

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 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. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Weidlinger, Paul and Madeleine House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 54 Valley Road not for publication

city or town Wellfleet vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Barnstable code 001 zip code 02667

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 ___ local

Robert L. Patton, Deputy FPO
Signature of certifying official/Title
National Park Service
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

January 10, 2014
Date

In my opinion, the property meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Berna Surin
Signature of commenting official
STPO
Title

9/20/12
Date
Massachusetts Historical Commission
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register

other (explain:) _____

Patrick Andrews
Signature of the Keeper

2/25/2014
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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	district
0	0	site
0	0	structure
0	0	object
1	0	Total

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

Mid-Twentieth-Century Modern Residential
Architecture on Outer Cape Cod 1929 – 1979

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

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: WOOD; CONCRETE
walls: WOOD; Plywood
roof: ASPHALT
other: _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Paul and Madeleine Weidlinger House (LCS No. 756828) is an elevated, box-shaped Modern style building designed by pioneering structural engineer Paul Weidlinger in 1954 for use as his own vacation residence. The house is located in a remote section of Wellfleet, Massachusetts and is within the boundaries of the Cape Cod National Seashore. It exhibits a precise, flat-roofed rectangular form raised high above the steeply sloping terrain by wood posts secured in concrete footings. Weidlinger employed a spaced-beam variation of a plank and beam structural system and light-weight, textured (T-111) plywood walls. The frame is exposed on the south half of the exterior where a narrow, wrap-around porch is recessed within the rectangular volume of the house.

Narrative Description

Setting

The Weidlinger house is secluded at the waterfront edge of a 4.1-acre woodland lot on Higgins Pond in the northeast corner of Wellfleet. The boundaries of the irregularly shaped property follow the undulating contours of Thoreau Way, Valley Road and Nor'west Road to the east and abut approximately 300 feet of the pond to the west. The approach to the house requires a leisurely pace and highlights the isolated, natural qualities of its setting. A dirt driveway cut through natural pitch pine forest extends a few hundred feet west from Valley Road before turning north and beginning a long, dramatic descent parallel to the house. Views of the house through the trees become clearer near the foot of the hillside. The house is sited at the northwest corner of the property with its formal side facing east toward the driveway and the west elevation oriented to maximize views of the pond. The terrain beneath the house slopes from north to south (opposite of the driveway slope), leaving the south end of the building perched 10 feet above grade. Fallen pine needles and native grass and moss cover most of the land on the property. The Weidlinger House is located among a strand of Modern style houses between the kettle ponds and ocean coastline at the periphery of Wellfleet. Besides its private pond-front access, the property has deeded privileges to a shared beach located nearby between Higgins and Gull ponds. No neighboring houses or other development interrupt the scenic views from the Weidlinger property.

Exterior

Weidlinger designed his vacation house as a construction-efficient, pure geometric form that incorporates exterior living space within the structural frame. The house measures 46 by 30 feet and is visually divided by the placement of the exterior walls, which either form or are recessed from the building's edge. The north half of the house is built out to the perimeter of the frame and is flush with the roofline on the primary elevations. Some of the exposed floor joists under this end of the house (which is closer to grade) rest directly on concrete block piers and a transverse concrete block wall at the northeast corner. The south half of the house has an open quality achieved through the inclusion of the wrap-around porch sheltered beneath deep overhanging eaves and the elevation of the house high above grade. Views of the pond continue unblocked through the foundation posts. White paint on the T-111 covering the south half of the house enhances its airy feeling, while the more enclosed portion of the house is stained a darker sand-gray color.

The lightweight structural system of the Weidlinger house minimizes the amount of materials required for construction, while resisting wind force. It consists of east-west laid, 2-inch by 10-inch board, spaced beams that are joined to the sides of the posts with lag bolts. The beams form five equal-sized bays and are each supported by rows of four posts. Lapped extensions of the roof beams cantilever out to support the exposed roof eaves and similarly extended floor beams clamp suspended, spaced posts that form the structure of the porch railings. The structure is covered by a flat, built-up roof with asphalt and gravel over unpainted pine boards. Limited framing members and narrow walls sheathed in 4-foot-wide panels of T-111 reduce the dead load of the building. Cross-bracing in the form of X-shaped guy wires extends north-

south between select spans of posts, adding stability to the foundation. An approximately 4-foot-wide storage shed is enclosed discreetly beneath the house.

The facade (east elevation) of the Weidlinger house is defined by its approach, which celebrates the lofted position of the building among the trees. A plank ramp flanked by post-and-rope railings angles acutely past the more visually solid north end of the house up to the porch and a near-center main entrance. The south half of the building projects a couple feet farther out from the north half on the facade allowing for the construction of a solid privacy wall adjacent to the ramp. The wall shields a deeply recessed main entrance with an exterior foyer that is outfitted with a built-in wood slat bench. It contains solid wood door painted "Breuer blue" (cobalt) flanked by a horizontal, single-pane, aluminum sliding window. A similar, secondary entrance is located at the south end of the facade and is accessed from the porch, which features a porous railing made from wire mesh and 2-inch by 4-inch plank rails.

The porch extends across the north elevation and is entirely cantilevered, seemingly floating over the landscape. This section of the porch is enclosed with screens, although several of them are missing or torn. Screen doors at either end allow for continuous exterior circulation around the south side of the house. The porch continues across half of the west (rear) elevation before terminating at a plywood-covered door opening leading into the north half of house. Bands of vertical casement windows are located in four of the bays along the west elevation and a third "Breuer blue" door at the north end is accessed from a freestanding platform deck set at grade. The north elevation is blank with the exception of two compact aluminum sliding windows near the top of the wall. A stove pipe and low vents, also painted "Breuer blue" are visible on the roof.

Interior

The Weidlinger house contains approximately 1,380 square feet that is divided into functional zones. The main entrance leads into an open living room in the south half of the house. Sistered, spaced beams span the 20-foot depth of the room and carry weight displaced by an intentionally absent row of posts. Tall casement windows and a fully glazed plate glass wall light the space and frame views of the surrounding landscape. The glazed wall is offset by a rectangular brick chimney with a cylindrical flue that forms a sculptural element in the north end of the room. The chimney features a long red-orange brick hearth, which continues under an attached shelving unit that partially blocks the view of the living room from the main entrance. Painted T-111 plywood covers the wall behind the chimney. A half wall separates a compact galley kitchen and adjacent laundry room that define a workspace in the southeast corner of the house.

The north half of the house is accessed by a short double-loaded corridor originating between the living room and main entrance. Two bedrooms on the west side of the hall have exterior doors that open to the porch and at-grade deck with views of the pond. A third bedroom and bathroom flank the east side of the hall. The framing is less visible in the north half of the house, which contains more partition walls. Finishes throughout the house are informal and consist primarily of drywall and red oak floors. The kitchen and bathroom incorporate vinyl tile floors for easy maintenance. Each room contains simple, open built-in shelving and the bedrooms include built-in desks. The house is equipped with an original surround-sound system, pendant light fixtures, and original Arnold-brand red cabinets.

Alterations

Alterations to the Weidlinger house are primarily related to necessary repairs or ongoing use during the late twentieth century. The most substantial change involved replacement of two pairs of metal sliding doors on the west elevation with tall wood casement windows in the mid-1980s. The current window openings still frame the view of the pond, but do not provide the seamless connection between the interior and exterior as the sliding doors, which formed a glazed wall. The adjacent glazed wall is intact. Minor exterior alterations include the removal of a hung swing on the north side of the porch and the installation of new joists and blocking in the floor deck structure. A small portion of roof and trim deteriorated after a tree fell on the southwest corner of the house. Interior alterations consist of the painting of the chimney and T-111 wall behind it and modest updating of the bathroom fixtures.

Integrity

The Paul and Madeleine Weidlinger House retains its original feeling and appearance as a structurally efficient, minimalist Modern style vacation home sited to enhance the experience of its natural Outer Cape Cod setting. The innovative plank and beam frame, crisp rectangular volume, and zoned interior layout are intact as designed by Paul Weidlinger. Despite the replacement of the full-height sliding doors, the house continues to demonstrate a prevalent integration of interior and exterior living space. Except for limited exterior wood loss from tree damage and moisture, all of the original materials and building features comprising the house are extant. The house is complete with its approach, elevated porch, and built-in furniture.

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- RECREATION
- SOCIAL HISTORY
- ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1954-1979

Significant Dates

1954: House constructed

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Weidlinger, Paul (Architect)

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance for the Paul and Madeleine Weidlinger House begins in 1954 when the house was erected, and extends to 1979, the end of the Mid-Twentieth-Century Modern Residential Architecture on Outer Cape Cod 1929 – 1979 MPDF. This timeframe encompasses the Weidlinger family’s ownership of the property from 1954 to 1971 and Madeleine Weidlinger’s lifetime tenancy of the property until 1979.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

The end date of the period of significance meets Criteria Consideration G as part of the exceptional significance of the development of mid-twentieth-century Modern architecture on Outer Cape Cod, as discussed in the MPDF.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Paul and Madeleine Weidlinger House is eligible for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C at the state level for its associations with the development of recreational residences, cultivation of a progressive social network, and the dissemination of Modern style architecture on Outer Cape Cod during the mid-twentieth century. The building possesses significance under Criterion A in the areas of Recreation and Social History for its associations with the postwar community of intellectuals and designers that fostered the construction of single-family, Modern style vacation houses in the underdeveloped peripheries of the Outer Cape towns. The Weidlinger house demonstrates the productive interaction between leaders of Modernism that occurred on the Outer Cape, through internationally renowned structural engineer Paul Weidlinger's affiliations with distinguished figures such as Marcel Breuer, Serge Chermayeff, Le Corbusier, and Eero Saarinen. The building possesses significance under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as the holistic design work of master structural engineer Paul Weidlinger that expresses progressive construction concepts merged with Bauhaus and Corbusian doctrine. Weidlinger operated his own prolific engineering practice from 1949 to his retirement in 1993, and collaborated with numerous influential architects to produce some of the country's most celebrated mid-twentieth-century Modern buildings. Weidlinger's Outer Cape vacation house is a rare example of his small-scale work and of a building solely designed by him.

The Weidlinger House meets the requirements for listing under the Mid-Twentieth-Century Modern Residential Architecture on Outer Cape Cod, 1929 – 1979 and Mid-Twentieth-Century Modern Residential Architecture in Massachusetts, 1929 – 1979 historic contexts; and property type Number F.1 Box as defined in the Mid-Twentieth-Century Modern Residential Architecture on Outer Cape Cod 1929 – 1979 Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF). The house exhibits the Box property type through its purist, flat-roofed, narrow rectangular form, structural ingenuity, and siting as an object floating above the natural landscape. It satisfies the registration requirements of the Box type through its associations with nationally recognized structural engineer, Paul Weidlinger and his application of Modern design principles in consultation with internationally accomplished modernist architects. Weidlinger's original Modern style design is intact and is evident in the lightweight structural system he employed as a method of creating unencumbered walls and an open floor plan. The house retains its original sloped pond-side setting, form, structure, materials, plan, and finishes.

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

Area of Significance: Criterion A

Recreation and Social History

The Paul and Madeleine Weidlinger House exemplifies the rapid postwar development of single-family vacation housing on Outer Cape Cod and the creative associations between members of the Modernist community who summered there during the mid-twentieth century. The development of Paul Weidlinger's internationally successful career in engineering is correlated to his relationships with significant Modern designers such as Marcel Breuer, Serge Chermayeff, Walter Gropius, Olav Hammarstrom, Gyorgy Kepes, Le Corbusier, Laszlo Maholy-Nagy, and Eero Saarinen, most of whom had a seasonal presence on the Outer Cape (Weidlinger Associates 20010a). Marcel Breuer, who Weidlinger knew as a close personal friend, invited him to Wellfleet and encouraged him to build a recreational house there. Approximately 160 Modern residences were erected on the Outer Cape during the mid-twentieth century, including the strand of Modern houses between the kettle ponds and coastline where the Weidlinger house is located.

Paul Weidlinger (1914–1999), originally from Budapest, Hungary, experienced the birth of mid-twentieth-century Modernism in Europe and contributed to the dissemination of Modern design in the United States after emigrating in 1943. He attended the Technical Institute in Brno, Czechoslovakia and graduated from the Swiss Polytechnic Institute in 1937, the same year that Marcel Breuer joined Bauhaus founder Walter Gropius at the Harvard Graduate School of Design (GSD) in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Weidlinger subsequently apprenticed with pioneering Swiss-born Modern

architect Le Corbusier (Charles-Édouard Jeanneret-Gris, 1887–1965), presumably in France (Levy 1999). At the onset of World War II in 1939, Weidlinger married his wife, Madeleine (b. 1912 in Switzerland) and relocated to La Paz, Bolivia, where he spent four years designing dams and teaching engineering at the San Andres University. Weidlinger moved to the United States when he was 29 and found employment with various aircraft and housing companies before settling in New York City (Levy 1999). At some point during the early part of his career he apprenticed with Hungarian-born painter and Bauhaus professor Laszlo Moholy-Nagy (1895–1946) who directed the “New Bauhaus” school and Institute of Design (later Illinois Institute of Technology) in Chicago.ⁱ

Weidlinger’s connections to other Jewish-Hungarian émigrés helped him secure positions as an adjunct lecturer at the GSD and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, and exposed him to the Outer Cape community (Levy 1999). His relationship with architect Marcel Breuer proved especially advantageous. Breuer (1902–1981), grew up in Pècs, Hungary, and taught at the Bauhaus and the GSD before ending his professional partnership with Walter Gropius to establish his own architectural practice in New York City in 1941. Breuer’s friend, notable painter/light sculptor Gyorgy Kepes (1906–2001) was from Selyp, Hungary and immigrated to the United States the same year as Breuer (1937) to join Moholy-Nagy as a professor at the “New Bauhaus.” Kepes remained at the New Bauhaus until 1943, when Russian-born architect/colorist painter Serge Chermayeff (1900–1996) invited him to teach graphic arts at Brooklyn College in New York. Five years later, Kepes established a visual design curriculum (later known as the Center for Advanced Visual Studies) at MIT. Chermayeff later left Brooklyn College to teach with Maholy-Nagy at Chicago’s Institute of Design from 1946 to 1951 and returned to the east coast in 1952, when he established an architectural practice in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He later taught at MIT and Yale University in Connecticut.

When Weidlinger arrived in Massachusetts, urban intellectuals from greater Boston and New York were continuing the well-established regional recreation tradition of summering on the Outer Cape. Serge Chermayeff was the first European Modernist to begin visiting the Outer Cape in 1944 and had been attracted there by Gropius and Breuer’s former GSD student, Jack Phillips. Chermayeff subsequently attracted Breuer and Kepes and designed his own recreational residence on Slough Pond in Truro in 1952. Breuer designed vacation houses on Higgins and Long ponds in Wellfleet for himself and Kepes from 1948 to 1949. At the same time, Finnish architect Olav Hammarstrom (1906–2002) immigrated to the United States to work on a project at MIT with Alvar Aalto (1898–1976), who was employed as an adjunct architectural faculty there. Hammarstrom erected his personal vacation house in close proximity to Higgins Pond in 1952. Breuer, Chermayeff, and Hammarstrom designed a majority of the Modern style houses located around and east of the kettle ponds in Wellfleet, including Hammarstrom’s Tisza House (1960) completed for the Hungarian-born MIT physicist.

Paul Weidlinger collaborated with Marcel Breuer on the design of the twisted, hyperbola-shaped St. Francis de Sales Church in Muskegon, Michigan (1948) around the time that he established his own structural engineering practice in Washington, D.C. in 1949 (CCMHT 2009; Weidlinger Associates Inc. 2010a, 2010b). He may have attended the “Forum ‘49” event held in Provincetown that year, at which Breuer, Kepes, and New York Museum of Modern Art design curator, Peter Blake discussed new directions in architecture (*Provincetown Advocate* 1949). Weidlinger moved his firm’s headquarters to New York City in 1951, where Breuer’s practice was thriving. At Breuer’s urging, the Weidlingers purchased 2.9 acres of property across Higgins Pond from his Wellfleet vacation house on June 8, 1953 from Eldredge E. Sparrow and Lillian F. Edwards (Barnstable County Registry of Deeds 1946, 1953).

Weidlinger’s property originated as Lots 4 and 5 of the Gull Pond Village subdivision that contributed to the development of the primarily undisturbed land in the northeast corner of Wellfleet in the 1950s. The quiet, scenic woodland setting of the ponds appealed to sophisticated urbanites seeking tranquility and privacy in their recreation destinations, and provided ideal sites for Modern style houses designed to evoke an experience of the natural landscape through the integration of interior and exterior living spaces. Some early members of the community like Breuer and Kepes considered the pond area a more suitable location for a dwelling than the exposed wild landscape along the shoreline. The portion of the subdivision containing the Weidlinger property was delineated by former Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce president, Arthur L. Sparrow in 1946. The property included deed restrictions intended to limit development to low-density, well-constructed, permanent residences (Barnstable County Registry of Deeds 1946, 1953).

ⁱ Moholy-Nagy moved from London to Chicago in 1937 to direct the “New Bauhaus” and subsequently established the school that became the Illinois Institute of Technology. He remained in Chicago until his death in 1946.

Sparrow specified that each property could not be further subdivided and could only be developed with one single-family dwelling that cost at least \$5,000 and included indoor plumbing. He further required a 15-foot setback of the house from the lot line and deeded use and right-of-way access to two commonly owned beaches on Gull Pond (Barnstable County Registry of Deeds 1946).

Breuer, Gropius, and Le Corbusier mentored Weidlinger during the design process for the Wellfleet house and Le Corbusier advised him not to pave the dramatically sloped driveway (Bailey and McMahon 2006; CCMHT 2009; Cipriani 2010:63; Crisson and Burke 2003). When Weidlinger finished building the house in 1954 at least 12 Modern residences were extant or under construction in Wellfleet and Truro. A few years later, Weidlinger served as the structural engineer for Hammarstrom's Chapel of St. James the Fisherman in Wellfleet (1957) (Cipriani 2010:62). By this time, Weidlinger had significant access to an established Outer Cape community of progressive academics, designers, publishers, and scientists.

Area of Significance: Criterion C

Architecture

The Weidlinger House is a rare representation of master structural engineer Paul Weidlinger's small-scale and residential work, which demonstrates the fusion of progressive construction techniques with the founding principles of mid-twentieth-century Modern design. Modern architects often used the design of their personal homes as unbounded canvases to experiment with the limits of construction technology; and the Weidlinger house presents the same practice through the aspiration of an engineer to express his own version of the architectural style. One month before Forum '49, Weidlinger published an article describing the relationship between design fields: "The gap between engineering and architecture should considerably narrow in years to come, just like the gap between engineering and science . . . This might become the return, on a higher plane of evolution, to the architect-artist-engineer-scientist of the Renaissance (Weidlinger 1949:107,108). Weidlinger achieved international recognition for his advancements in the field of structural engineering and is known for his partnerships with leading designers who shaped the Modern movement in the United States. His vacation residence parallels the design doctrines of Marcel Breuer, Le Corbusier, and Walter Gropius.

Weidlinger promoted a more creative approach to engineering than the traditional practice of simply analyzing numerical calculations, which translated to an advocacy for imaginative design. He employed scientific methods, considered the capabilities of new building materials, and used early computers to manipulate spatial concepts and identify the most efficient shapes to carry various loads. He explained, "Structural engineering to me, is primarily an inventive pursuit. Its aim is to create shapes and space, which are satisfying and efficient in accordance with standards set by itself. As such, I see it an equal partner with architecture, not a subordinate tool" (Weidlinger 1949:104).

Weidlinger conceived unique building shapes ". . . for the purpose of transmitting static or dynamic forces over a definite distance in the most efficient manner, as dictated by function, economy and—I do not hesitate to add—esthetics" (Weidlinger 1949:104). The Weidlinger house portrays Bauhaus and Corbusian design characteristics, while addressing issues of the site. Weidlinger created a lightweight frame with a minimal dead load, enabling long spans for open living space. He then considered uplift and compressive forces from strong winds through the use of laterally attached framing joints and tension wire cross bracing. The light-weight frame of the house required minimal materials, allowing for cost efficiency and ease of construction, and the rectangular shape of the building supported on its regular plank and beam grid allows for easy expansion if necessary. The house is thoughtfully placed on the harshly sloped, forested site and its elevation high above the wet, uneven terrain multifunctioned as a mechanism for capturing the best views of the woods and pond.

The box-shaped form of the Weidlinger house is transcendent of Le Corbusier's five points of architecture and the Bauhaus concepts of functional efficiency and assimilation of all construction components with purist volumes. Weidlinger met Le Corbusier's first three principles through the application of his plank and beam structural system. The frame enabled him to lift the house off the ground minimizing impact of the building to the site, and eliminated long load-bearing walls that could restrict free design of the elevations and floor plan. Flexibility in the design of the elevations

allowed Weidlinger to insert fully glazed wall sections, meeting Le Corbusier's requirement for seamless, unencumbered views of the natural setting. Weidlinger created additional exterior space by encompassing the wrap-around deck within the frame of the house. The interior demonstrates Breuer's affinity for bi-nuclear, zoned plans, in which consistent functions are separated in different ends or wings of the house.

When Weidlinger designed his house, Breuer had already developed his "Long House" prototype that consisted of a horizontally oriented box with a linear plan constructed from an adaptation of New England frame construction. Breuer's and Kepes's Wellfleet houses (1948, 1949) illustrate this specific type, which Breuer designed on the Outer Cape and first expressed in his New Canaan, Connecticut house (1947). Breuer possessed an avid interest in the aesthetic opportunities inherent in structural systems and tested the boundaries of wood-frame systems in dramatically cantilevered design of his first New Canaan House (Marcel Breuer House II). Weidlinger continued to manipulate traditional wood framing in his Wellfleet house, but developed more structurally stable features and cantilevers.

The architectural significance of the Weidlinger house is heightened by Paul Weidlinger's importance as a prolific contributor to the development of mid-twentieth-century Modern design. His pioneering structural models facilitated the production of drastically new building forms. During the management of his engineering practice from 1949 to 1993, the firm received more than 120 awards for design excellence from various architectural, engineering, and materials industry organizations; municipalities; clients; and non-profit groups (Weidlinger Associates, Inc. 2010b). Weidlinger is credited for his collaborations with artists Picasso, Dubuffet, and Noguchi on large outdoor sculptures; and with a long list of Modern and Post-Modern architectural firms including: Edward Larrabee Barnes; Herbert Beckhard; Frank Richlan & Associates; Marcel Breuer & Associates; Gordon Bunshaft; Olav Hammarstrom; Harrison Abramovitz Harris; Banque Lambert; I.M. Pei & Partners; Antonin Raymond; Eero Saarinen & Associates; José Luis Sert; Skidmore, Owings, & Merrill (SOM); and The Architects Collaborative (TAC, founded by Gropius) (Bailey and McMahon 2006; Weidlinger Associates, Inc. 2010a; 2010b).

Weidlinger established an applied science division within his practice early in the firm's history and is especially known for the development of structural systems for high-rise buildings, use of high-strength concrete, and study of solutions to dynamic forces such as earthquakes (Weidlinger Associates, Inc. 2010a). His innovative engineering theories and structural systems were published throughout his career in architectural magazines (*Architectural Forum* 1956a, 1956b; *Arts and Architecture* 1946; Weidlinger 1949, 1951, 1952, 1965, 1973, 1977). Among Weidlinger's extensive portfolio of notable projects are his designs for the CBS Headquarters Building (1965, New York City) with Eero Saarinen; Whitney Museum (1966, New York City) with Marcel Breuer; and Walker Art Center north wing (1971, Minneapolis Minnesota) with Edward Larrabee Barnes; which all won American Institute of Architects (AIA) National Honor Awards. Weidlinger received the Precast-Prestressed Concrete Institute Design Award for his American Republic Insurance Home Office Building (ca. 1964, Iowa) and Hirshorn Museum and Sculpture Garden (1974, Washington, D.C.), both designed with SOM. The Hirshorn Museum and SOM's One Liberty Plaza Office Building (1973, New York City) also received the American Council of Engineering Companies of New York First Prize Engineering Excellence Award. Weidlinger additionally received recognition for his steel structures, winning the American Institute of Steel Construction Engineering Excellence Award for the Liberty Plaza building. Weidlinger was mentioned in a 1946 article regarding the development of a new "mobilar" steel frame and he later employed the innovative steel space frame (studied by Alexander Graham Bell circa 1900 and Buckminster Fuller in the mid-twentieth-century) in the design of the Javits Center (1986, New York City) with I.M. Pei.

The firm was renamed Weidlinger Associates Consulting Engineers in 1974 and incorporated in 1982. Its 325 employees, based in New York City, continue to complete high-profile commissions that generate \$55 million per year (Weidlinger Associates, Inc. 2010a).

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Paul and Madeleine Weidlinger jointly used their Wellfleet home as a retreat for themselves and their two children, Michelle and Thomas, until the early 1960s. The Weidlingers divorced in 1963 and Madeleine Weidlinger acquired sole ownership of the property. She purchased an adjacent parcel of land comprising Gull Pond Village Lot 3 from Eldridge E. Sparrow and Lillian F. Edwards for \$1,000 on April 6, 1964. Madeleine Weidlinger retained all of the property in its natural state and did not complete further improvements. She donated the three parcels (Gull Pond Village Lots 3, 4, and 5) to the United States of America on November 29, 1971 in an act of land conservancy, but retained lifetime use rights. Madeleine Weidlinger was born in Switzerland in 1912 and immigrated to the United States in 1943 with her husband. She suffered from schizophrenia throughout her life, but effectively pursued interests in writing, photography, and theater. The National Park Service assumed management of the property in 1979 after Madeleine Weidlinger died (Barnstable County Registry of Deeds 1964; 1971; NPS 2010). The current property parcel is comprised of four former Gull Pond Village lots including numbers 3, 4, and 5 donated by Weidlinger and lot 6, which was separately acquired by the National Park Service. The federal tract numbers for the property lots are 19-4135 and 19-4136.

The Weidlinger House is one of two residences Paul Weidlinger designed for his own use. After remarrying in 1964 or 1965, Weidlinger designed a vacation home on Long Island in Bridgehampton, New York. The house was completed in 1967 and Weidlinger summered there for 30 years, often with his wife Solveig and step-son, Jonathan Weidlinger. Paul Weidlinger's primary residence and professional offices were located in midtown Manhattan (New York City). He lived in an apartment at 349 East 49th Street with his first wife Madeleine and their two children for about one decade, from at least 1953 until about 1963. The apartment was located within a block of architect William Lescaze's townhouse. His engineering practice operated out of a suite at 400 Madison Avenue from about 1951 until 1962, when Weidlinger moved the office into a newly constructed highrise at 777 Third Avenue, designed by Lescaze. By the mid-1970s, Weidlinger Associates had moved into another highrise designed Lescaze, located at 110 East 59th Street (built from 1965 to 1968), where they remained for at least 10 years. Paul Weidlinger and his second wife, Solveig, lived at 301 East 47th Street from their marriage in about 1964 until his death in 1999. Solveig Weidlinger continues to live at this residence (2011) (Adams 2011; Ancestry.com 2005, 2010; Churchwell 1982; *Engineering News Record* 1969:60; Leonard et al. 1964:1985; Office for Metropolitan History 2011).

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- 1953 Deed transferring Gull Pond Village Lots 4 and 5 from Eldridge E. Sparrow and Lillian Edwards to Paul and Madeleine Weidlinger, June 8, 1953. Wellfleet Land Record Number 15268, Book 110, Page 8. Barnstable County Registry of Deeds, Barnstable, MA.
- 1964 Deed transferring Gull Pond Village Lot 3 from Eldridge E. Sparrow and Lillian Edwards to Madeleine Weidlinger, April 6, 1964. Wellfleet Land Record Number 32423, Book 252, Page 113. Barnstable County Registry of Deeds, Barnstable, MA.
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1973 Tensile Structures. *Architectural Forum* 139, no. 5:5.

1977 Visualizing the Effect of Earthquakes on the Behavior of Building Structures. *Architectural Record* 161, no 5 (1977):139-142.

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): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4.1 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 19 0416653 4645732
Zone Easting Northing

C _____
Zone Easting Northing

B _____
Zone Easting Northing

D _____
Zone Easting Northing

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

The property boundaries encompass the legally recorded lines of Lots 19-4135 and 19-4136, shown on Map 4, containing 4.1 acres.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries include the house and full extent of the associated landscape features that contribute to the historic setting and appearance of the property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jenny Fields Scofield AICP/Architectural Historian and Virginia H. Adams/Sr. Architectural Historian
organization PAL date February 2011
street & number 210 Lonsdale Avenue telephone (401) 288-6327
city or town Pawtucket state RI zip code 02860
e-mail jscofield@palinc.com, vadams@palinc.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Paul and Madeleine Weidlinger House
Name of Property

Barnstable County, MA
County and State

Property Owner:

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

name National Park Service, Cape Cod National Seashore
street & number 99 Marconi Site Road telephone (508) 349-3785
city or town Wellfleet state MA zip code 02267

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 18 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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

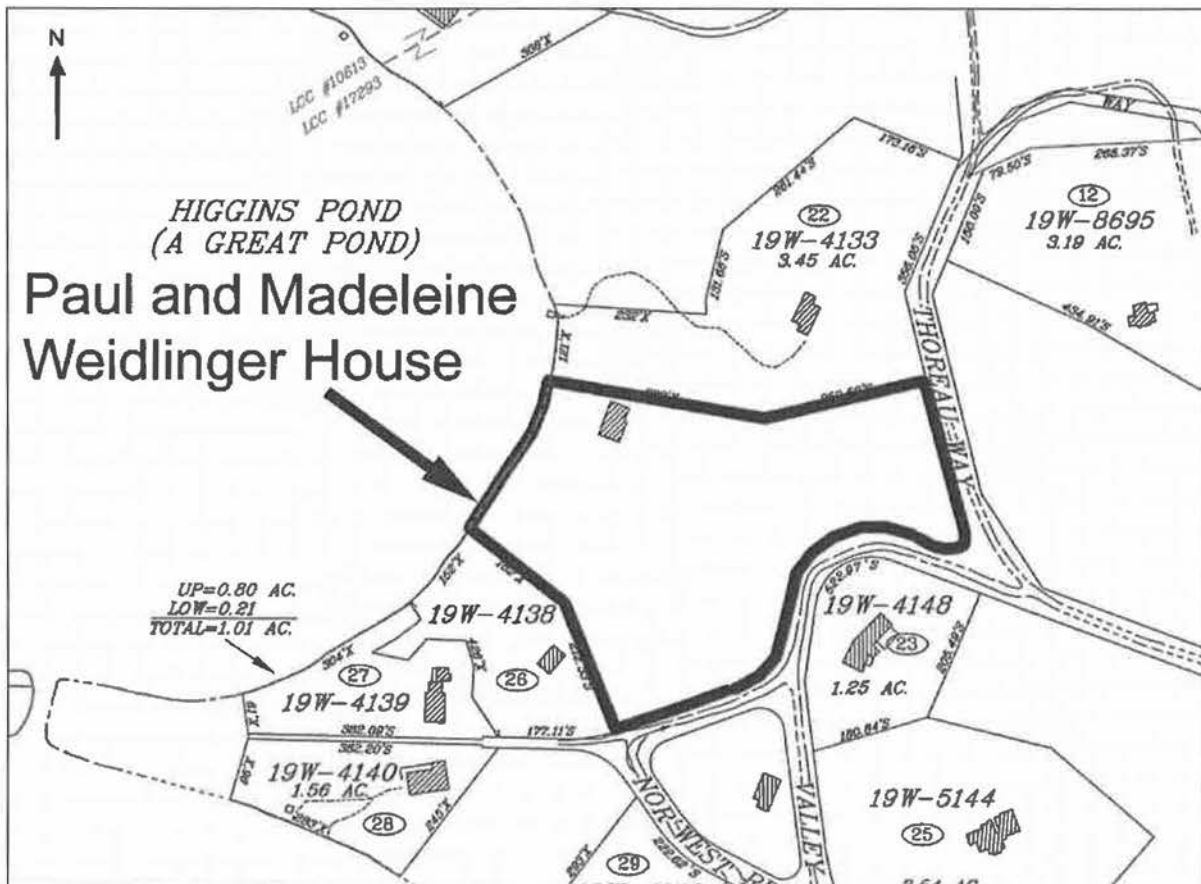
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Paul and Madeleine Weidlinger House

Barnstable County, Massachusetts

Mid-Twentieth-Century Modern Residential
Architecture on Outer Cape Cod 1929 -1979

Town of Wellfleet Assessor's Map Number 4



Historic Photographs

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Paul and Madeleine Weidlinger House

Barnstable County, Massachusetts

Mid-Twentieth-Century Modern Residential
Architecture on Outer Cape Cod 1929 -1979



View looking at northwest at facade and south elevation

(source: Cape Cod Modern House Trust, photo by Madeleine Weidlinger-Friedli, courtesy of Tom Weidlinger)

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Paul and Madeleine Weidlinger House

Barnstable County, Massachusetts

Mid-Twentieth-Century Modern Residential
Architecture on Outer Cape Cod 1929 -1979



View looking at northeast west elevation

(source: Cape Cod Modern House Trust, photo by Madeleine Weidlinger-Friedli, courtesy of Tom Weidlinger)

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Paul and Madeleine Weidlinger House

Barnstable County, Massachusetts

Mid-Twentieth-Century Modern Residential
Architecture on Outer Cape Cod 1929 -1979



View looking at north in living room

(source: Cape Cod Modern House Trust, photo by Madeleine Weidlinger-Friedli, courtesy of Tom Weidlinger)

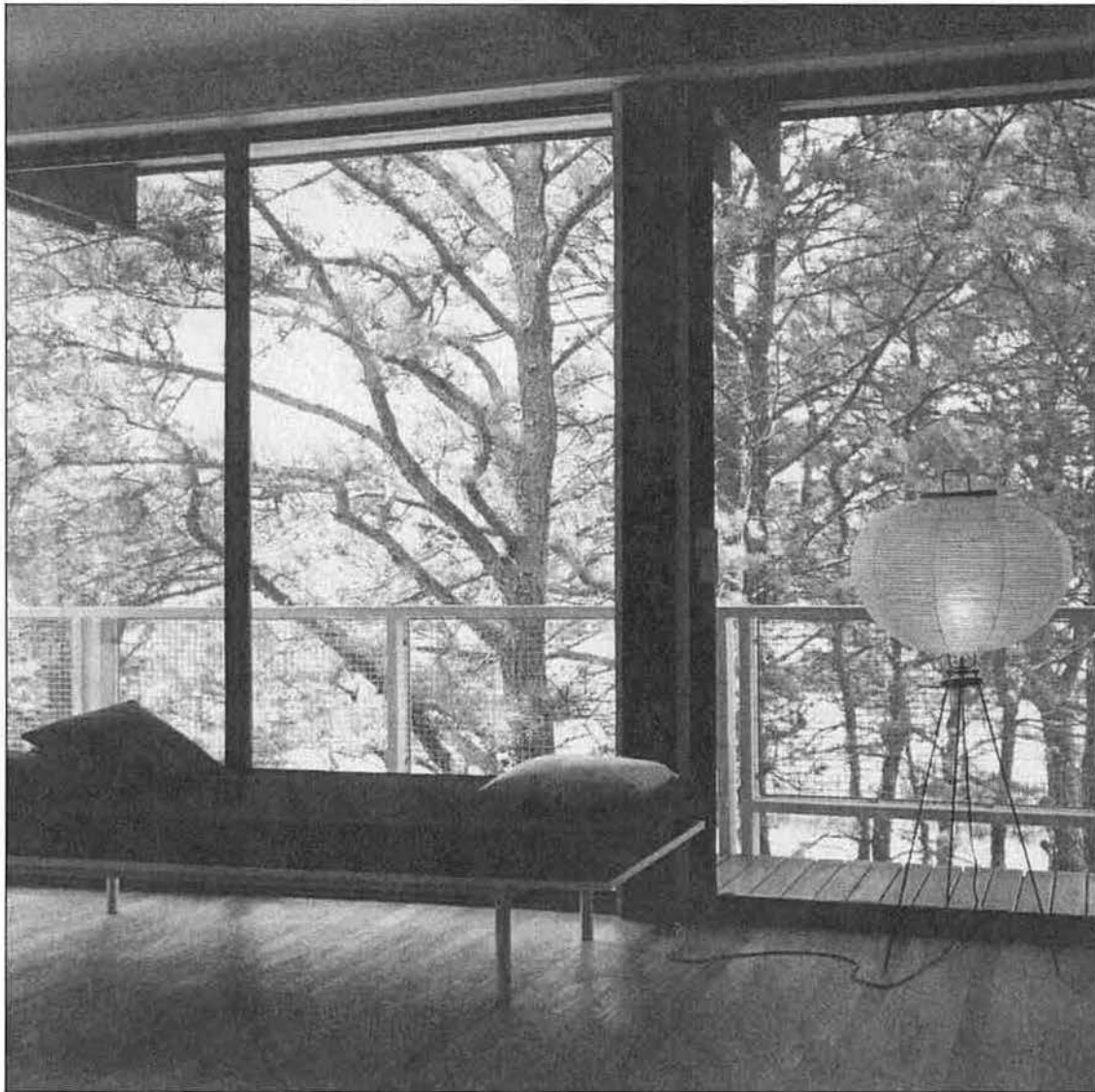
**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Paul and Madeleine Weidlinger House

Barnstable County, Massachusetts

Mid-Twentieth-Century Modern Residential
Architecture on Outer Cape Cod 1929 -1979

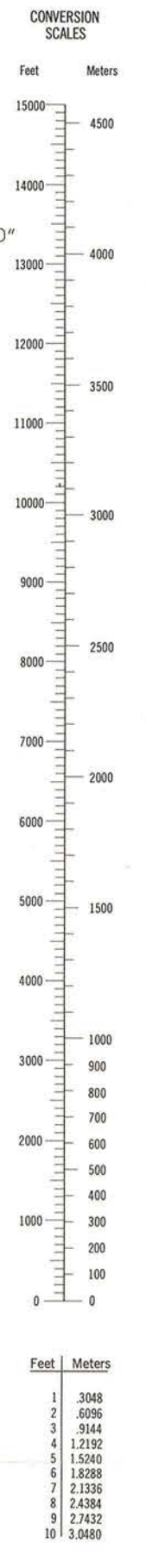


View looking at west in living room toward pond

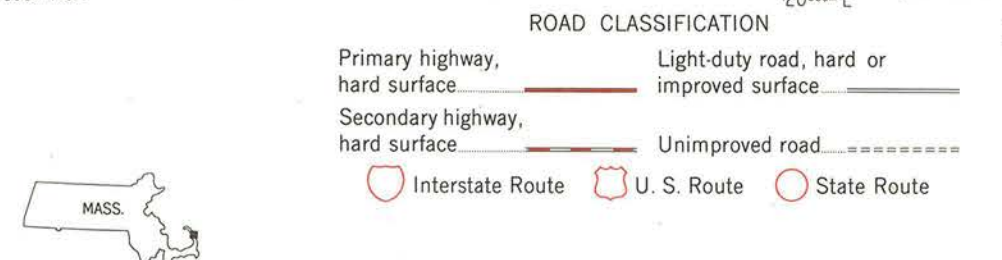
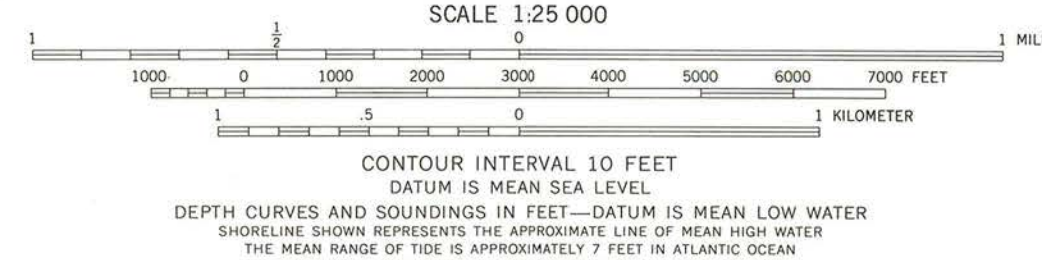
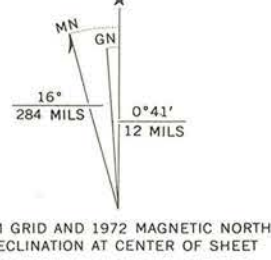
(source: Cape Cod Modern House Trust, photo by Madeleine Weidlinger-Friedli, courtesy of Tom Weidlinger)



Weidlinger, Paul & Madeleine House
Wellfleet, Barnstable County, MA
UTM Reference
A.19 0416653E 4645732N



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1938. Topography by planimetric surveys 1941. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1971. Field checked 1972
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS
Charts 580 (1972), 581 (1971), and 1208 (1972). This
information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 19



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
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DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

WELLFLEET, MASS.
N4152.5—W6957.5/7.5
1972
AMS 6967 1 NE—SERIES V814





54 VALLEY RD













UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Weidlinger, Paul and Madeleine

MULTIPLE NAME: Mid 20th Century Modern Residential Architecture on Outer Cape Cod MPS

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Barnstable

DATE RECEIVED: 1/10/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/10/14
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/25/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/26/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000023

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 2/25/2014 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Historically and architecturally significant modern residence. Meets the registration requirements of the Box Property type established in the MPS cover form.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept AEC

REVIEWER Patrick Andrus

DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 2/25/2014

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.