

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |             |
| RECEIVED         | JUN 28 1977 |
| DATE ENTERED     | JAN 3 1978  |

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Lamp, Robert M., House

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

22 North Butler Street

\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Madison

\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

STATE

Wisconsin 53703

CODE

55

COUNTY

Dane

CODE

025

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Neujahr

STREET & NUMBER

22 North Butler Street

CITY, TOWN

Madison

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin 53703

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Dane County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

210 Monona Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53709

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Sites

DATE

1976

\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_ COUNTY \_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

# 7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION                                |                                       | CHECK ONE                                   | CHECK ONE   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT       | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR            | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED    |   |   |

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Originally, the Lamp House had two stories, a roof garden with wooden pergola and a fireplace, the whole constructed of yellow or cream brick of a type indigenous to Wisconsin. The house has parapet walls, a terrace on the front (northeast) wall, an enclosed porch on the northwest wall, a bay on the southeast wall, and two airing porches off the landings leading to the second and third floors. The shape of the building is roughly cubical. Pilasters embrace the four corners, rising from the ground to the level of the second-story sills. Courses of brick encircle the exposed walls as a continuation of the lintels of the second-story windows. Dentils decorate the cornice, and a sill of five corbelled courses of brick supports the band of five windows across the front of the second story. The facade has two diamond-shaped brick patterns worked between the windows of the first story. All windows are casement, with diamond-shaped panes of glass, surrounded by thin borders of white, translucent glass. Their frames are red cypress, rough-sawn on the exterior and stained dark brown, but smoothly finished on the interior and originally varnished (now given an oil and wax finish). Three sets of double windows on the front and three sets of French doors and a four-foot-wide front door give exterior access and light to the living and dining rooms on the first floor. On the second floor, a band of five windows, spaced symmetrically but with wider piers separating the outermost windows from the rest, gives a sense of classical proportions to the facade.

The principal alteration is a replacement structure for the pergola and roof garden -- a flat-roofed penthouse set inside the parapet. It is of light construction, with a nearly continuous band of windows around it and a small greenhouse extended on the left wall. The alterations to the roof probably were made in the fall of 1913. Less significantly, an enclosed outer stairwell was added on the southwest and southeast walls, as an addition to the existing airing porches; the bay on the southeast wall has been masked by asbestos sheeting and battens; the terrace facade was reconstructed of cement block in the original proportions, but with an added coal chute and a coat of stucco; the yellow brick walls were painted several times, once with a water-based coat which defies chemical removal; the ceramic capping of the parapet wall was replaced by galvanized capping, at which time (November, 1961) the remaining pergola structure (which had enclosed the penthouse) was removed; a fire escape was installed earlier along the northwest wall, reaching to the porch roof. A previous alteration -- a city requirement to enlarge a second-story window into a door -- has been or soon will be rectified. The current owners intend to restore the exterior as closely to the original condition as is feasible, including the removal of the third story addition and the restoration of siding similar to the original on the southeast bay.

On the interior, the living and dining rooms form an L, pivoting on a fireplace and with no interrupting walls between them, merely the suggestions of a beam. They have full access to the covered porch. The stairwell is open. The red cypress interior woodwork is typical of the banded style that Wright favored between about 1900 and 1910.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD                                    | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW |   |   |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC      | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING     | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499        | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC     | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION           | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW                    | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599        | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS              | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION              | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799        | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING            | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899        | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY               | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION              |   |  |

---

SPECIFIC DATES    plans: 1902-1903  
                      constructed: 1903<sup>1</sup>                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT    Frank Lloyd Wright

---

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Lamp House is architectural. It not only demonstrates some phases in the development of Wright's architectural ideas, but, also, it was designed by Wright for his closest childhood friend, Robert M. Lamp.

The Lamp House is among the buildings that Hitchcock calls "fundamentally square houses," which have the "virtues of compactness and ingenuity, even though they are sometimes rather dull and formal."<sup>2</sup> It represents Wright's first mastery of the cube as a shape, a form that Wright has been experimenting with since 1900 and which was realized also in the more famous "Fireproof House for \$5000" design of 1906 for the Ladies' Home Journal, and in the Unity Church in Oak Park, also of 1906.<sup>3</sup> The simple plan, featuring open spaces pivoting around a central fireplace, follows in the tradition of Bruce Price and Wright's own house of 1889, and antecedes the Ladies' Home Journal design of 1906. The studied proportions and geometric simplicity of the facade clearly shows the influence of the Vienna Secession on Wright's work at the beginning of the century.<sup>4</sup> In addition, the Lamp House is representative of Wright's concern with the small, inexpensive house, a concern which manifested itself in the Ladies' Home Journal design and which continued up to his death.

An early attempt by Wright to create an urban residence, and his first in Wisconsin,<sup>5</sup> the Lamp House is exceptionally-well adapted to its site. Downtown Madison stretches along a narrow isthmus between two large lakes. As Wright, himself said, "Madison is a beautiful city. From near or far away the white dome of the State Capitol on a low spreading hill shone white in the sun between two blue lakes, Mendota and Monona."<sup>6</sup> The Lamp House is only one-and-one-half blocks from the Capitol Square. Situated in the middle of a city block, the house and its gardens are sheltered by neighboring houses, plantings and fences.<sup>7</sup> Although the house is in the midst of a congested neighborhood, Wright succeeded in creating an aura of quiet seclusion and privacy. Indeed, most people in the City of Madison are not even aware of its existence.

From the roof garden one can see both lakes, of which Wright declared, "Monona and Mendota connected by the Yahara, how beautiful they were! Especially Mendota!"<sup>8</sup>

Lake Mendota and its shores were a favorite childhood playground of Robie Lamp and Wright.<sup>9</sup> Unpublished research demonstrates that Wright was a frequent guest at Lamp's parents' house.<sup>10</sup> There he was surrounded by a large family of Lamp's aunts and uncles, brothers and sisters, cousins and grandparents, much like the family that he enjoyed when he visited his Lloyd Jones relatives in Spring Green. Both households contrasted markedly with the domestic turmoil Wright endured under his parents' roof.<sup>11</sup> During the summers he could escape by visiting his relations on their Spring Green farms; during the winter he found respite among the Lamps.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .16 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | 6 |
|---|---|

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 6 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 7 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  |  |
|--|--|

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Property lines of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Neujahn property.

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|       |      |        |      |
|       |      |        |      |

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John O. Holzhueter, Assistant Editor, Wisconsin Magazine of History

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

9-16-76

STREET & NUMBER

816 State Street

TELEPHONE

608/262-9695

CITY OR TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Richard D. Emery*

TITLE

Acting Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

6/20/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*W. Smith*

DATE

1-3-78

ATTEST:

*Charles A. ...*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
DATE 7-3-78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 28 1977

DATE ENTERED

JAN 3 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE 1

SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

In his autobiography the architect writes, "The boys were fast friends...till Robie, forty-four, died in a little cream-white brick house with a roof-garden filled with flowers..."<sup>12</sup>

1. Henry-Russell Hitchcock, in In the Nature of Materials: The Buildings of Frank Lloyd Wright, 1887-1941 (New York, 1942), 112-113, and William Allin Storrer, in The Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright: A Complete Catalog (Cambridge, Massachusetts, and London, England, 1974), 97, err in assigning a 1904 date to the dwelling. It was nearly complete in September, 1903 (Madison Democrat, September 6, 1903), and probably was planned in late 1902, according to notations in Wright's hand on drawing number 0307.16 in the Taliesen Associated Architects, Scottsdale, Arizona, archives.
2. Henry-Russell Hitchcock, In the Nature of Materials, (New York, 1973), 44.
3. Interview with Narciso Menocal, University of Wisconsin, Department of Art History, April 1, 1977.
4. Ibid.
5. Telephone interview with Brian Spencer, Prairie Archives, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, March 31, 1977.
6. Frank Lloyd Wright, An Autobiography (New York, 1943), 31.
7. It is often assumed, incorrectly, that lawn and garden stretched to the street at first. Mortgage, tax, and deed records prove this assumption false. See Dane County, Treasurer, Tax Rolls, 1897-1905, City of Madison, Series 013/2/2, Archives Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin; and Dane County, Register of Deeds, Deeds volumes 62, p. 110; 23, p. 313; 76, p. 105; 57, p. 406; 79, p. 384; 63, p. 343; 78, p. 25; 78, p. 346; 113, p. 258; 95, p. 412; 18, p. 521; 184, p. 134; 149, p. 398; Quit Claim Deeds volume 118, 249; Tax Deeds, volume Z, p. 476; Mortgages, volumes 150, p. 341; 160, p. 153; 161, p. 159; 141, p. 84; 138, p. 336; and 152, p. 365, all in the Register of Deeds office, Dane County Courthouse. Also see Robert M. Lamp probate file, in Dane County Probate Court, box 488, series 013/10/6, Archives Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin.
8. Wright, p. 31.
9. "And these boys lived many lives. One with the lake..." Wright, p. 32.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |             |
| RECEIVED         | JUN 28 1977 |
| DATE ENTERED     | 378         |

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

---

SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

10. Personal letters to and conversations with John O. Holzhueter of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, from and by numerous relations, friends, and associates of Robert Lamp, 1965-1974. Of special value were conversations with Mrs. Eunice Lamp Beck, November 6 and 9, 1973; Miss Loreen M. Jacobson, February 5, 1974; and Mrs. Jennie Flink, February 5, 1974; and a letter from Mrs. Matilda Sweet Hesse, February 4, 1974.
11. Wright, pp. 16-71.
12. Ibid., p. 32.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 28 1977

DATE ENTERED

JAN 3 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

1. Harold Allen Brooks, The Prairie School: Frank Lloyd Wright and His Midwest Contemporaries (W. W. Norton, New York, 1976)
2. Henry-Russell Hitchcock, In the Nature of Materials: The Buildings of Frank Lloyd Wright, 1887-1941 (New York, 1942)
3. Grant Carpenter Manson, Frank Lloyd Wright to 1910: The First Golden Age (New York, 1958)
4. Norris Kelly Smith, Frank Lloyd Wright: A Study in Architectural Content (Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, 1966)
5. William Allin Storrer, The Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright: A Complete Catalog (Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1974)
6. Robert C. Twombly, Frank Lloyd Wright: An Interpretive Biography (New York, 1973)
7. Frank Lloyd Wright, An Autobiography (New York, 1943)
8. Paul E. Sprague, "Griffin Rediscovered in Beverly," Prairie School Review, 10: 6-9 (First Quarter, 1973)
9. Madison Democrat, September 6, 1903
10. Lamp House project drawings, drawings number 0307.16 and 0402.01 through 0402.07, Taliesin Associated Architects, Scottsdale, Arizona, archives
11. Various archival sources and personal research records of John O. Holzhueter as cited in the footnotes.
12. Menocal, Narciso, University of Wisconsin, Department of Art History, interview on April 1, 1977.
13. Spencer, Brian, Prairie Archives, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, telephone interview on March 31, 1977.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 28 1977

DATE ENTERED JAN 3 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

---

Madison Landmark  
January 28, 1976  
City of Madison Landmarks Commission  
c/o Madison City Planning Department  
210 Monona Avenue  
Madison, Wisconsin 53709

---

Item Number 11 Page 4

Katherine E. Hundt, Architectural Historian

State Historical Society of Wisconsin  
816 State Street  
Madison

4-1-77  
608/262-2970  
Wisconsin 53706