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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 18). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Flesch House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 415 Sherwood Road N/A not for publication
city, town Shreveport N/A vicinity
state Louisiana code LA county Caddo code 017 zip code 71106

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.
Leslie Tassin May 2, 1991
Signature of certifying official Leslie Tassin, LA SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism Date
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet. 6/10/91
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:) _____
Alma Byer _____
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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)

International Style

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concretewalls stuccobrickroof tarother

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Flesch House (1936) is a two story International Style residence located on a wooded lot in southern Shreveport. The exterior surface treatment is stucco except for the back wall of the front porch, which is brick. Changes to the house have been relatively minimal.

The asymmetrical design is composed of a prominent main block with a wing to the side and one to the rear. The side wing recedes from the main block in two stages at the second story level, while at ground level there is a linear porch with industrial steel pipe posts (now obscured by wrought iron). In many instances, the interior spaces are evident on the exterior from the fenestration pattern. For example, the tall, thin window on the main block is clearly the staircase. Small casement windows are used for the bathrooms. In true International Style fashion, windows that wrap around the corner are quite numerous. All windows project beyond the wall surface, a practical concession the architect made to Louisiana's rainy climate. (Windows in a "pure" International Style house would be flush with the wall--i.e., a continuation of the wall skin in another material rather than an interruption). Another adaptation to the climate is the roof's deep and prominent overhang, which provides some relief from the sun.

Interior spaces are grouped around stair rooms on both floors. The staircase ascends from the foyer to the second floor in four flights. In place of a balustrade, there is a solid streamlined geometric shape which curves and ascends in a strikingly energetic manner. The living room and dining room open on to each other and are separated by a section of wall containing a fireplace and built-in display case. The dramatic limestone mantel is clearly the focus of the room. Its very severe block-like design is relieved only by fluting on one side of the off-center firebox. The numerous corner windows are marked on the interior by an exposed structural steel pipe.

Alterations include the following:

- (1) The garage attached to the facade and the screened porch terminating the rear projection appear to be additions.
- (2) A deck has been added to the rear.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Flesch House, Shreveport, Caddo Parish, LA

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- (3) Wrought iron posts and a balustrade have been added to the front porch.
(The original steel pipe posts are behind the wrought iron.)
- (4) A low built-in cabinet has been added along one wall of the dining room.

Assessment of Integrity:

All in all, the above changes have had a minimal impact upon the house's International Style character. The garage is low in scale and does not interfere with the facade. The rear screened porch follows the lines of the house, and upon first glance appears to be original. Although obtrusive, the deck is on the rear elevation. The wrought iron posts and balustrade, of course, have had the most impact upon the house's International Style character. While jarring, at least the porch is not the dominant element in the facade's massing. Very importantly, the original posts were not removed and are still visible behind the wrought iron.

Non-Contributing Element:

To the rear of the house is a one story dependency that looks as if it were built at the same time. It actually dates from 1947 and was designed by the same architect. Because it is less than fifty years old, it is listed as a non-contributing element.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
architecture

Period of Significance
1936

Significant Dates
1936

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Architect: William Wiener

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Flesch House is of state significance in the area of architecture as one of very few examples of the International Style in Louisiana.

The International Style came into being in Europe in the 1920s, principally in Germany, France and Holland. Its leading practitioners were Le Corbusier, Walter Gropius, Mies van der Rohe, and J. J. P. Oud. Their purpose was to create a new architecture appropriate to the modern world--one appropriate to the age of the machine. Their designs were functional, stark and unadorned, with essentially the same architectural treatment applied to a factory, school or residence. The style is considered quite avant-garde and was never very popular in America. Le Corbusier's definition of a house as "a machine for living in" did not fit the American ideal of a cozy home.

Among the earliest practitioners of the International Style in America were two brothers in Shreveport, William and Sam Wiener. The style was so novel and examples so limited in the United States that Sam Wiener and fellow Shreveport architect Theodore Flaxman went to Europe in 1931 specifically to see the new architecture and meet its creators. They visited numerous buildings, attended the 1931 Building Exposition in Berlin, and met various architects, including Gropius, Eric Mendelsohn, and Alvar Aalto.

In the next few years Sam and William Wiener produced a number of major works in the International Style for Shreveport clients, beginning as early as 1931. Their work was wide-ranging, including institutional, commercial and residential construction. Sadly, their most revolutionary buildings have been destroyed (for example, the extraordinary Weekend House on Cross Lake, 1933, which was modeled after Le Corbusier's Villa Savoye).

As would be expected, there are also a few examples of the style in New Orleans, although usually ultra-conservative Shreveport was the state's hotbed of progressivism in this instance. All in all, there are roughly a dozen International Style buildings in Louisiana. Some of these have been altered so severely that they would not be eligible for the Register.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Fricker, Donna. "Samuel and William Wiener: Shreveport's Pioneering International Style Architects." Preservation in Print, Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans, October 1990.

Kingsley, Karen. Modernism in Louisiana: A Decade of Progress, 1930-40. Tulane University School of Architecture, 1984.

- Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A
- 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 # _____

See continuation sheet

- Primary location of additional data:
- State historic preservation office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property less than an acre

UTM References

A

1	5
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4	3	0	6	0	0
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3	5	9	0	6	8	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Please refer to enclosed sketch map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Boundary lines follow the property lines of the parcel of land upon which the house stands.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff

organization Division of Historic Preservation date March 1991

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 342-8160

city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804

Owner: Mr. & Mrs. George Guillot III
 12660 Hillcrest Road #4201
 Dallas, TX 75230

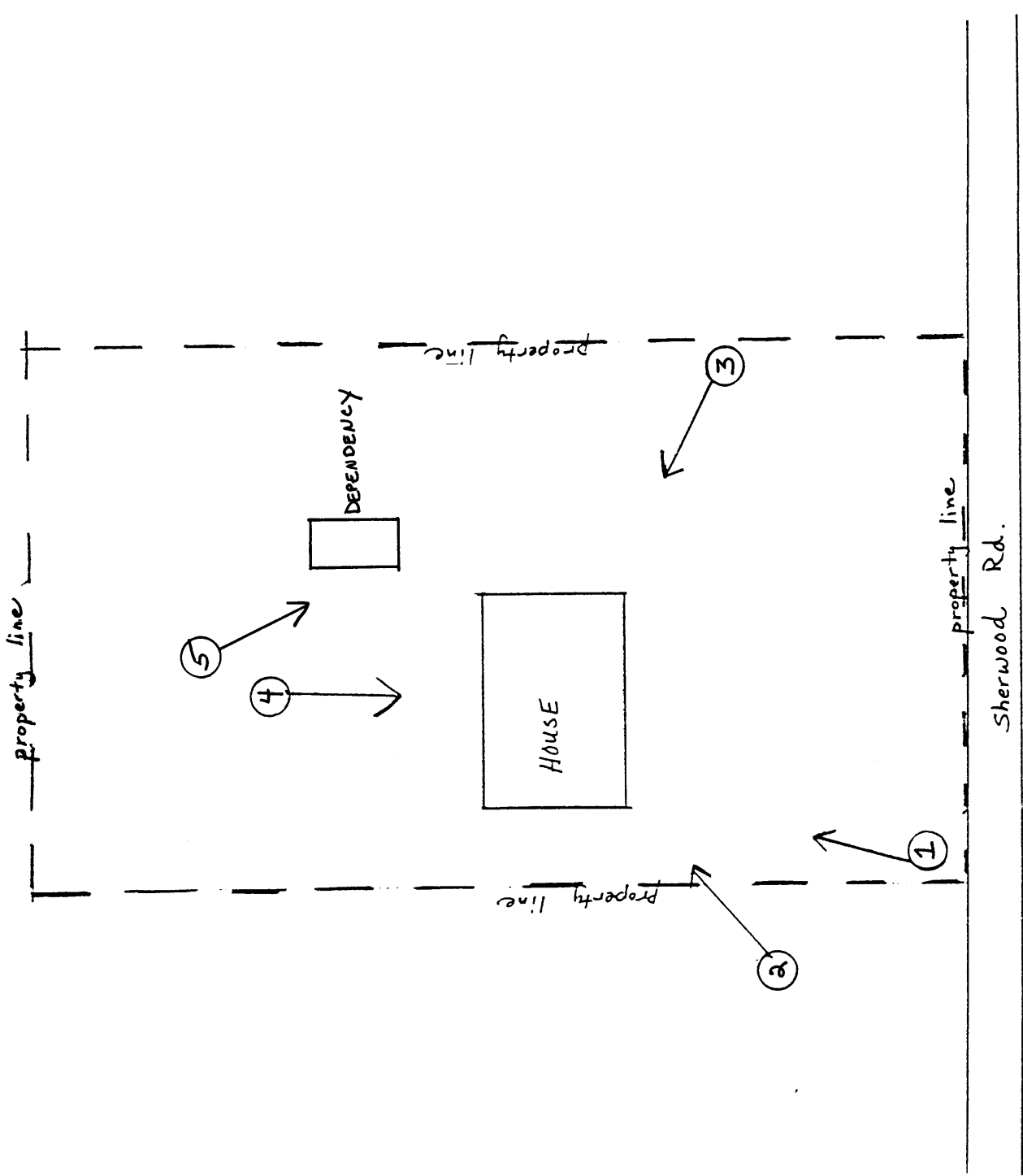
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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

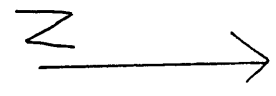
Flesch House, Shreveport, Caddo Parish, LA

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Against this background, the Flesch House, with its fairly minimal alterations, stands as an important reminder of the new architecture of the Machine Age. It is Le Corbusier's "machine for living in," but with some concessions to climatic considerations.



Flesch House
 Shreveport, Caddo Parish, LA



Scale 1" = 30'

--- BOUNDARY