UNITED STATES DEPART ALS T OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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AND/OR COMMON	Edgar J. Kaufmann Ho	use		
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STREET & NUMBER			<u>;</u>	
	West of Pennsylvania	Route 381	NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
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JIAIL	Pennsylvania	GODE	Fayette	0001
3 CLASSIFI	CATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENT USE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	X_MUSEUM
$\underline{X}_{BUILDING(S)}$	PRIVATE	XUNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	X_PARK
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X_{SITE}	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	XYES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
OWNER C	OF PROPERTY		· ·	
NAME	Western Pennsylvania	Conservancy	e e	
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01,17,104114	Pittsburgh —	VICINITY OF	Pennsylvan	ia
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"Fallingwater" is located on acres of rolling woodland. The main house is sited on the north of Bear Run, above the upper waterfall. It is oriented toward 150 degrees on the compass, or 7.5 degrees east of South-Southeast. The principal entrance is at the back (north side) through a loggia leading off a driveway between the house and a rock cliff about 16 feet high. A secondary entrance, to the kitchen, is at the northwest corner of the house, also from the driveway.

The main house, built in 1937, is three stories high; average stream level is 1298' above sea level, the first-floor level. The first story comprises a large central living room, with dining table and glazed hatch leading down steps to the stream, the kitchen, and a small entry. Steel and glass doors open from the living room to terraces on the east and west. The second story is occupied by a master bedroom and terrace (above the living room); Mr. Kaufmann's dressing room (above the kitchen) opening onto a terrace to the west; and a guest bedroom (above the east side of the living room). The third story is taken by a bedroom (above Mr. Kaufmann's dressing room), west balcony stairs leading down to the west terrace and a "gallery" opening onto a terrace above the center of the house. The bedroom is now furnished as a library, and the gallery--originally conceived as a connecting passage to a pedestrian bridge over the driveway--now leads to an alcove furnished as a small bedroom.

The structure of the main house consists of native sandstone walls, piers, walls, and chimney core, with floors of cantilevered slabs of reinforced concrete. Window and door sash is of steel. Floors, indoors and out, are finished with two inch flags of native sandstone. Millwork is of black walnut plywood.

Wright designed all of the furniture with the house with minor exceptions. He used walnut veneer extensively on the interior furnishings, for cabinets in the bedrooms, chose other appropriate furnishings and sculpture for the house. Most of the furniture is of the built-in variety and thus stationary.

Edgar Kaufmann described the structure in an article thus:

"Wright fixed the great chimney mass on top of a large boulder, its natural upper surface becoming the living room hearth, set above the finished floor. Around this point Wright swung his spaces; to the south the living room cantilevering over the falls; to the east the entrance spaces, to the west the kitchen, and to the north narrow strip for stairs and dining, all organized by four massive low piers that define the center bay of the living room. The north side of the house is almost sheltered by a steep cliff; the driveway runs narrowly between cliff and house.

(Continued)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	ECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	X LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	\underline{X} CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
<u>X</u> 1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		
			·	

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

1936, 1939

SPECIFIC DATES

"Fallingwater" on Bear Run is a summer house built for Pittsburgh millionaire Edgar J. Kaufmann. Wayne Andrews has called it the "most famous modern house in the world" while Vincent Scully proclaimed it "one of the complete master-pieces of twentieth-century art." The house, cantilevered over a waterfall, has come to be one of America's most renowned buildings, appealing not only to architects, but to the general public as well.

Kaufmann, a Pittsburgh department store owner, gave Wright the commission for a retreat—a beautiful home, elevated over a waterfall, its wings reaching out into the air, as part of the natural landscape. Its relationship to its surroundings is like that of a tree house, a made thing that is utterly natural. Wright himself writing in Architectural Forum (1938) stated that this house "has no limitations as to form." "Fallingwater" is almost impossible to describe and very difficult to photograph—the site is spectacular, the house changes from different vantage points and the scale is elusive.

"Fallingwater" exploits the site as few other structures have before or since-secured to a rock the cantilevered balconies float in the space over the swiftly moving stream. Equally beautiful when approached on ground level, the three stories of the main house combine visually with the massing of the guest house above to produce a monumentality, even in its domesticity. Visitors are surprised by its comparatively few rooms--a living room, three bedrooms and service rooms all extended by balconies, terraces and canopy slabs that project off the house in all directions.

The interior spaces are as beautiful as the exterior. Wright did not believe, as have many architects before and since, that a house should be an empty stage for human action, capable of being changed at will. Wright built in furniture, used flourescent lighting as an aesthetic element which imitates daylight or is used as indirect light when it is not needed as direct illumination for reading or at a desk. Structural materials are generally the same on both interior and exterior, the flag paved living room floor continues to a stair dropping to a plunge pool under the house. The windows at the corners hold glass sealed against glass so there is no visual interruption and reveal the the area Edgar Kaufmann describes as combining "the beauty of a mature forest, massive sandstone boulders, a wild, free-flowing stream, and a forest understory covered with native rhododendron, laurel, and typical Appalachian wildflowers."

(See continuation sheet).

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(See continuation sheet).			
LIST ALL STATES AND COL	JNTIES FOR PROPERTI	ES OVERLAPPING STA	ATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
11 FORM PREPARED BY NAME / TITLE Carolyn Pitts, Architectu ORGANIZATION Historic Sites Survey Div STREET & NUMBER 1100 L Street, NW. CITY OR TOWN Washington, D. C. 20240 12 STATE HISTORIC PR THE EVALUAT	nral Historian vision, National	N OFFICER CE	
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Fallingwater

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The structure is so unusual that, although it is accurately expressed, more familiar preconceptions lead most people to 'read' the house wrongly. They think of tall stone walls from which the reinforced concrete projects. In fact, Wright conceived the house as a series of horizontal concrete trays, upturned, stiffening edges; these trays are merely spaced one above the other by short stone masses. Wherever stone and concrete meet, the latter is continuous. Each concrete tray is structural on its lower surface; above this, in many areas, is an air space divided by small concrete walls that support a wood floor, finished in flag stones from the nearby quarry...Wright kept talking about the continuity of all surfaces on either side of the glass line. Floors must be at the same level, in the same stone flagging; ceiling surfaces were to be continuous and their color, uninterrupted."

The guest wing and servants' quarters, built in 1939 on the hill above the main house, at about 1340' above sea level, is connected to the main house by a semicircular walkway of stone protected by a cantilevered canopy of reinforced concrete. The guest wing is composed of a bedroom and lounge, with swimming pool to the east; the servants' quarters consist of two single rooms and one "double" sized room on the second story, above the four-place carport, and a chaufeur's room at the south end of the carport level. Structure and millwork are of same character as main house.

There have been few changes. In 1946 the kitchen was extended to the west to provide a servants' sitting room, a separate furnace was installed for the guest wing. In 1954 the east part of the cantilevered roof slab above the guest bedroom terrace of the main house was rebuilt. After a flood in 1956 the hanging stairs to the stream were reinforced with two additional steel ties into the bedrock of the stream.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Fallingwater ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

"Fallingwater" exemplifies Wright's own philosophy--"Architecture is the triumph of human imagination over materials, methods, and men." The house enhances the site and has become symbolic of man's respect for nature and his acceptance of a partnership with the environment.

The house was given to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy by Edgar J. Kaufmann in October 1969. It is maintained and interpreted for visitors by appointment.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Fallingwater ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

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Dickson, Harold E., A Hundred Pennsylvania Buildings, State College, Pennsylvania: Bald Eagle Press, 1954.

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Jacobs, Herbert, Frank Lloyd Wright, America's Greatest Architect, New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc., 1965.

Scully, Vincent, Frank Lloyd Wright, New York: George Braziller, 1960.

The Architectural Forum 68, January 1938.

Twombly, Robert C., Frank Lloyd Wright, New York: Harper and Row, 1973.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Fallingwater

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

All that certain lot or parcel of ground in the Township of Stewart, County of Fayette and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, being bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a planted square stone with an "X" on top at a corner common to lands now or formerly of John H. Stark, lands now or formerly of Jacob Stull and lands herein described; thence along said Stull lands, the following seven (7) courses and distances, each of said courses being to a planted stone with an "X" on top: South 51° 35' West 562.73 feet, North 84° 16' West 109.51 feet, North 62° 19' West 233.00 feet, North 22° 20' West 179.63 feet, North 4° 59' East 165.34 feet, North 48⁰ 32' 30" West 415.43 feet and South 45⁰ 41' 40" West 131.80 feet to a planted stone with an "X" on top at the southeasterly corner of lands now or formerly of William Gormleyp thence along said Gormley lands, the following four (4) courses and distances: North 22° 51' 40" West 438.57 feet to a post with pointers painted red. South 79° 15' West 200 feet to a point on State Route 381, thence leaving said State Route 381 and following an old county road, South 10° 30' West 90 feet, more or less and South 8° 30' East 670 feet, more or less, to a point on the easterly side of said old county road at line of lands now or formerly of said Jacob Stull; thence along said Stull lands, South 60 8' 30" West 333.30 feet to a corner common to said Stull lands and lands now or formerly of E. R. Clarkson; thence along said Clarkson lands and crossing said State Route 381, North 630 33' 30" West 1320.61 feet to a point on line of other lands now or formerly of said E. R. Clarkson; thence along said other Clarkson lands, North 55^o 15' West 849.75 feet to a corner common to said other Clarkson lands and lands now or formerly of J. R. Smiley; thence along said Smiley lands, the following two (2) courses and distances: North 41° 30' West 198 feet to stones and North 46° East 181.5 feet to a planted square stone with an "X" on top, said point being also the beginning point used in the description of that tract, known locally as, and hereinafter called, the "Masonic Country Club Tract," as described in that certain deed from Investment Land Company to Liliane S. Kaufmann, dated July 28, 1933, and recorded in the Recorder's Office of Fayette County, Pennsylvania, hereinafter called the "Recorder's Office," in Deed Book Vol. 519, page 432, part of said Masonic Country Club Tract being part of the lands herein described; thence continuing along said Smiley lands the following two (2) courses and distances: North 230 46' 10" West 580.06 feet and South 76° 46' West 280.60 feet to a point on the east bank of the Youghiogheny River; thence along the east bank of said river, North 210 50' West 550.60 feet to a point on line of other lands of said J. R. Smiley; thence along said other Smiley lands the following five (5) courses and distances: North 76° 46' East 363.00 feet, North 10° 22' West 402.47 feet to a planted stone with an "X" on top, North 240 16' East 1018.77 feet to a planted stone in a mound of stones

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CONTINUATION SHEET Fallingwater

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10 PAGE 2

at the edge of a field, said point also being on line of lands conveyed to Edgar Kaufmann by Joe H. May and Etta Jean May, his wife, by deed dated October 8, 1957 and recorded in the Recorder's Office in Deed Book Vol. 900, page 348, hereinafter called the 'May Tract," part of said May Tract being part of the lands herein described, due West 1040 feet, more or less, to a chestnut and North 220 West 660 feet to a gum at a corner common to said other Simley lands and lands now or formerly of Fred Bowers; thence along said Bowers lands, North 64° East 1643.5 feet to a point; thence through the May Tract, South 85° East 3760 feet to a point being South 50 East 50 feet from the southeast corner of lands now or formerly of Paul A. Ream; thence along the center line of said State Route 381, South 17° West 868 feet, more or less, to a point at the intersection of said center line with the westerly line of lands conveyed by Rebecca Tissue et al. to Edgar J. Kaufmann and Liliane S. Kaufmann, his wife, by deed dated December 16, 1940 and recorded in the Recorder's Office in Deed Book Vol. 565, page 16, hereinafter called the "Tissue Tract;" thence continuing along said center line, South 42° West 1940 feet, more or less, to the easterly corner of lands now or formerly of the Trustees of the Church of the Brethren; thence along said lands of the Trustees of the Church of the Brethren, the following three (3) courses and distances: North 40° West 200 feet; South 49° 15' West 115 feet and South 23° East 231 feet to a point in the center line of said State Route 381; thence along said center line, South 46° West 118.8 feet to a corner common to the Masonic Country Club Tract and the Tissue Tract; thence along the dividing line between the Masonic Country Club Tract and the Tissue Tract, the following four (4) courses and distances: South 16° 46' 20" East 1120 feet, more or less, to a point at a stone fence, South 15° 46' 30" East 873.52 feet to a copper bolt in a boulder, North 73° 12' 13" East 684.50 feet to a planted stone with an "X" on top and North 43° 40' East 1670.65 feet to a planted stone with and "X" on top; thence through the Masonic Country Club Tract, South 85° East 1320 feet to a point; thence South 7° West 3600 feet, more or less, to a corner common to lands now or formerly of Howard L. Sparks and lands now or formerly of John H. Stark; thence along said Stark lands, the following two (2) courses and distances: North 49° 59' 45" West 3040 feet, more or less, to a planted stone with an "X" on top and South 30° 37' 30" West 428.51 feet to the point at the place of beginning.

Containing 515 acres more or less.

Excepting therefrom and thereout the following described parcel belonging now or formerly to Jacob F. Stull, conveyed to said Jacob F. Stull by deed of Grant Dull, dated July 24, 1930 and recorded in the Recorder's Office in Deed Book Vol. 519, page 382:

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CONTINUATION SHEET Fallingwater ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 3

Beginning at a planted stone with an "X" on top located North 46° East 85.1 feet from the beginning point used in the description of the Masonic Country Club Tract in said deed from Investment Land Company to Liliane S. Kaufmann; thence along the 8.892 acre portion of the Masonic Country Club Tract excepted and reserved in said deed the following two (2) courses and distances: North 56° 01' 45" East 561.50 feet to a planted stone with an "X" on top and North 68° 01' 45" East 635 feet more or less to a stone at the northwesterly corner of the first tract described in that certain deed from Donald M. Woodmancy and Ruth C. Woodmancy, his wife, to Edgar J. Kaufmann, dated July 29, 1933, and recorded in the Recorder's Office in Deed Book Vol. 519, page 435; thence along said first Woodmancy Tract South 150 48' East 537.90 feet to a planted stone in a mound of stones on line of the third tract described in said Woodmancy deed; thence along said their Woodmancy tract South 36° 34' West 619.08 feet to a planted stone in a mound of stones at a corner common to said third Woodmancy tract and lands conveyed by E. R. Clarkson to Edgar J. Kaufmann, by deed dated September 15, 1948, and recorded in the Recorder's Office in Deed Book Vol. 668, page 61; thence along said Clarkson lands North 590 West 975.48 feet to the point at the place of beginning.

Containing 14.831 acres more or less.

State Route 381 bisects the above-described tract of land on an axis which runs approximately north to south. National Landmark Status is given only to that portion of the above-described tract of land which lies to the east of said State Route 381.

Form No. 10 2004 (Cr. C. 10 22)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR RATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SWEET Palling Water ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 4

and reserved in said deed the following two (2) courses and distances: North 56° 61' 45" East 561.50 feet to a planted stone with an "x" on top and North 68° 01' 45" East 605 feet more or less to a stone at the northwesterly corner of the first tract described in that certain deed from Donald M. Woodmancy and Ruth C. Woodmancy, his wife, to Edgar J. Kaufmann, dated July 29, 1933, and recorded in the Recorder's Office in Deed Book Vol. 519, page 435; thence along said first Woodsancy Tract South 15° 48' East 537.90 feet to a planted stone in a mound of stones on line of the third tract described in said Woodmaney deed; thence along said third Woodmancy tract South 36° 34' West 619.03 feet to a planted stone in a mound of stones at a corner common to said third Woodmancy tract and lands conveyed by E. R. Clarkson to Edgar J. Kaufmann, by deed dated September 15, 1948, and recorded in the Recorder's Office in Deed Book Vol. 668, page 61; thence along said Clarkson lands North 59° West 975.48 feet to the point at the place of beginning.

CONTAINING 14.831 acres more or less.

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