms found in the Heurtley House (Oak Park, Illinois, 1902) and the Robie House (Chicago, Illinois, 1909), to cite several of the better-known examples,¹ raising the main living-room floor one-half story above the surrounding grade. The garage addition to the rear cannot be sighted from Ely Place.

The Gilmore House is recognized by Manson as among those [houses] that were created by Frank Lloyd Wright during the "heyday" of Prairie homes. He likens the Gilmore House to the Hardy House in Racine as "dramatically related to the site."²

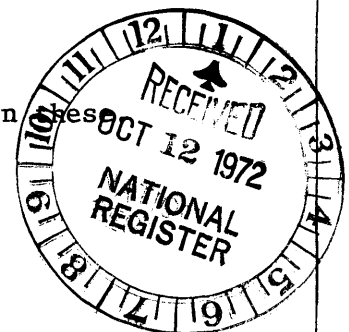
This house fulfills the criteria found in Gebhard, Brooks, Manson and Hitchcock³ to classify it as one of the finer examples of this architectural form so unique to the Midwest and so specifically the creation of fertile architects that produced an American architecture related to the characteristics of their land...the prairie.

¹Manson, p. 126, and pp. 198-200 for descriptions of these houses.

²Ibid, p. 185; and Hitchcock, p. 40.

³See "Major Bibliographical References" for information on these

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

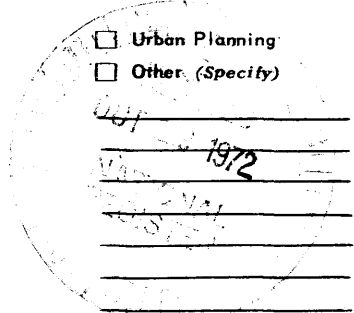
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1908

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

[Statement prepared by Gordon Orr, AIA, for the City of Madison Landmarks Commission. Bracketed material added for clarification.]

The Eugene A. Gilmore House stands as the most significant example of Prairie architecture in Madison. While many minds share in the development of Prairie architecture, it was Frank Lloyd Wright who continuously espoused this new form in his work, his talks, and his writings. Prairie architecture was the form that would relate the sweeping horizontals that nature had given to the complete rejection of prevailing architectural forms derived from past historical styles. Some midwestern architects courageously swam against the tide in developing this form.

As the Prairie Style matured under the hand of Frank Lloyd Wright, a particular form became identified with his work. The Gilmore House is indicative of this form, with its feeling of horizontality, suggested by sweeping roof overhangs and horizontal trim members set in the stucco girding the structure. Groups of casement windows create a linear pattern. A freshness of thought is found in the use of simple geometric forms combined in an understandable composition, the use of exterior materials, such as stucco, which emphasizes the "skin" effect of the wall and creates sharp creases at the intersection of wall planes. Decoration is limited to the geometric leaded glass patterns set within the windows. All of these characteristics have been treated by scholars of American architectural history.

The Gilmore House represents an exemplary piece of architecture created by one of America's greatest architects. In acknowledging the great contribution that Wright has made to American architecture, one would also seek an example of his work in the city [Madison] that was home and school to him for a portion of his life. Madison has several such works, but the Gilmore House stands as the finest example of Prairie architecture from his hand for many miles around. It must be recognized that the Gilmore House is a dual contribution to Madison's architectural heritage: it is an excellent example of Prairie architecture and it is an example of Frank Lloyd Wright's work.

The Eugene A. Gilmore House was built in 1908 for Professor Eugene A. Gilmore of the faculty of the University of Wisconsin. The house was occupied by Professor Gilmore and his wife, Blanche, until about 1922 when Phi Chi fraternity occupied the building. In 1929 Mr. and Mrs. Howard Weiss

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Manson, Grant Carpenter, "Frank Lloyd Wright to 1910, the First Golden Age," Reinhold Publishing Co., New York, 1958. Fig. 125B, pp. 184-185.
2. Hitchcock, Henry Russell, "In the Nature of Materials, the Buildings of Frank Lloyd Wright, 1887-1941," Duell Sloan & Pierce, New York, 1942. Fig. 157, p. 40.
3. Brooks, H. Allen, unpublished PhD dissertation, "The Prairie School, the American Spirit in Midwestern Architecture, 1893-1916," Northwestern University, 1957.
4. Kaufmann, Edgar, & Raeburn, Ben, eds., "Frank Lloyd Wright: Writings and Buildings," Horizon Press, 1960, p. 338.

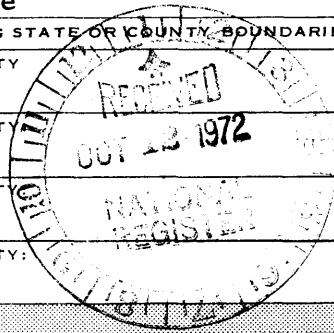
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		N43 ° 04 ' 15 "	W89 ° 25 ' 06 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **.3 acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Jeffrey M. Dean, State Preservation Planner

ORGANIZATION: **State Historical Society of Wisconsin** DATE: **June 9, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:
816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Madison** STATE: **Wisconsin** CODE: **55**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name James Morton Smith
James Morton Smith

Title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Date OCT 6 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert M. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 3/14/73

ATTEST: [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date 3.8.73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Wisconsin	
COUNTY	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 14 1973

(Number all entries)

(8) Gilmore, Eugene A., House

purchased the house. In 1911 Professor Edward C. Elliott and his wife, Elizabeth, also resided with the Gilmores while the Prairie Style house next door, designed by Claude and Starck [a local Prairie-Style architectural firm no longer in existence] was built.

Addendum. [Since Mr. Orr prepared the preceding statement, additional information about Eugene Gilmore has come to light in Leonard Eaton's book, Frank Lloyd Wright and Howard Van Doren Shaw: Two Chicago Architects and Their Clients. The following information is from that book.]

"Of all Wright's early clients Eugene A. Gilmore probably had the greatest impact on American life in the twentieth century. While the Robies, Martins, and Coonleys are known to history only through their connection with Wright, Gilmore occupies a small but secure place of his own making."¹

Professor Gilmore was known as a dynamic administrator who was able to organize everything he touched with a Midas-like efficiency. He attended the Harvard Law School, where he contributed to the Harvard Law Review and installed a card catalogue system to keep student records straight. He took his LL.B. there in 1899 and, in 1902, came to the University of Wisconsin Law School as an assistant professor, serving later as acting dean in 1912-13. In 1919-20 he was president of the Association of American Law Schools, and in 1922 he was appointed Vice-Governor of the Philippines by President Harding, serving there eight years. In 1930 he became dean of the University of Iowa Law School, where he was named university president in 1934. He died in Iowa City in 1953 at the age of eighty-two.

Professor Gilmore and his wife hired Wright to design their house after perusing the spring 1908 issue of Architectural Record, which was devoted to Wright's work, and upon the advice of faculty friends. They had previously purchased a 120-by-200 foot site in western Madison, and asked Wright to build a house within their \$8,000 budget. During the design process Mrs. Gilmore visited Wright in his Oak Park studio. The house cost \$2,000 more than the budget allowed because of difficulty the carpenters had with such unfamiliar construction. Gilmore, himself, supervised the construction, and Wright visited the site only three times.

¹Eaton, p. 118.

