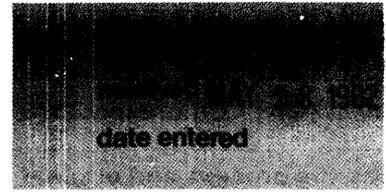


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 Johnson, A. P., House

and/or common Campbell Residence

2. Location

street & number 3455 South Shore Drive not for publication

city, town Delavan vicinity of congressional district

state Wisconsin code 55 county Walworth code 127

3. Classification

| Category  | Ownership                                   | Status   | Present Use                            |   |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input type="checkbox"/> public             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied         | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture   | <input type="checkbox"/> museum                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied                  | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial    | <input type="checkbox"/> park                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b> N/A               | <b>Accessible</b>                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> religious                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <input type="checkbox"/> in process         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted  | <input type="checkbox"/> government    | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific                   |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered   | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted           | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation               |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> no                          | <input type="checkbox"/> military      | <input type="checkbox"/> other:                       |

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. James Campbell

street & number 1711 Hawthorne Avenue

city, town Janesville vicinity of state Wisconsin 53545

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Walworth County Courthouse

city, town Elkhorn state Wisconsin 53706

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1972  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

## 7. Description

|   |                                       |   |   |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Condition</b>                              |                                       | <b>Check one</b>                            | <b>Check one</b>                                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input 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

The A. P. Johnson House, one of five summer residences on the shores of Delavan Lake designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, is a characteristic example of Prairie Style architecture. The plan of the house is a short "T" configuration: the rectangular body of the house comprises the base of the plan with flanking porches providing the wings of the "T". A partial basement, a first floor with side and front porches and a full second story make up the core of the wood frame house.

The exterior is characterized by six major elements which identify it as a Prairie Style building. There are low-pitched hip roofs with large overhangs, a raised central block mass, horizontal wood banding, a chimney located at the intersection of roof planes, casement windows grouped in horizontal bands, and horizontal siding. The low-pitched hip roofs with large overhangs extend the house horizontally, "anchoring" it to the site. The original wood shingle roof has been replaced with asphalt shingles. The raised central portion of the house is the core element from which all other elements project. It contains all of the living spaces. Water table and string course wood trim bands are to tie masses together and reinforce horizontal effect. The water table trim occurs just above grade level with string courses occurring at first floor window sill level and second floor window sill level. Several projecting pilasters on the north and south sides relieve the otherwise flat wall surfaces and the horizontal sweep of the whole.

The large chimney is located at the imaginary intersection point of the roof planes and is the central element of the house. It marks the dominate feature of the interior, the fireplace. The chimney was originally common brick, but has recently been faced with a stone veneer.

The windows of the house are wood casement type, each having a decorative pattern of leaded panes of colored and clear glass. The geometric pattern is repeated throughout the first and second floor windows. The front picture window is one piece plain glass which appears to be original. The windows are grouped in bands to accent the horizontal and to allow a continuous view of the exterior, causing interior and exterior space to "flow together." Windows on the lake side of the house abut at the corners to allow less obstructed views and to eliminate the corner of the intersecting walls.

The exterior wall material is tongue and groove horizontal wood siding, a type commonly used on many of Frank Lloyd Wright's small cottage or cabin designs.<sup>1</sup> Originally intended to be a natural finish fairly dark in color, the house was initially painted white then later olive green.<sup>2</sup> Recently all paint was stripped off and the wood stained a light tan color with dark brown trim.

(continued)

<sup>1</sup>Henry-Russel Hitchcock, In The Nature of Materials, (DeCapo Press, New York, 1973), p. 46.

<sup>2</sup>William Allin Storrer, The Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright, (Mit. Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1974), p. 87.

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Other major exterior features include flanking service and visitor entrances at the back (south) of the house, a screened-in east porch, and built-in planters in the railings of the front porch.

The first floor interior is characterized by plaster over lath walls with walnut color stained pine woodwork and hardwood floors. The focal point of this level is the living area, which is actually a composite of three continuous rooms (dining room, living room, and study, from east to west) minimally "divided" by a wood soffit above head level. The soffits are spacial extensions of a continuous applied wood molding which spans walls throughout the house, linking all spaces. A large simple Roman brick fireplace fills the entire south wall of the living room; except for subtle changes in tones in the bricks, it is unadorned. Two parallel bands of wood trim cross the living area ceiling and "continue" out onto the porch ceilings, cross, and terminate at the porch roof support piers. Other first floor rooms include entry hall, kitchen, maids room (now an office), and bathroom. Kitchen and bathrooms have recently been remodeled. The plan of second floor is similar in detailing to the first except that rooms are divided by walls, and woodwork is painted rather than stained. The five bedrooms each have open wardrobe spaces. The center bedroom has a small Roman brick fireplace with a wood mantel. Transom panels above all second floor doors allows light into the central hall. A bathroom and a linen closet are also located on the second floor. A simple straight run stair recently remodeled, connects first and second floors.

Original light fixtures remain intact at various locations in the house. A central heating system has been added by a previous owner. (The house originally was heated only by the fireplaces.) The new system is a hot water base board fin tube radiation system, which is unobtrusive.

The rectangular six acre site is located at one of the highest points on the south shore of Delavan Lake. The north end of the site fronts the lake with the south edge bordering south Shore Drive. Private residences border the east and west. The terrain is gently rolling with approximately 10 feet of drop from the street to the lake. Mature oak trees dominate the landscape. Because the site is endemic to Wright's design, it is included in its entirety in the nomination.

The house itself sits at a high point about 100 feet from the lake. The commanding view from west to north to east is at about 30 feet above the lake level.

Other buildings on the site are a gate house next to the street and a stable just behind the gate house along the entrance drive. The frame vernacular gate house and stables were built in 1916, and are period type structures in the tudor style. The house and stables are of no important architectural quality, and do not contribute to the nomination.

NOTE

From 1980-1982, the A. P. Johnson House has undergone extensive rehabilitation. Most alterations were made to correct problems which had developed because of design faults

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

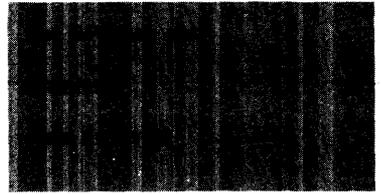
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or weathering: replacing failing roof supports, leaking shingles, rotting soffits, sills, damaged siding, inadequate footings for the foundation, cracking interior plaster, and loose window leading. Some "problems" were the result of changes in need and lifestyle; hence, remodeling the small, outdated kitchen, outdated bathrooms, and inadequate closets. Still other alterations made to the house were discretionary: replacing the fireplace, redesigning the stair, converting the fifth second-floor bedroom into part of the master suite. The result, then is that the exterior is unchanged in form and minimally in materials; however, most of the fabric, some of the form, and much of the spirit of the interior of the original A. P. Johnson House has been changed to suit current needs and tastes.

## 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/<br>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** 1905<sup>1</sup> **Builder/Architect** Frank Lloyd Wright<sup>1</sup>

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The A. P. Johnson House represents the work of a master architect, Frank Lloyd Wright. The significance of the house is attributed to its architectural quality and style as designed by Wright and its relationship with the other residences of the "Delavan Lake Group."

The A. P. Johnson House is characteristic of small, usually rural, Prairie Style "Forest houses" designed by Wright during the early Oak Park years.<sup>2</sup> Other examples of this cottage type include the George W. Spencer residence (1902), the Charles S. Ross residence (1902), the Henry Wallis residence (1900), all at Delavan Lake; the Walter S. Gerts cottage (1906), and the W. A. Glasner house (1905), both in Glencoe, IL, along Lake Michigan; River Forest Golf Club (1901), and cabins for Como Orchard Community (1910). These were generally small in scale, simple in plan and structure, lacked much decoration, and were covered in tongue-in-groove siding. Their features reflected the country setting and limited use of the cottages.

The Johnson House design is one of several pivotal projects in Wright's early career, representing a transition from more classical designs to the fully-developed Prairie style house as represented by the Robie House of 1906. The horizontality of the simple "winged" design is held in tension by the simplified "colonnade" on the north and south facades of the two-story core of the house. Further, the house represents a fuller exploitation of the "dramatic possibilities of steep sites above water"<sup>3</sup> for the "winged houses." Wright chose to locate the house at the point of the site which maximized the lake view: the crown of a small knoll. Although the house in its original state might have been of state or national significance, as a result of comprehensive rehabilitation (see NOTE, Item 7), particularly on the interior, nomination at local level is more appropriate. The exterior form of the house is perhaps the least altered of any of the Delavan Lake houses.

The A. P. Johnson House is one of five summer residences on Delavan Lake designed by Frank Lloyd Wright between 1900 and 1905. They are the Henry Wallis house (1900), the George W. Spencer house (1902), the Charles S. Ross house (1902), the Fred B. Jones estate (1900–1903), and the A. P. Johnson house (1905). At least two, the Jones house and the Johnson house were under construction at the same time and being supervised by Wright.<sup>4</sup>

"It is said that when Wright, approaching on horseback via the dirt driveway to supervise final stages of work on this Prairie style tongue-and-groove-sided house, saw it painted white, he rode away, never to return."<sup>5</sup> Family tradition relates that A. P. Johnson rented one of the Wright-designed cottages at Lake Delavan one summer, (probably the Henry Wallis cottage) and then commissioned Wright to design his the next summer.

(continued)

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

The Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright, William Allin Storer. Mit Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1974. Plates 79-87.  
 Frank Lloyd Wright to 1910, Grant Carpenter Mason. Reinhold Publishing Corp., New York, 1958, pp. 94, 95, 129, 130, and 171.  
 In the Nature of Materials, Henry-Russell Hitchcock. DeCapo Press, New York, 1973, pp. 44-46 and 114.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 6

Quadrangle name Walworth, Wis.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A 

|      |   |         |   |   |   |          |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|------|---|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1    | 6 | 3       | 6 | 7 | 3 | 7        | 0 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 0 |
| Zone |   | Easting |   |   |   | Northing |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

B 

|      |   |         |   |   |   |          |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|------|---|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1    | 6 | 3       | 6 | 7 | 4 | 9        | 0 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 0 |
| Zone |   | Easting |   |   |   | Northing |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

C 

|      |   |         |   |   |   |          |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|------|---|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1    | 6 | 3       | 6 | 7 | 4 | 4        | 0 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 0 |
| Zone |   | Easting |   |   |   | Northing |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

D 

|      |   |         |   |   |   |          |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|------|---|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1    | 6 | 3       | 6 | 7 | 3 | 2        | 0 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 0 |
| Zone |   | Easting |   |   |   | Northing |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

E 

|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

F 

|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

G 

|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

H 

|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|       |      |        |      |
|       |      |        |      |

# 11. Form Prepared By (continued)

name/title Charles J. Quagliana, AIA/Architect

organization

date September 10, 1981

street & number 5018 Holiday Drive

telephone 608/273-0890

city or town Madison

state Wisconsin 53711

# 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 M. ...*

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

date 5/17/82

For NPS use only

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

*For the Director*

date 7-9-82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
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A. P. Johnson House, Delavan, Walworth County, WI

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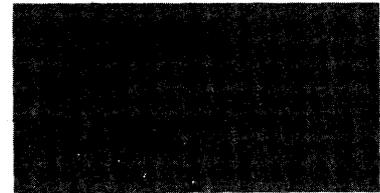
Footnotes

- <sup>1</sup>Original plan, in possession of current owner. (Other parts of set held by Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation.)
- <sup>2</sup>Henry-Russel Hitchcock, In the Nature of Materials, (DeCapo Press, New York, 1973), pp. 39-47.
- <sup>3</sup>Ibid., p. 44.
- <sup>4</sup>William Allin Storrer, The Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright, (MIT. Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1974), p. 80.
- <sup>5</sup>Ibid., p. 87.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 10, 11.

Page 1.

10. VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Commencing at the E  $\frac{1}{4}$  section corner of Sec. 33, T2N, R16E; thence West along the East-West  $\frac{1}{4}$  section line 2680.26 feet; thence N along the north-south  $\frac{1}{4}$  section line 971.80 feet to the northerly line of S. Shore Dr.; thence 557 00' W along said northerly line, 1755.33 feet to said point.

11. FORM PREPARED BY:

Diane H. Filipowicz/Architectural Historian  
State Historical Society of Wisconsin  
816 State Street  
Madison

April, 1982  
608/262-2970  
Wisc. 53704