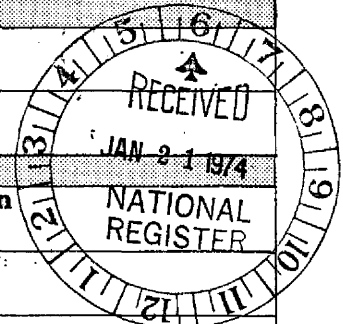


NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wisconsin
COUNTY: Iowa
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE: JUL 18 1974



1. NAME

COMMON:
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Unity Chapel S of Spring Green off WI 23

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **South of Spring Green 3 miles: located on County Highway T, .2 mile east of State Highway 23.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Spring Green - VIC.** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: **Second**

STATE: **Wisconsin** CODE: **55** COUNTY: **Iowa** CODE: **049**

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: **William Wesley Peters**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Taliesin**

CITY OR TOWN: **Spring Green** STATE: **Wisconsin** CODE: **55**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **Register of Deeds**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Iowa County Courthouse**

CITY OR TOWN: **Dodgeville** STATE: **Wisconsin** CODE: **55**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: **Wisconsin's Historic Preservation Plan, Vol. 2: The Inventory**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1973** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: **State Historical Society of Wisconsin**

STREET AND NUMBER: **816 State Street**

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Wisconsin	FOR NPS USE ONLY
COUNTY: Iowa	
ENTRY NUMBER: JUL 18 1974	DATE
DATE	

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Unity Chapel is a small, simple building with an "L"-shaped plan, steeply-pitched hipped roof, and small belfry on top of the roof at the intersection of the gables. A Shingle Style building, it is uniformly covered with a layer of wood shingles on both the roof and the walls, and it rests on rock-faced, rusticated stone foundation walls.

In plan, the building is a reversed-"L" with its short leg pointing due north, and its long leg pointing east. Entry to the chapel is gained from the north through the short leg and its open entry porch covered by the extended main hipped roof resting on two square corner piers. The porch is three steps above grade. The main chapel hall occupies the east-west leg of the "L".

The chapel hall is illuminated by double-hung windows placed in groups of three on the north, south, and west walls. The east wall is blank. Each window has twelve lights in the upper sash, and one large pane of glass in the lower sash.

The unusual belfry on the chapel is square in plan with a bell-cast inflected-hipped roof and battered base. Each of the four sides has a semi-circular, arched opening behind which is the chapel's bell.

The current appearance of the chapel is not changed from the original. It is boarded up most of the year, and is open only for short periods during the summer when its owner moves to Wisconsin with the Taliesin group. The chapel is used only by the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation for occasional summer services.

The chapel is located in a graveyard which contains the grave of Frank Lloyd Wright as well as those of many of his relatives and associates.

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 type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1886

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/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Unity Chapel is architecturally significant because of its associations with two major Midwestern architects: Joseph Lyman Silsbee and Frank Lloyd Wright. It was designed in Silsbee's Chicago office and built in 1886, before Wright became an actual Silsbee employe. In spite of this Wright "looked after the interior," according to Unity magazine of August 28, 1886, in his earliest-known architectural work. This is not too surprising since Silsbee's client for the chapel was Jenkin Lloyd Jones, Wright's uncle, for whom Silsbee had designed All Souls Church in Chicago the previous year. Shortly after Unity Chapel was built Wright moved to Chicago and entered the employ of Silsbee for nearly one year: his first architectural employment.

Silsbee was a major Midwestern architect practicing in the Shingle Style, of which the chapel is a relatively simple example. As a teacher of young draftsmen Silsbee was penultimate, as is evidenced by his substantial influence on Wright and on other major architects in his employ of the latter's generation, including George W. Maher and George Grant Elmslie. Were it not for the fact that these several young apprentices found their way into Silsbee's office, however, history might well have recorded his practice as being that of a competent, but not altogether brilliant, architect. His designs during the 1885 to 1889 period were characterized by increasing simplification of the Shingle Style, which had achieved popularity in the East. Unity Chapel is simplified in the extreme, compared to preceding Shingle Style designs, and is practically devoid of ornamentation. This chapel is one of only two buildings designed by Silsbee known to remain standing in Wisconsin.

Wright was strongly influenced by Silsbee, both in his developing sense of residential design and his drafting techniques. After leaving Silsbee's office for that of Adler and Sullivan in about February, 1888, he continued designing independently in the Shingle Style for some time; and the romantic influence of Silsbee never left his designs. So proficient had Wright become under Silsbee's tutelage, that it is generally felt that he was given Adler and Sullivan's residential commissions for solution.

The Unity Chapel stands as the only remaining Wisconsin architectural example of the significant relationship which developed between Frank Lloyd Wright and his first "teacher," Joseph Lyman Silsbee.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hasbrouck, Wilbert R., AIA. "The Earliest Work of Frank Lloyd Wright." Prairie School Review, Vol. VII, No. 4. (Palos Park, Ill.: 1970).
 Sorrell, Susan Karr. "Silsbee: The Evolution of a Personal Architectural Style," and "A Catalogue of Work by J.L. Silsbee." Prairie School Review, Vol. VII, No. 4. (Palos Park, Ill.: 1970).
 Hitchcock, Henry-Russell. In The Nature of Materials. (New York, 1942) p. 4.
 Twombly, Robert C. Frank Lloyd Wright: An Interpretive Biography. (New York, Harper & Row: 1973)
 Withey, Henry F. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased). (Los Angeles: 1970).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (Los Angeles: 1970).

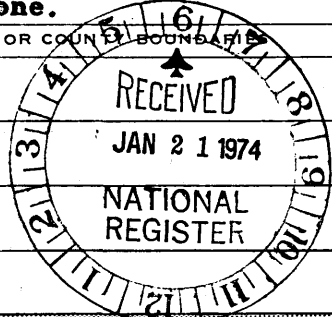
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

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UTM PD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **less than one.**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Jeffrey M. Dean, State Preservation Planner

ORGANIZATION: **State Historical Society of Wisconsin** DATE: **Sept. 14, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:
816 State Street

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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: James Morton Smith
James Morton Smith

Title: Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Date: January 11, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

AR Quatrecas
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 7/18/74

ATTEST:

Wm J. Montoye
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 7-17-74