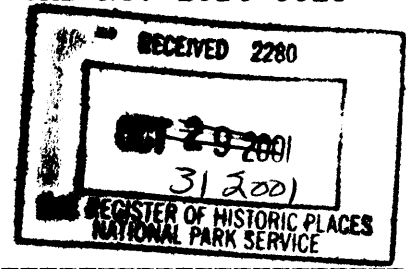


United States Department of the Interior  
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Pollock, Donald, House

other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number 2400 N.W. 59th Street not for publication n/a  
city or town Oklahoma City vicinity n/a  
state Oklahoma code OK county Oklahoma code 109 zip code 73116

=====  
3. State/Federal Agency Certification  
=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant      nationally      statewide X locally. (      See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

Date

Oklahoma Historical Society, SHPO  
State or 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 commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====  
4. National Park Service Certification  
=====

I, hereby certify that this 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):                     

Signature of Keeper

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

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>  2  </u>	<u>  0  </u> buildings
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u> sites
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u> structures
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u> objects
<u>  2  </u>	<u>  0  </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register   0  

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) Resources Designed by Bruce Goff in Oklahoma

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Organic  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation n/a  
roof Asphalt  
walls Wood  
Glass  
Limestone  
other \_\_\_\_\_

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.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a 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.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1957  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

=====  
8. Statement of Significance (Continued)  
=====

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation n/a

Architect/Builder Goff, Bruce, Architect

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

=====  
9. Major Bibliographical References  
=====

(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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: University of Oklahoma

=====  
10. Geographical Data  
=====

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>14</u>	<u>631130</u>	<u>3933160</u>	3	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
2	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	4	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>

N/A 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 Prof. Arn Henderson, FAIA

organization College of Architecture, Univ. of Okla. date Jan 20, 1999

street & number Gould Hall telephone 405-325-3868

city or town Norman state OK zip code 73019

=====  
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)

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form  
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=====  
Property Owner  
=====

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

name Laura and Joe Warriner

street & number 2400 N. W. 59th Street

telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Oklahoma City

state OK

zip code 73116  
=====



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**Summary**

The Donald Pollock House is located in a suburban neighborhood at 2400 N.W. 59th in Oklahoma City. The house is actually a composition of two detached buildings that are connected by a walkway over a reflecting pool. The living quarters is composed of interlocking squares clustered together in a matrix. The dominant exterior feature of the house is the steep hipped roofs over each of the squares with skylights at the very top. The interior of the house is an open-plan that has an exposed post-and-beam structural system which has been painted black. The house has no conventional walls, with the exception of the bathroom and storage areas, but utilizes folding wood partitions to separate spaces. The other component of the design is a detached studio with a screened porch on the roof. The Pollock House is an excellent example of the mature architecture of Bruce Goff.

**Description**

The Pollock House, built in 1957, is located on a corner lot in a suburban Oklahoma City neighborhood. The house is defined by two buildings connected by a walkway over a reflecting pool that extends around the back and side of the house. One of these buildings is the house and the other is a detached studio surmounted by a screened porch. The living quarters, built on a raised square plinth, is a combination of squares with diamond-shaped roofs that results in a jewel-like appearance. The house is composed of nine modules fourteen feet by fourteen feet with interlocking volumes that are clustered in a matrix of three modules by three modules. In plan, the exterior walls of each of the perimeter modules of the matrix are rotated at a forty-five degree angle to overlap the square stone plinth and establish a saw-tooth configuration. Each module has a hip roof sheathed in dark-grey compositional shingles with an individual pyramidal skylight at its apex. Planes of the hip roofs at the perimeter are extended over the rotated walls toward the ground to mirror the form above. The visual effect of this manipulation of geometry is one of a rhythm of independent diamond-shaped roofs that are connected at the corners. Exterior walls are sheathed in vertical wood siding painted grey-green, with glass reveals at the inset corners of the modules. The outside corners of the perimeter modules overlap, and appear to penetrate, the battered plinth subdividing the base into a series of triangular planters that screen the tall windows with foliage. The stone plinth is veneered with a rough-faced, grey green limestone laid in a random pattern. Construction of

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the house is a hybrid of conventional framing combined with a post-and-beam system. On the interior the post-and-beam structure, painted black, is exposed.

The interior of the house is an open-plan with the kitchen established as the central focal point of the composition. A module adjacent to the kitchen defines the entry and formal dining area while the modules on the opposite side of the kitchen houses the bathrooms and service areas. Circulation is basically a U-shaped arrangement although there is also a small connecting corridor through the service areas. Flanking either side of the three modules, defining entry, kitchen and service areas, are zones for separate activities. One of these zones, also comprising three modules, is a living-dining area with a recessed carpeted conversation area with built-in seating and fireplace that completely fills one module. The opposite zone combines a secondary living area with sleeping and dressing areas which can be subdivided with folding wood partitions. The repeating modules are each given their own identity with a pyramidal ceiling, corresponding to the geometry of the roof, and each is capped with a pyramidal skylight. The square plan geometry of the modules is further amplified by alternating light and dark squares of marble flooring.

The studio, which was originally a garage, is linked to the house visually by a walkway between reflecting pools on either side. A translucent faceted plastic roof covers a large screened porch on the roof of the studio and a walkway to the entry of the house. The roof is built of translucent blue-green fiberglass panels attached to a steel structure. Creating a sawtooth motif, the plastic panels form a smaller version of the gemstone roof line of the house. The studio has a flat roof with vertical wood siding and, like the house, is built on a battered stone plinth. The whole composition of the house, studio, and sun-porch is a split-level design. The studio is at the lower level, the sun-porch is at the upper level and the house is at an intermediate level.

### Alterations

Originally designed for a family with two children, the Pollock House was initially zoned somewhat differently. One group of three modules flanking the kitchen was for children with bedrooms on either side of an adjoining central module which functioned as a playroom. The three modules on the opposite side

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included both living space and a parents bedroom. Each of the individual modules throughout the house could be isolated by extending folding wood screens. In 1966 the house was purchased by Joe and Laura Warriner who commissioned Goff to design an addition and remodeling of the house. The addition proved to be too expensive but they initiated an extensive remodeling that both clarified and improved the original design.

The Warriners, who have no children, wanted a different zoning pattern. Goff removed many of the folding screens defining each module and cabinets on one side of the kitchen to give the house a greater sense of openness. Exterior walls on two modules were replaced with glass, one facing into a garden in the backyard and the other defining the entry. One module in the primary living zone was converted to a recessed conversation area with a fireplace and built-in seating. Flooring throughout the rest of the house was replaced with green-black and grey-white marble tiles laid in a checkerboard pattern. Kitchen cabinets, trim and structural elements on the interior were all painted flat-black. On the exterior the garage was closed and converted to an art studio for Laura Warriner. Reflecting pools were added on either side of the entry and a wrought-iron fence, designed by Goff in a pattern that repeated the geometric theme of the house, enclosed the garden. Warren Edwards, a local landscape architect, developed a comprehensive design for the garden and yard. Collectively all of these alterations significantly improved the quality of the original design.

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**Summary**

The Donald Pollock House is one of Goff's finest designs. Although the house is very small, the Pollock House demonstrates Goff's capability at creating a compelling design on a restricted site. The house has a jewel-like appearance because of the hipped roofs with skylights and the arrangement of the square matrix plan raised on a stone plinth. The other exterior components--the studio, the patio and the pool of water--echo the precise geometry of the house. The Pollock House, one of Goff's best houses, has a high degree of architectural significance and reflects all of the characteristics of his mature work. It is eligible under Criterion C for listing in the National Register as the work of a master architect. It relates to the post-World War II buildings in the historic context of "Resources Designed by Bruce Goff in Oklahoma" (Section E).

Although the building is less than 50 years old, the Pollock House is of exceptional architectural importance at the local level as an example of organic architecture. The home has had extensive coverage in both popular and professional media and clearly illustrates Goff's principles of design. It is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion G.

**Historical Background**

The Donald Pollock House, built in 1957, was purchased by Joe and Laura Warriner in 1966. They commissioned Goff to design an addition and remodeling of the existing house. Although the addition was not constructed the house was extensively remodeled in the early 1980s in accordance with Goff's plans. The remodeling improved the quality of the original design.

**Architectural Significance**

Built on a corner lot, the Pollock House is a composition of nine square modules with an angled screened porch atop a detached studio. Conceptually, the design is related to the 1951 Wilson House in Pensacola, Florida which was also organized in nine modules. The Pollock House, though, represents a different interpretation of design with modules, one that may be a reflection of a smaller site. In the Wilson House the modules interlock in a diagonal arrangement and there is a sense of expansiveness in the composition that

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suggests a potential for growth and enlargement. But in the Pollock House the nine modules all nest together, side by side in a square matrix suggesting a composition with finite and fixed boundaries.

On the exterior surface very little of the walls are revealed since they are set on a battered stone plinth and the individual roof planes of the modules project low to the ground. The facade, folded to accommodate the triangular plan extensions, form a small-scale rhythm that is subservient to the roof forms. And it is the roof planes--a series of diamond shapes aligned side by side like the square modules in plan--that dominate the composition with a crystalline appearance. Moreover, with the deep overhanging eaves of the perimeter modules, the illusion of these diamond-shaped planes floating autonomously in space is magnified. The screened porch atop the studio with its lattice of black-painted structure, is a variation of a geometric theme but with contrasting qualities. The house is opaque and visually impenetrable, but the screened porch, repeating the diamond motif, is open, transparent and inviting. It is this play of opposites, that, in part, gives Goff's architecture a compelling quality of mystery.

The interior of the house further reinforces the crystalline geometry. The scale is smaller though, more delicate and all of the elements of design are given greater clarity and precise definition. The lightly-textured walls and ceilings are white; flooring is a green-black and grey-white checkerboard; structural beams and columns are black; and the carpet in the sunken conversation area is deep purple. It is indeed an inward-looking design with little visual relationship to the exterior that was accurately described by Laura Warriner when she said "... [it was] like living in a jewel." Though the house appears small on the exterior, with an open-plan and the ceiling of each module sloping to a pyramidal skylight, Goff created a sense of interior spaciousness that belies the actual size.

The Pollock House, with its remodeling completed the year following Goff's death, displays all of the characteristics that defined his compositional pattern. It reflects his extraordinary skill at manipulating geometry to establish a unique continuum of form and space. It is a design rich in pattern, texture and color on both the exterior and interior. The Pollock House is one of his most remarkable works and is eligible for inclusion on the National Register under Criterion C, as a work of a master architect.

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**Criterion Consideration G**

Although this building is not yet 50 years old, it is an exceptional example of the work of Bruce Goff, an architect who has achieved international importance for his contribution to the American modern architectural movement and development of organic architecture. It is a masterful composition of imaginative forms tempered by contextual restraint. Defined by a series of angled modules, each protected by a shingled hip roof projecting nearly to the ground, the design is a mysterious image of enclosure. Yet the scale of the house, which is built on a small site in a suburban neighborhood, harmonizes with the surrounding buildings. Goff was thus able to create a composition of two design imperatives, one of individuality tailored to the needs and aspirations of the client and one of acknowledgement of the context.

Saliga and Woolever, in their book The Architecture of Bruce Goff, reflect that the works of this last quarter of Goff's career reflect a rethinking and maturation of his earlier directions. They note that "publication of his work in professional journals reflected...a real interest in what appeared to be prototypical solutions." (Saliga and Woolever: 25) In discussing the Pollock House, they note that it was derived from an earlier, unbuilt design, but with "a more varied...profile." (Saliga and Woolever: 26)

The Pollack House has been included in major monographs dedicated to the work of Bruce Goff by David DeLong, Pauline Saliga and Mary Woolever, and Takenobu Mori. In addition to these seminal works on Goff, the Pollack House has been published in a number of American and English architectural journals. Depicted and analyzed as it has been in both popular and academic literature, it remains one of Goff's most recognizable Oklahoma designs.

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The north 104.44 feet of Lot 1, Block 5, Roberts Country Club Addition.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes the property historically associated with the resource.