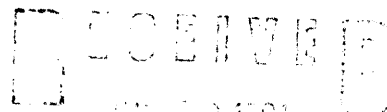


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 16). 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 Wile House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 626 Wilder Place N/A not for publication
city, town Shreveport N/A vicinity
state Louisiana code LA county Caddo code 017 zip code 71104

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</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 P. Tassin June 28, 1991
Signature of certifying official Leslie P. 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:** 8/5/91
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

Alvina 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 Wile House (1934) is a two story International Style residence located on a small wooded lot in southern Shreveport. The exterior surface treatment is white stucco except for a section of the ground story on the front, which is brick. Changes to the house have been very minimal.

The Wile House has an L-shaped plan consisting of an entrance vestibule, living room and dining room across the front and a rear wing containing a breakfast room, kitchen, utility room and garage. Behind the entrance vestibule is a garden room, and a stair hall runs laterally at the rear of the living room. The architect, Samuel Wiener, enlivened the facade by projecting the dining room beyond the main block. Also, the rear wing projects beyond the main block on the side elevation.

The house is entered from the side beneath a cantilevered projection supported by an industrial steel pipe. The steel casement windows project slightly beyond the wall surface for a more waterproof construction. Many of the windows wrap around the corner, a hallmark of the International Style. The garden room is defined by an almost continuous window surface. A thin metal flashing strip marks the edge of the roof. Originally the flashing was painted bright red and the window sashes were black. Unlike other houses designed by the Wiener brothers, where the rear elevation is an architectural statement on its own, the back of the Wile House is undistinguished, chiefly because the rear lateral hallways (upstairs and down) create an expanse of uninterrupted wall surface. A tiny bathroom addition was made to the rear by the same architect in 1938 in the same style.

The most striking aspect of the interior is the extensive use of curving forms. A section of furred down ceiling in the living room executes a bold curve at the corner and continues in a straight line down the front of the room. The limestone mantel with its black carrara glass top is similar to the one found in the Flesch House (designed by William Wiener) except that its fluted side curves. The rear wall of the living room has a curved section marking the entrance to the hallway. In the hallway the curve is echoed in a furred down section of ceiling that curves boldly and then continues in a straight line down the hall. The staircase balustrade, of one continuous surface, features exaggerated curves. Other interesting interior features include recessed lighting, original cork walls in the breakfast room, and decorative double doors between the dining and living rooms.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Wile House, Shreveport, Caddo Parish, LA

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Except for cosmetic changes such as wallpaper, the Wile House survives virtually untouched since the architect made the previously mentioned bathroom addition in 1938. There has been some modernization in the kitchen and a cabinet has been added in the breakfast room.

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
1934

Significant Dates
1934

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Architect: Samuel Wiener
(Jones, Roessle, Olschner & Wiener)

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

The Wile 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.

Against this 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.

See continuation sheet

- 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 # _____

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

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than an acre

UTM References

A

1	5
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4	3	0	2	0	0
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3	5	9	3	2	8	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies Lots 19 and 20, Block 15, Glenwood Park Subdivision, City of Shreveport.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Boundary lines follow the property lines of the parcel of land occupied by the nominated house.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff
organization Division of Historic Preservation date May 1991
street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone 504-342-8160
city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804

Owner: Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Schober
626 Wilder Place
Shreveport, LA 71104

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Wile House, Shreveport, Caddo Parish, LA

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background, the Wile House, which survives virtually unaltered, stands as an important reminder of the new architecture of the Machine Age.

Historical Note:

The house was built for Ed Wile and his wife in 1934. It caused quite a sensation because of its novel, revolutionary design. There was so much public curiosity about the house that the owners had to hire a policeman to monitor the sightseers.