

STATE:
CALIFORNIA

COUNTY:
LOS ANGELES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71.7.06.0043	7/14/71

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
JOHN SOWDEN HOUSE

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
5121 Franklin Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Los Angeles

STATE California	CODE 90027	COUNTY: Los Angeles	CODE 037
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<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
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)
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Dr. Harold Mazur

STREET AND NUMBER:
4821 Los Feliz Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Los Angeles

STATE:
California

CODE:
90029

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Hall of Records

STREET AND NUMBER:
320 W. Temple St.

CITY OR TOWN:
Los Angeles

STATE:
California

CODE:
90012

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
HABS pending (in progress)

DATE OF SURVEY: **1970** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
National Park Service and Library of Congress

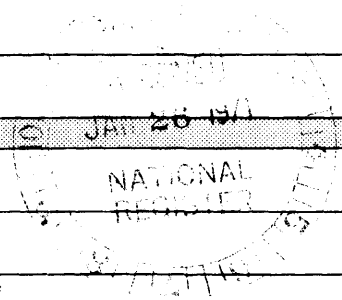
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington, D.C.

STATE:

CODE:
11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: CALIF
COUNTY: LOS ANG
ENTRY NUMBER: 71.7.06.0043
DATE: 7/14/71
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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 6500 sq. ft. house is raised above the street level and reached by scissor stairs; where the stair divides was once a decorative concrete planter box. The facade is composed of two planar walls, wood framed and covered with stucco, between which is the stair to the living room level; above the entrance opening and between the planar walls are two protruding chevron-shaped masses formed of textured concrete block set at different depths; these form a rail and a hood for the recessed balcony off the living room.

The house rests on an almost level pad and the plan is a rectangular doughnut around a large central court (22' x 68'); rooms lead directly or through a glazed hall into the court, with two steps down to the change of level. Originally there was a 32' long pool in the court with two pylons built up of textured concrete block to form a water organ (water fell into different depth pipes to produce a series of sounds). Pool and pylons have been removed, also colored stones in the recesses of the textured block on the court.

Aside from these changes, others are in the nature of repairs, cosmetic rather than structural. Various ornamentation has been removed, but the major rooms are essentially as built.

The living room and library are across the front facade (S) and east; a studio extends across the west end; bedrooms fill in the north side of the hollow rectangle and dining room, kitchen, service, porch and servants' bedrooms are on the south.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



B. 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) 1926

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

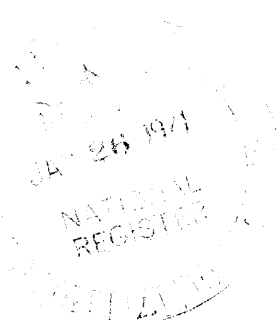
- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <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 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

A work of art unique in its combining of planar surfaces with dense ornamentation; the separation of sheer wall from ornament is reminiscent of the Mexican Plateresque period in which ornament was concentrated at the portal. Although Lloyd Wright, the architect, worked later with his father on the construction of textile block houses, his own work in this medium is highly personal; it relates more to the buildings of the German Expressionists, particularly Hans Poelzig, whose ornament was particularly dense.

His direct influences are his father, Frank Lloyd Wright and Irving Gill, in whose office he worked; Gill's sheer walls without projections can be clearly seen in the facade of the Sowden house and Lloyd Wright's own house; the freedom of the plan is indebted to his father and the presence of ornament relates to Frank Lloyd Wright's period 1916-1926. This does not account for the unusual combination of richness and chasteness, which have produced an almost unclassifiable and highly original design.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

E. McCoy, "Lloyd Wright," Arts & Architecture, Los Angeles Vol. 83, No. 9, pp. 22-26
 Gebhard-Winter, "Guide to Architecture in Southern California, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, 1965
 David Gebhard, "Architecture in California:1868-1968," Univ. of California, Santa Barbara, Cal. 1968, p. 75
 D. Gebhard, "Lloyd Wright," (in preparation) Catalogue for exhibition, Univ. of California Santa Barbara, Sept. 1970

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

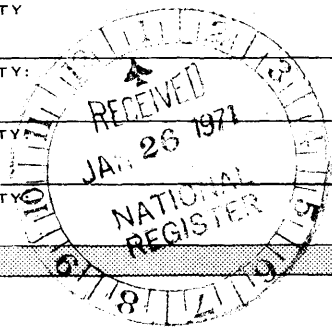
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		34 ° 06 ' 20 "	118 ° 18 ' 00 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

NO
ATM
CU

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2.0 +/-

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: **Esther McCoy, Lecturer**

ORGANIZATION: **Univ. of Calif. Los Angeles and Santa Barbara** DATE: **July 15, 1970**

STREET AND NUMBER: **2434 Beverly Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN: **Santa Monica** STATE: **California 90405** CODE: **06**

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 [Signature]

Title State Liaison Officer

Date October 16, 1970

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

[Signature]
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date JUL 14 1971

ATTEST: [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date _____



GRIFFITH PARK

SONDEN HOUSE

LOVELL HOUSE

LYWOOD

HOLLYWOOD MEMORIAL PARK (Cem)

PARAMOUNT STUDIOS

VAN NESS AVE Sch

BURNS PARK

ST BRENDAN Sch

WINDSOR

TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX STUDIOS

Cedars of Lebanon Hospital

Inmaculate Heart of Mary Sch

Lemon Grove Park

Alexandria Ave Sch

OBUENGA Sch

ST BRENDAN Sch

ST BRENDAN Sch

WINDSOR

BARNSDALL PARK

Hospital

Los Angeles City College

Parking Area

Police Sta

Virgil Jr Sch

Virgil Jr Sch

Virgil Jr Sch

WINDSOR

Mother of Good Counsel Sch

Hospital

Hospital

Lockwood Ave Sch

Dayton Hts Sch

Temple Hospital

St Annes Hospital

Commonwealth Ave Sch

Commonwealth Ave Sch

WINDSOR

TV Studio (KABC)

Billed Artists Studios

Bellevue Park

Bellevue Park

Bellevue Park

Bellevue Park

Bellevue Park

Bellevue Park

WINDSOR

John Marshall High Sch

TV Studio (KABC)

Billed Artists Studios

Bellevue Park

Bellevue Park

Bellevue Park

Bellevue Park

Bellevue Park

Bellevue Park

WINDSOR

St Casimir Sch

TV Studio (KABC)

Billed Artists Studios

Bellevue Park

Bellevue Park

Bellevue Park

Bellevue Park

Bellevue Park

Bellevue Park

WINDSOR

5121 Franklin Avenue
 Los Angeles, CA
 400-18



Form 10-301
 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE California	
COUNTY Los Angeles	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 7/7/66: 0042	DATE 7/14/71

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:		Sowden House	
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
5121 Franklin Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Los Angeles			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
California	90027	Los Angeles	
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
Hollywood Quadrangle: 7.5. min. series			
SCALE:			
1" = 2000 feet			
DATE:			
1966			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Property boundaries where required. 2. North arrow. 3. Latitude and longitude reference. 			

