

DATA SHEET

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wisconsin
COUNTY: Racine
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE JAN 8 1975

1. NAME

COMMON: Johnson Foundation Headquarters
AND/OR HISTORIC: Johnson, Herbert F. House ("Wingspread") <i>use this</i>

2. LOCATION

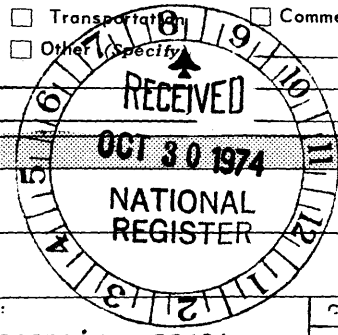
STREET AND NUMBER: 33 East 4 Mile Road			
CITY OR TOWN: Racine		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First	
STATE: Wisconsin	CODE: 53401	COUNTY: Racine	CODE: 101

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: The Johnson Foundation			
STREET AND NUMBER: 33 East 4 Mile Road			
CITY OR TOWN: Racine	STATE: Wisconsin	CODE: 53401	CODE: 55



STATE: Wisconsin

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Racine County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER: 730 Wisconsin Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: Racine	STATE: Wisconsin	CODE: 53403	CODE: 55

COUNTY: Racine

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Wisconsin's Historic Preservation Plan, The Inventory			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1973	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: State Historical Society of Wisconsin			
STREET AND NUMBER: 816 State Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Madison	STATE: Wisconsin	CODE: 53706	CODE: 55

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER: **JAN 8 1975**
DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

13118 (77)

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

The Herbert F. Johnson house is built across a shallow ravine on a gently rolling site. The lower levels are constructed of smooth-faced, red brick and follow the site's contours. This is sharply contrasted by the strongly horizontal upper level which is faced with lapped cedar siding. The horizontality is stressed further by a number of projecting balconies which shadow the lower levels so the house appears to hover over the earth kept in place only by the hipped, red-tile roof.

The plan is in the shape of a four-armed pinwheel radiating from a three-story octagonal hub. At the center is a massive stone fireplace. Flowing around it are the entrance hall, living room, dining room, and library areas separated by changes of level, low screens, and built-in furniture pieces. The interior walls are of the same brick as used in the exterior, and the space is lit by a series of clerestory windows and hidden lighting fixtures. Alongside the fireplace is a spiral staircase leading to a small observatory tower. Each of the four wings is "zoned" for a particular function. One wing contains the master bedrooms; the second, children's bedrooms and playroom; the third, services; and the fourth contains guest rooms and garages. All the rooms are linked by an in-house telephone system. The floors, as in the Usonian houses of the same period, are concrete slabs containing heating pipes. The building is now used as the headquarters for the Johnson Foundation, and the garages have been converted into offices.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1937**

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<u>Conference center.</u> |
| <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 Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Frank Lloyd Wright called the Herbert F. Johnson house "The last of the Prairie houses," and at the time it was built he called it his best designed house. It blends a number of elements characteristic of some of Wright's later work with the established forms of the great Prairie houses. The plans of the early Prairie houses were developed from the intersection of planes at 30°, 60°, and 90° angles. The pinwheel plan of the Johnson house is a development of the plan of the 1907 Coonley house in Riverside, Illinois, and is composed of angular elements. However, the transitions between spaces in the octagonal core are assisted by curvilinear forms reminiscent of those employed in the 1936 Johnson Wax Administration Building. The exterior form of the Johnson house is typical of the Prairie houses, but the facing of brick and lapped siding is not common in those early works.

The Johnson house is an excellent example of Wright's ability to create a house that compliments and is completed by a site that might otherwise be considered rather uninteresting. The house accentuates the site's gentle hill and gully. In his autobiography (page 476) Wright expressed pride in the way the house improved the site.

Herbert F. Johnson had first commissioned Wright to design the Johnson Wax Administration Building in Racine. He had recently married, and the house was to have been the residence for his young family. His wife died before the house was finished, however, and Johnson inhabited it for only a few years. An extensive farm unit had been planned on the property, but it was never built.

Wingspread is perhaps the most important educational and cultural conference center in the Middle West.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Architectural Forum, "Frank Lloyd Wright;" Vol. 68, Jan. 1938, p. 56

The Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright, William Allin Storrer; The MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass. 1974. p. 239, plan

In the Nature of Materials, Henry-Russell Hitchcock; Da Capo Press, New York, 1973. p. 93

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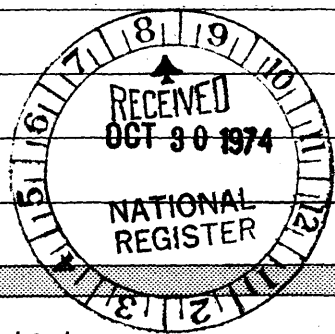
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	UTM Zone 16: 4,736,500 N. 436,960 E.		
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **less than one (house only).**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Richard L. Cleary, Preservation Planning Assistant

ORGANIZATION: **State Historical Society of Wisconsin** DATE: **17 Sept. 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Madison** STATE: **Wisconsin 53706** CODE: **55**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>James Morton Smith</u> James Morton Smith</p> <p>Title <u>Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin</u></p> <p>Date <u>Oct. 24, 1974</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u> Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>1/8/75</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>1-7-75</u></p>
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Item number Page

PROPERTY NAME ~~Wingspread~~ Johnson, Herbert F. House

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REFERENCE NUMBER

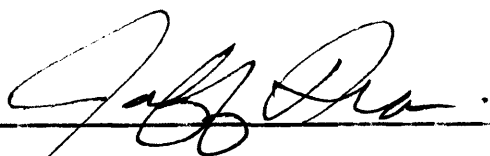
W	I
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STATE

1	0	1
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COUNTY CODE

Correct city name is ~~Windpoint~~ Wind Point.



SIGNED, SHPO OR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

2/18/86

DATE