

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

County and State

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number _____ Page _____

Supplementary Listing Record

NRIS Reference
Number:

OT01001354

Date Removed: 2/28/2017

Property
Name:

Bavinger, Eugene, House
(Bruce Goff Designed Resources in Oklahoma MPS)

County: Cleveland

State: OK

This Property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation



Signature of the Keeper

2/28/2017

Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

The Eugene Bavinger House has lost those qualities for which it was originally listed by virtue of its complete demolition. The destruction of the property has been verified by the OK SHPO.

The Removal of the property from the National Register is Approved.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1354
450
Nat



1. Name of Property

historic name Bavinger, Eugene, House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 730 60th Ave., N.E not for publication
city or town Norman vicinity
state Oklahoma code OK county Cleveland code 027 zip code 73071

=====

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant X nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Bob Blackburn 10-23-01
Signature of certifying official Date

Oklahoma Historical Society, SHPO
State or Federal agency and bureau

=====

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====

4. National Park Service Certification

=====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register _____
 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): _____

Carl D Shull 12-13-01
Signature of Keeper Date
of Action

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 1 </u> buildings
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> sites
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> structures
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> objects
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) Resources Designed by Bruce Goff in Oklahoma

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Organic

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____
roof Plastic
walls Sandstone
Glass
other Metal: Stainless Steel

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 9

Bavinger, Eugene, House
name of property
Cleveland County, Oklahoma
county and State
Resources Designed by Bruce Goff
in Oklahoma
name of multiple property listing

=====

Summary

The Bavinger house is located in a primarily rural area of Norman, Oklahoma at 730 60th Ave., N.E. The size of the property is 7.5 acres with a dense growth of native trees and a creek near the house. The multi-level house is characterized by the spiralling wall made of rubble stone with inset glass cullets. Immediately surrounding the house is a multi-level garden constructed of flagstone terraces with stone defining randomly shaped ponds of water, planters and pathways leading to the house. A natural spring-fed creek, located close to the house, fills the ponds with water. The house spirals 50 feet into the air with the primary entrance on a lower terrace underneath the extended roof covering the entry. An additional entry is located at an intermediate level with access provided by a wooden, suspended cable bridge spanning the creek in the front of the house. The windows are all fixed-glass set in irregular openings in the walls and some employ the use of saplings as mullions. Another unique feature of the house is the pattern of circular platforms for specific functions arrayed within the larger spiral space and the cable-suspension system connecting the warped-plane roof to the central mast. The Bavinger House is one of the best and most original Goff designs, and retains a very high degree of integrity.

Description

The Eugene Bavinger House is located on a 7.5 acre wooded site several miles east of Norman, Oklahoma. The plan geometry of the house is a logarithmic spiral built of rubble sandstone inset with blue-green glass cullets with irregular glazed openings. The spiral wall appears to emerge from the earth and wrap around a central mast over fifty-feet in the air. Built next to a stream that was dammed to create a small pond, the house is set into the side of a low hill. The approach to the house is from the rear along a winding path of irregular flagstone steps leading to a terrace below overlooking the stream. This flagstone terrace continues inside the house to define the floor at the lower level. An angled plate glass wall, detailed with a pivoted door and minimal mullions, separates exterior from interior space.

The roof of the house is a warped plane suspended from the central mast, defining the locus of the spiral geometry, by stainless steel airplane struts. A tapered finial, extending several feet above the collar attaching the struts, terminates the central structural element. This mast, a six-inch-

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 10

Bavinger, Eugene, House
name of property
Cleveland County, Oklahoma
county and State
Resources Designed by Bruce Goff
in Oklahoma
name of multiple property listing

=====

diameter steel pipe, is actually an oil field drill stem that was purchased as a surplus item, as were the struts. The roof is framed with two-by-six wood joists in a radial pattern and extends beyond the spiral wall. Each joist is supported by the taut struts. The roof itself is not visually connected to the wall but rather its perimeter is defined by a continuous skylight. A suspension bridge also attached to the mast, crosses the stream to connect an intermediate level of the house to a dense grove of trees on the opposite side. The composition is further enriched by a glass cylinder, with mullions of saplings emerging through the spiral stone wall above the bridge. Attached to the glass cylinder, in a radial relationship, is a smaller cylinder sheathed in copper. The smaller element, a storage unit, is two-stories tall and is also connected to the bridge. As one moves around the curved stone wall, in a counter-clockwise direction from the bridge, another set of cylinders is evident. These units also project through the enclosing wall but are positioned three-feet lower. Moreover, the larger cylinder emerges only slightly through the stone wall and the storage cylinder is now only one-story tall. Moving further along the curve still another copper-covered cylinder, three-feet below the previous one, emerges through the spiral wall. But it is an element that engages the enclosing wall at its mid-point, for it is half-inside and half-outside. The pattern formed by all of the paired elements projecting through the spiral wall, at different heights and of varying depth, foreshadows the interior arrangement.

On the interior the pattern is clarified for each of the paired elements are suspended within the larger volume in a fixed radial relationship to the central mast. They are arrayed at regular intervals in both plan and section and they are all the same size. They define a space within a space, but on the interior they are modified so the larger cylinder becomes simply a circular platform, bulging at the bottom and covered with an ochre-colored carpet, with an attached opaque cylinder serving as a closet. There are five of these elements. The lowest one, set several feet above the floor and near the entry, is defined by built-in seating and functions much like a sunken conversation area except it is poised above the floor. Access to the first platform, and all the others as well, is by a circular stair with hand-rubbed walnut treads that wraps around an interior portion of the spiral wall. Like the platforms, it too is suspended. The next highest platform functions as a parents bedroom with the bed, covered with a carpet spread, recessed into the floor of the platform. Walls are of fishnet with sheer curtains inside that can be pulled for privacy. The next two platforms, higher still, served as a child's bedroom and a play area. The highest platform, projecting through the curved stone wall above the bridge almost in its entirety, is a glass-walled

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 11

Bavinger, Eugene, House
name of property
Cleveland County, Oklahoma
county and State
Resources Designed by Bruce Goff
in Oklahoma
name of multiple property listing

=====

painting studio for Eugene Bavinger. The pattern of forms defining the house is thus a composition of two related but different geometries: the larger one enclosing the volume, the logarithmic spiral, is asymmetrical while the smaller circular pattern defining individual spaces is symmetrical. But both originate from a common point and both can be defined mathematically. The centrality of the mast, as a point of origin of the two geometries, is further emphasized on the exterior by the web-like pattern of radiating stainless steel struts.

Contrasting with the precision of the two geometries, the interior is enriched by a collage of plants and pools of water defining the lower level. The curved wall, excavated into the side of the hill, is terraced on the interior to create a series of irregular stepped planters. Climbing plants, attached to the rock-faced wall, extend upward toward the ribbon skylight at the perimeter. Other planted areas are set in the floor itself with meandering flagstone paths weaving between lush plants, terraces and goldfish pools. Much of the lower level of the cave-like house is treated as a naturalistic garden with "rooms" floating above. There is little else in the space: there is no conventional furniture and even a dining table is built-in; there are few artifacts; and the kitchen with a bathroom above at a higher level, is concealed by the converging rock wall wrapping around the mast.

Alterations

The only alterations to the Bavinger House has been replacement of the roofing membrane and elimination of one of the interior goldfish pools at the floor level. The original roofing material on the warped surface was sheet copper with redwood battens which eventually deteriorated and was replaced, The material currently enclosing the roof is a heat-sealed plastic roll-roofing, and although it is lighter in color than the original the form of the roof remains unaltered. On the interior of the house one of the goldfish pools was converted to a planting area because of excessive humidity. Another studio was constructed in later years. Built in the form of a small geodesic dome, the detached wood building is sited in a densely forested area away from the house. Despite these alterations, the Bavinger House retains the highest degree of architectural integrity.

=====

8. Statement of Significance

=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1950-1955

Significant Dates 1950
1955

=====

8. Statement of Significance (Continued)

=====

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Goff, Bruce, Architect

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

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

Name of repository: University of Oklahoma

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 12

Bavinger, Eugene, House
name of property
Cleveland County, Oklahoma
county and State
Resources Designed by Bruce Goff
in Oklahoma
name of multiple property listing

=====

Summary

The Bavinger House is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C as a significant work of the master architect, Bruce Goff. It relates to the post-World War II buildings historic context of "Resources Designed by Bruce Goff in Oklahoma" (Section E). Designed in 1950 and completed in 1955, the Bavinger House has been a subject of many articles and books on modern architecture for several decades. The Bavinger House is considered one of the masterpieces of Goff and includes all of the characteristics defining his compositional pattern. The Bavinger House has a high degree of originality and is considered as a major contribution to American organic architecture. Some of the characteristics of the Bavinger House that are also present in his other designs are a reliance on geometry as a design determinant, a centroidal plan organization, unusual combinations of building materials, a harmonizing site relationship, an expression of structure, built-in furniture, and a multi-level spatial organization. The combination of the features resulted in a highly individualized design that also illustrates Goff's ideal of an architecture of the "continuous present." The Bavinger House has a high degree of architectural significance as the work of the master architect Bruce Goff. It reflects all of the characteristics of his mature architectural expression.

The Bavinger House is of exceptional architectural importance at the national level as a premier example of organic architecture. It is regarded by architectural historians and architects as Goff's finest work. The house illustrates with enormous clarity the roles of both client and site as determinants of design. And the design reflects all of the characteristics of Goff's pattern of composition. The Bavinger House is eligible for listing on the National Register under Criterion G.

Historical Background

Eugene Bavinger, an art professor at the University of Oklahoma, and his wife, Nancy, commissioned Goff in March 1950 to design their house on a wooded site several miles east of town. At the time they were living in a conventional tract house and told Goff they disliked the arrangement of small rooms with little connection to the exterior. They wanted a house they could build themselves with a large open space to accommodate their interest in growing indoor plants.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 13

Bavinger, Eugene, House
name of property
Cleveland County, Oklahoma
county and State
Resources Designed by Bruce Goff
in Oklahoma
name of multiple property listing

=====

Drawings were prepared by mid-summer 1950 and construction was initiated. Bavinger purchased an outcropping of surface rock on a farm about three miles from the building site and with the help of a group of architecture students--and dynamite, sledge hammers and a flat-bed truck--the rock was broken up and hauled. Known locally at "ironrock," it is a very hard and dense sandstone containing crystals of barite. Building the rock wall was a monumental job for it was ninety-six feet long and required 200 tons of rock. Designed as a cavity wall with steel reinforcing required placing the rock on both surfaces and the height of the curved wall required extensive scaffolding. Bavinger personally laid all the rock although he was assisted by architecture students who mixed the mortar and helped with other phases of work. The house required five years to build and is as much a testament to Bavinger's endurance as it is to Goff's creativity.

Upon completion of the house the Bavingers held an open-house for visitors charging a dollar for admission. The house was featured in the September 19, 1955 issue of Life magazine in an article entitled "Space and Saucer House" and mentioned they had already collected \$4,000 dollars in admission fees. For the next several years the house was open on Sunday and they eventually made more money from sightseers than they had spent on construction.

Nancy Bavinger continues to reside in the house. It is probably the best-know design of Goff and had been included in many articles and books on architecture. In 1987 the house was awarded the prestigious Twenty-Five Year Award of the American Institute of Architects in recognition of its contribution to American architecture.

Architectural Significance

The Bavinger House represents, in part, a synthesis of ideas from two earlier unbuilt projects, the 1945 Gillis project and the 1946 Leidig project. Both the geometry and materials of the enclosing wall of the Bavinger House recall the Gillis project for both had a rough-faced rock wall in the shape of a logarithmic spiral. And like the Leidig project, the floor of the interior of the Bavinger House is a collage of plants and pools of water. There are also conceptual similarities in the juxtaposition of circular elements defining specific activities within the larger space. In the Leidig design these elements of varying size were on a single level in a random pattern but in the Bavinger House they are arrayed at different levels in a repeating pattern and they are all the same size.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 14

Bavinger, Eugene, House
name of property
Cleveland County, Oklahoma
county and State
Resources Designed by Bruce Goff
in Oklahoma
name of multiple property listing

=====

Two projects by other architect may also have influenced the Bavinger design: Paul Nelson's Maison Suspendue and Vladimir Tatlin's 1920 Monument to the Third International. Nelson's proposal for a prototypical house, 1936-38, featured rooms defined as separate units suspended within an open cage-like enclosure and connected together with ramps. But it was the earlier Tatlin design that has a more obvious reference for it too had geometric elements suspended within an enclosing form, a spiral with exaggerated verticality. Goff recalled in later years that both of these projects were influential and important to him.

Although all of these influences may be present in the Bavinger design, collectively they represent only an inspirational point of departure for Goff's imagination. His interpretation is unique and in several ways extends the precepts of organic expression. The Bavinger House provides one of the best examples of Goff's ability to give each of the components of the design a sense of independence and autonomy as elements of a larger composition. There is enormous clarity of expression of wall, roof and structure as discreet elements but the composition is also enriched by visualization of a separate geometric pattern for specific activities. Goff created formal hierarchies with the series of circular elements for those fixed activities within a space that was fluid and continuously modulated. One is drawn into the composition by the sense of spatial movement defined by the spiraling form. The direction of the flow of space is powerful as the relationship between walls, floor and ceiling is constantly changing. As the walls merge closer together, the distance between floor and ceiling expands. Projecting into this space, the circular platforms form an intriguing pattern. They spiral upward, consistent with the direction of the enclosing form, but they are static in their relationship to the central mast. Each is spaced an equal distance apart and each is the same size. As the spiral wall wraps tighter around the mast, the platforms approach the wall and eventually break through it. With this design strategy of two independent but sympathetic geometries, Goff created a dynamic space and a composition of enormous visual tension--one of solid anchoring elements growing from the earth and contrasting with light, frail elements floating in space.

Even though there is a mathematical logic in the precision of these two geometries and their relationship with one another, the specific translation of form into architectural reality is critical. With Goff, the translation is unmistakably clear. With its walls of rough natural stone thrusting upward out of the earth in a setting of woods and stream, it is an architecture of nature. Even the glazed openings in the spiral wall are very irregular and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 15

Bavinger, Eugene, House
name of property
Cleveland County, Oklahoma
county and State
Resources Designed by Bruce Goff
in Oklahoma
name of multiple property listing

=====

suggest a geological formation with natural voids like the entrance to a cavern. In fact, it foreshadows the interior of the house for it too, with its own landscape of plants and water, has a cave-like quality with a profound sense of mystery. And the expression of nature is pervasive. Even the details, such as the mullions of saplings in the glass-walled studio, sustain this expression. Moreover, the adaptation of unorthodox materials in the design also reflects a commitment to organic expression for it was an effort to address specific problems of economy, structure and aesthetics. An oil field drill stem was utilized as the central mast because it was a surplus item and could be purchased inexpensively. Similarly, the stainless steel airplane struts were surplus items and they too, addressed the structural problem. But their greater purpose, as a suspension system, was to sustain Goff's aesthetic ideals: the warped roof plane became an independent element of the composition; the web-like quality further magnified the illusion of light and delicate elements belonging to the realm of the sky; and the reflectivity of those components, amplifying their linearity, provided still another dimension of contrast with the massive walls of rock. In the same way the blue-green glass cullets, incorporated as clusters in the curved rock wall, fulfilled multiple purposes. As a by-product of glass manufacturing, they were waste material but for Goff pregnant with potential. The cullets could be purchased inexpensively; they approximated the size and form of rock for masonry walls; and their translucency and brilliant blue-green color provided a reflective counterpoint with the dark, matte finish of the rock.

The Bavinger House represents a major achievement of American organic architecture. Although it is unlike in appearance any building of Sullivan or Wright, it is a rich echo of those principles of expression. The design reflects the needs and desires of the client. It projects a powerful sense of relatedness to the landscape. And all the parts fit together in an harmonious whole, nothing can be added nor can anything be taken away. There is a strong sense of continuity with natural elements of plants and water on both the interior and exterior. And the rock wall, on both outside and inside surfaces, magnifies this aspect of visual continuity. Even the furnishings are integral with the design. But the house is also a composition that manifest Goff's own creativity and individuality, which is another major underlying theme of organic expression that he embraced very early in his career. In the Bavinger House this imperative found expression not only as a duality of anchoring and floating elements, but also as an expression of the notion that architecture is involved with a passage through space and time in a composition without a beginning or ending. Goff later wrote:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 16

Bavinger, Eugene, House
name of property
Cleveland County, Oklahoma
county and State
Resources Designed by Bruce Goff
in Oklahoma
name of multiple property listing

=====

The past is gone, the future is not here, but the present is continuous...The Bavinger house, earth-bound as it is...is not "back-to-nature" concept of living space. It is a living with nature today and every day [in] continuous space, again as part of our continuous present..

The Bavinger House is one of the premier designs of Bruce Goff. It is eligible for inclusion on the National Register under Criterion C, as a work of a master architect.

Criterion Consideration G

Although this building is not yet 50 years old, it is an exceptional example of the work of Bruce Goff, an architect who has achieved international importance for his contribution to the American modern architectural movement and development of organic architecture. The house has been published extensively in both books and journals on contemporary architecture in the United States, Europe and Japan.

Jeffery Cook, in The Architecture of Bruce Goff (New York; Harper & Row, 1978), illustrates the conundrum fo analyzing the Bavinger House: "It is probably the best known of Goff's houses, but although published frequently in both the popular and professional press, it may be the least understood because of the difficulty in documenting a spatial continuity. The interior defies photographic capture..."(46). Saliga and Woolever note in their book also entitled The Architecture of Bruce Goff (New York: Prestel, 1995), that "The Bavinger House combines all of the innovations Goff developed in his lifetime..." (14).

The Bavinger House represents the finest extant example of the mature work of Bruce Goff. The house epitomizes his philosophical committment to organic architecture. The design is a paramount expression of the natural world with its response to the wooded site, a predominant use of native stone, and a fluid continuous space defined by a spiralling geometry reaching to the sky. The Bavinger House has been prominently featured in all the major publications on Goff by David DeLong, Pauline Saliga and Mary Woolever, Takenobu Mari, Jeffrey Cook, and Global Architecture. The House has been included in architectural journals in the United States, England, Germany, and Japan and in portfolios published by the Architectural League of New York and the Yellowstone Art Center.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 17

Bavinger, Eugene, House
name of property
Cleveland County, Oklahoma
county and State
Resources Designed by Bruce Goff
in Oklahoma
name of multiple property listing

=====

The Bavinger House has also been recognized as a masterpiece of contemporary architecture by the American Institute of Architects with its prestigious Twenty-Five Year Award in 1987. The citation notes that "It spirals joyously into the Oklahoma sky, cut loose from the earth by a mind as free as the prairie landscape, a celebration of the spirit of man and nature united in architecture." This award is given to the most significant designs of the previous quarter century.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 19

Bavinger, Eugene, House
name of property
Cleveland County, Oklahoma
county and State
Resources Designed by Bruce Goff
in Oklahoma
name of multiple property listing

=====

March, Lionel. "Bruce Goff and 'The Architecture of Happiness'." Architectural Design, 48, no. 10 (1978): 7-9.

McCoy, Esther. "Bruce Goff." Arts and Architecture, 2, no. 3 (1983): 44-47.

Mooring, Stephen. "Buildings and Projects by Bruce Goff." Architectural Design, 48, no. 10 (1978): 16-49.

Mooring, Stephen. "Bruce Goff: An Ornamental Link." Architectural Design, 48, no. 10 (1978): 63-66.

Mooring, Stephen. "A Starting Point: Bruce Goff and His Clients." Architectural Design, 48, no. 10 (1978): 15.

Sergeant, John. "An Introduction to Bruce Goff." Architectural Design, 48, no. 10 (1978): 3-5.

Sergeant, John. "Bruce Goff, the Strict Geometrist." Architectural Design, 48, no. 10 (1978): 55-62.

Newspapers

Ferguson, Loy. "Bavinger Home Resembles Medieval Castle." The Oklahoma Daily, Norman: The University of Oklahoma, Wednesday, May 25, 1955, pp. 1&4.

Interviews

Eugene Bavinger, home owner. Interviews with Arn Henderson, Norman, Oklahoma, November 1989, April 1992 and June 1995.

Other

Henderson, Arn. "Common Themes on the Buildings of Bruce Goff." Paper presented at the "Bruce Goff: Toward Absolute Architecture Symposium." University of Oklahoma, September 30, 1989.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 20

Bavinger, Eugene, House
name of property
Cleveland County, Oklahoma
county and State
Resources Designed by Bruce Goff
in Oklahoma
name of multiple property listing

=====

Henderson, Arn. "Bruce Goff: An Interpretation of Organic Theory," presented at the annual meeting of the Southeast Society of Architectural Historians, Fayetteville, Arkansas, November 12, 1998.

Henderson, Arn. "The Buildings of Bruce Goff: A Compositional Pattern," presented at the annual meeting of Southeast Society of Architectural Historians, Atlanta, Georgia, October 2, 1997.

Henderson, Arn. Bruce Goff in, "Architecture in Norman, Oklahoma." Documentary Film, Norman, Oklahoma, 1981.

"The House that Gene Built." Sooner Magazine, 28, no. 1, September 1955, pp. 5-9.

"Space and Saucer House." Live, 39, September 19, 1955, pp. 155-156.

The Britannica Encyclopedia of American Art. New York: Chauncleer Press, Inc., 1973, p. 240.

Bruce Goff (Portfolio). New York: The Architectural League of New York and the American Federation of the Arts, 1970.

Architecture by Bruce Goff (Portfolio). Billings: Yellowstone Art Center, 1978.

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property 7.6 Acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>14</u>	<u>649810</u>	<u>3986040</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

N/A See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Professor Arn Henderson, FAIA

organization College of Architecture, Univ of Okla. date Jan 20, 1999

street & number Gould Hall telephone 325-3868

city or town Norman state OK zip code 73019

=====
Additional Documentation
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
Bavinger, Eugene, House
Cleveland County, Oklahoma
Resources Designed by Bruce Goff in Oklahoma

Page 8

=====
Property Owner
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Nancy Bavinger Trust, Nancy Bavinger Trustee

street & number 730 60th Ave., N.E.

telephone _____

city or town Norman

state OK

zip code 73071
=====

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 21

Bavinger, Eugene, House
name of property
Cleveland County, Oklahoma
county and State
Resources Designed by Bruce Goff
in Oklahoma
name of multiple property listing

=====

Verbal Boundary Description

"Part of the NE/4 Sec 25 T9N, R2W, Beginning at N875' of Sec/C of the NE/4,
N 805' W420' S805' E420' to POB.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the property historically associated with the Bavinger House.



BAVINGER HOUSE

CLEVELAND COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

PHOTOGRAPHER: ARN HENDERSON

JUNE 1999

NEGATIVE: SHPO

FACING N

#1 OF 5



BAVINGER HOUSE
CLEVELAND COUNTY, OKLAHOMA
PHOTOGRAPHER: ARN HENDERSON
JANUARY 1999
NEGATIVE: SHPO
FACING W
2 OF 5



BAVINGER HOUSE

CLEVELAND COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

PHOTOGRAPHER: ARN HENDERSON

JUNE 1999

NEGATIVE: SHPO

FACING E (DETAIL)

3 OF 5



BAVINGER HOUSE

CLEVELAND COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

PHOTOGRAPHER: ARN HENDERSON

JANUARY 1999

NEGATIVE: SHPO

INTERIOR

4 OF 5



BAVINGER HOUSE

CLEVELAND COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

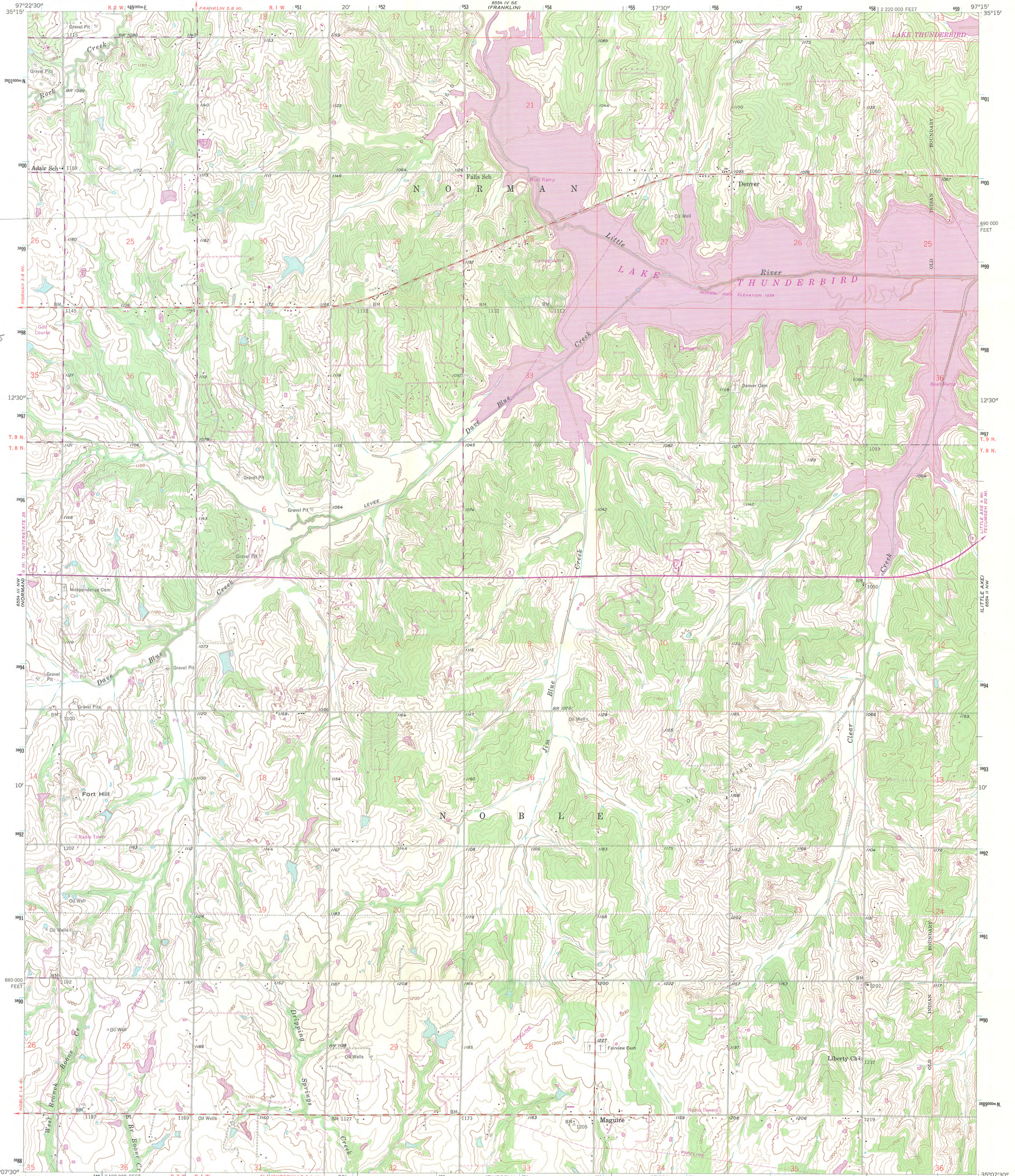
PHOTOGRAPHER: ARN HENDERSON

JANUARY 1999

NEGATIVE: SHPO

INTERIOR

5 OF 5



Evenson
Bavinger
Horse

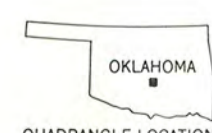
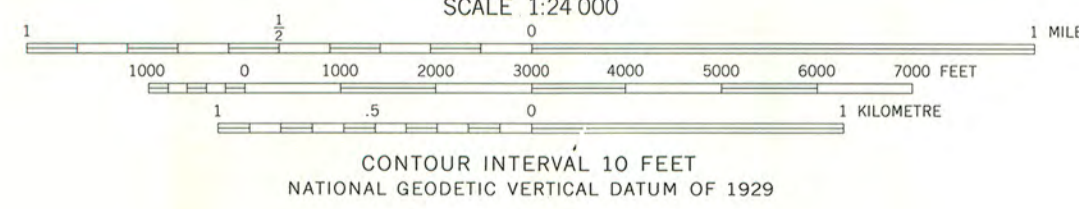
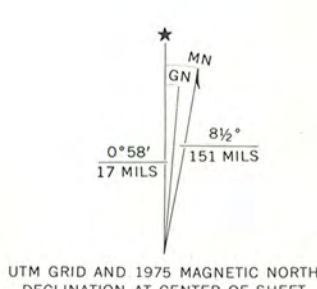
Zone 14
Nothing
3899 350

Easting
649819 95

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Oklahoma Geodetic Survey
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
Aerial photographs taken 1957. Field check 1958
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Oklahoma coordinate system, south zone
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 14, shown in blue

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1969 and 1975. Woodland areas recompiled 1969
This information not field checked

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 4 meters south and
28 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Medium-duty	Light-duty
Unimproved dirt	State Route
	Heavy-duty

DENVER, OKLA.

N 3507.5—W 9715/7.5

1958

PHOTOREVISED 1969 AND 1975
AMS 6554 III NE—SERIES V883

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND BY THE OKLAHOMA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, NORMAN, OKLAHOMA 73069
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Bavinger, Eugene, House

MULTIPLE NAME: Bruce Goff Designed Resources in Oklahoma MPS

STATE & COUNTY: OKLAHOMA, Cleveland

DATE RECEIVED: 10/31/01 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/21/01
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/07/01 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/16/01
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 01001354

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: Y
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: Y

COMMENT WAIVER: N

 ACCEPT RETURN REJECT DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Nationally significant design by a master architect, Bruce Goff - extremely original example of organic architecture w/ a high degree of historic integrity. The house has been included in books + journals in the U.S., Europe, + Japan, and it received a Twenty-Five Yr. Award from A.I.A. in 1987. Possible candidate for NHL status, although it likely needs a more detailed contextual analysis and more specificity about scholarly recognition before being put forth for NHL designation.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept - C

REVIEWER Boland

DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 12/13/01

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT
NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION REPORT

(Note: This report shall be completed for each nomination to the National Register of Historic Places submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office. Each item must be completed. The report form shall be attached to the complete National Register nomination. All comments received from the owner and others must also accompany the report).

1. Name of Nominated Property: Bavinger House
Location: (Street address) 730 60th Ave. N.E. (city) Norman
(State) Oklahoma (county) Cleveland

2. Certified Local Government Reporting: Norman, OK
Contact Person: Lisa D. Krieg
Title: Grants Planner
Address: PO Box 370
Norman, OK 73070 Telephone 405-366-5464

3. a. Date CLG received the nomination: June 4, 2001
b. Date Property Owner(s) notified: June 7, 2001
c. Date of Public Hearing (if appropriate): _____
d. Date nomination considered by local review
commission: July 2, 2001
e. Date nomination submitted to SHPO August 1, 2001

4. Recommendations of the CLG (check appropriate item):

XXX The chief elected local official and the local review commission agree that the property is eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

_____ The chief elected local official and the local review commission agree that the property is not eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

_____ The chief elected local official considers the property eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, but the local review commission disagrees.

_____ The local review commission considers the property eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, but the chief elected local official disagrees.

5. Owner(s) Response (check appropriate item):

_____ The owner (majority of owners) consent to listing of the nominated property in the National Register of Historic Places.

AUG 02 2001

BY SHPO

The owner (majority of owners) object to listing of the nominated property in the National Register of Historic Places.

(Additional comments should appear in this area)

No comments or response from owners.

6. Local Review Commission's Statement of Opinion:

The local review commission considers the property
XXX eligible _____ not eligible for nomination to
the National Register of Historic Places for the
following reasons:

Excellent example of Organic Architecture by Bruce Goff.



Signature of Chairman

Bob Goins
Name

July 31, 2001
Date

(Comments continue on the reverse side of this page. XX Yes
No

7. Chief Elected Local Official's Statement of Opinion:

The chief elected local official considers the nominated property XXX eligible not eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the following reasons:

Excellent example of Organic Architecture by Bruce Goff.



Signature of Chief
Elected local Official
Name Ron Henderson, Mayor
Date _____

(Comments continue on the reverse side of this page Yes
XXX No)

National Register of Historic Places

Note to the record

Correspondence related to removal

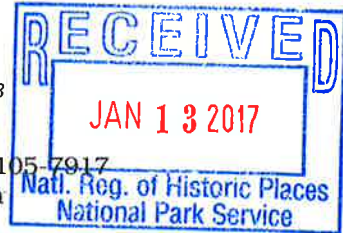
0701001354



Oklahoma Historical Society
State Historic Preservation Office

Founded May 27, 1893

Oklahoma History Center • 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive • Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917
(405) 521-6249 • Fax (405) 522-0816 • www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm



January 5, 2017

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs
National Park Service 2280, 8th floor
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW
Washington D.C. 20005

Re: Bavinger House, Norman, Cleveland County, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Loether:

Pursuant to 36 CFR 60.15, we are requesting the removal from the National Register of Historic Places the following Oklahoma property:

Bavinger House, Norman, Cleveland County, Oklahoma

Since the property's National Register listing in 2001, the building has been demolished. The delisting comes at the request of the current property owner. The elected officials, Certified Local Government participant and the property owner have been notified of this request.

We look forward to the results of your review. If there may be any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either Lynda S. Ozan of my staff or myself.

Sincerely,

Melvena Heisch
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer

MKH:lbs

Enclosures

Cc: Mr. Bavinger, Property Owner
Lynne Miller, Mayor
The Honorable John Sparks, State Senator
The Honorable Claudia Griffith, State Representative
Anais Star, City of Norman

Lynda Ozan

From: Bavinger@netscape.com
Sent: Friday, December 02, 2016 11:20 AM
To: Lynda Ozan
Subject: Bavinger House
Attachments: bavinger lot.jpg

Due to numerous actions taken by Bob Blackburn and Melvena Heisch and their use of the State Plan of Historic Preservation, the Bavinger House has been completely removed from the property including the foundation and any remaining newel post as of January 2016.

In memory of Nancy Ann Bavinger the rightful owners of the Bavinger House (The house formerly located at 730 60th Ave. Ne. Norman OK 73026) request as per my bargain with Bob Blackburn and Melvena Heisch, that the Bavinger House be removed from the National Register.

- Bob Blackburn Bavinger

Netscape. Just the Net You Need.





ORGANIC MODERNISM

Bruce Goff's spiralling Bavinger House in Oklahoma demolished

By JASON SAYER (@JSAYER94) • May 12, 2016

Architecture Newsletter Preservation Southwest



(Courtesy Wikipedia)

In 1987, the Bavinger House, designed by Kansas architect Bruce Goff was awarded the Twenty Five Year Award by the American Institute of Architects (AIA). Nearly 30 years on from receiving the award, Bavinger House, once lauded as a quintessential icon of organic modernist architecture, has been demolished.

Originally built in 1955 in Norman, Oklahoma, Goff collaborated with artists Eugene and Nancy Bavinger as well as students from the University of Oklahoma to create a spiraling fan-like building whose core is shielded behind clumps of sandstone.



(Courtesy Rex Brown / [Flickr](#))

The house's signature 96-foot-long spiral, which curved downwards in logarithmic fashion, mimicked that of a sail unfurling in the wind. Trapped in suspense, Goff showcased the tensile trends that were emerging in architecture at the time, with Frei Otto, a notable ambassador of this technique, earning his doctorate in tensioned constructions only a year prior.

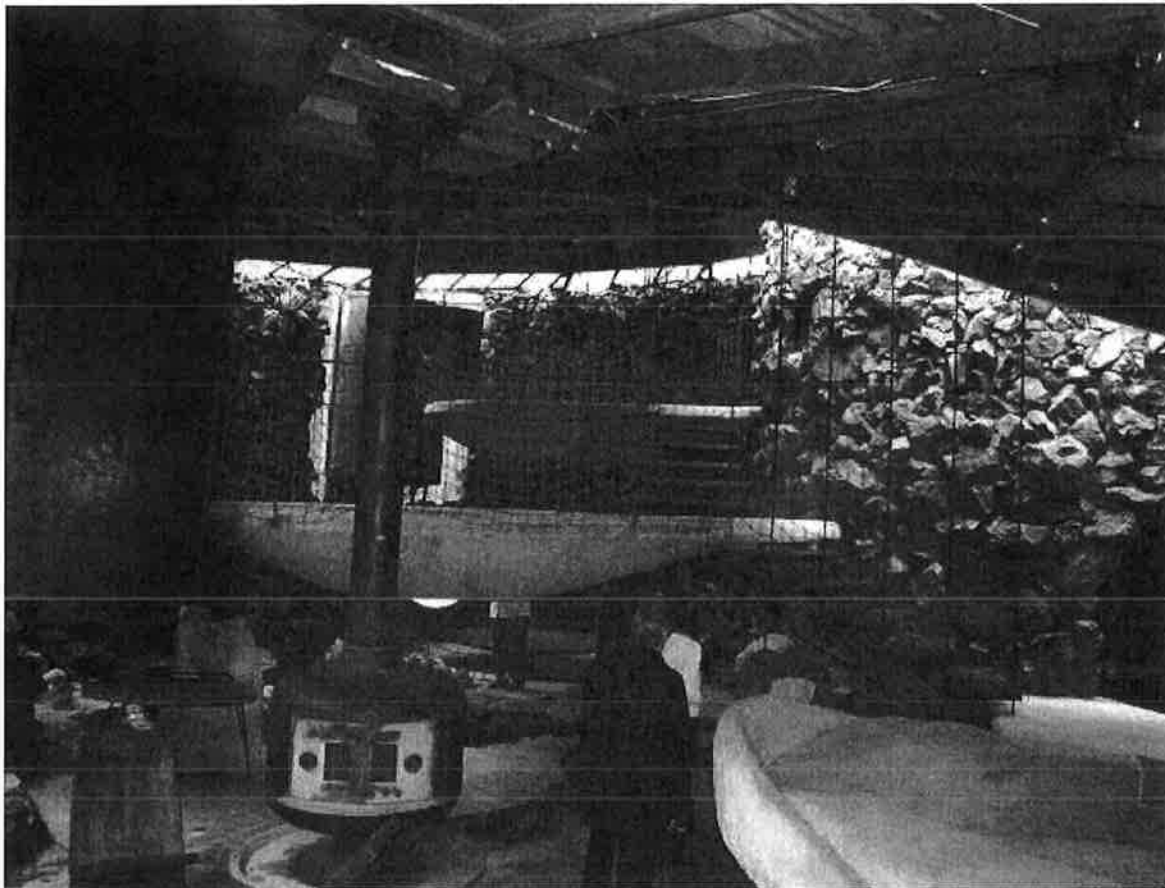
Among its woodland surroundings, Bavinger House was pinned to the ground through a recycled oil field drill stem which was also used to elevate the central mast above 55 feet. With no interior walls, an array of multi-height platforms created space within the house while the ground floor was covered with pools and planting.



(Rex Brown / Flickr)

For the House, Goff told the [Chicago Tribune](#) in 1995 that he “wanted to do something that had no beginning and no ending.”

“This house begins again and again,” he continued. “Gertrude Stein talks about the sense of not being in the past, present or future tense, but in the ‘continuous present.’ I was thinking in those terms.” In the decade leading up to 2008, however, [reports](#) filtered through of vacancy and the house’s deterioration.



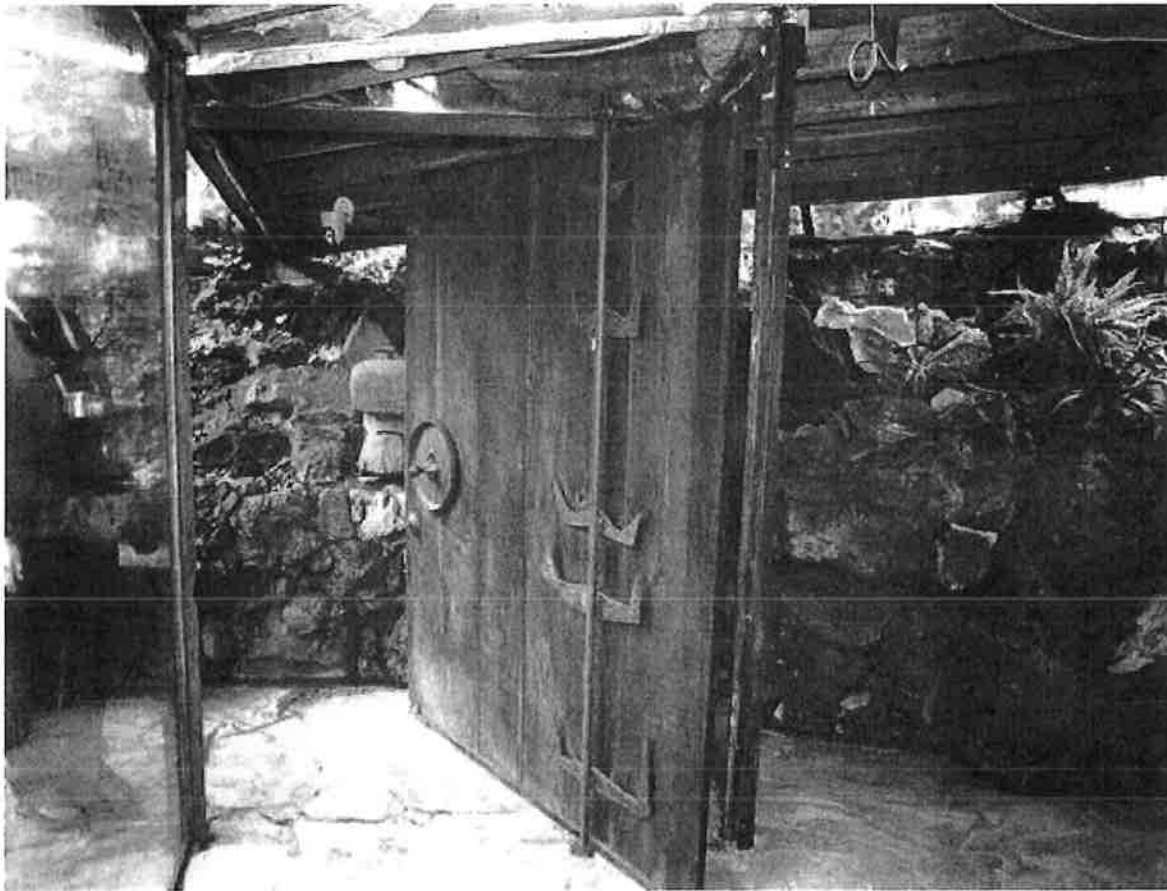
(Rex Brown / Flickr)

Writing for the Architectural Review, Michael Webb said in 2005 that the house had “become as choked with vegetation as a lost temple in the jungle. It received the 25-Year Award from the American Institute of Architects in 1987, but today only the ‘no trespassing’ signs denote its presence—as a creeper-clad spiral of stone that can barely be glimpsed through the trees.”



(Rex Brown / Flickr)

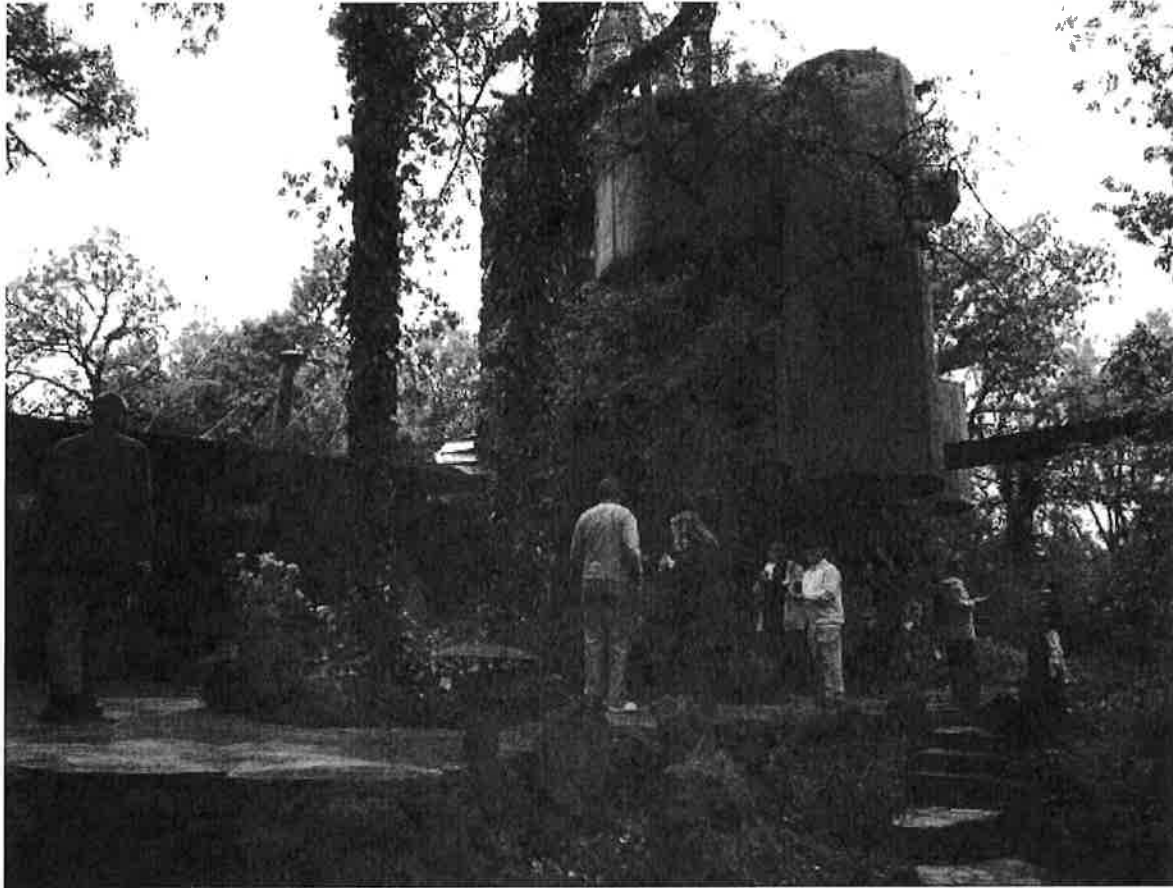
After funding to restore the building ran into problems, the Bavinger House suffered more woes with heavy damage being inflicted after a storm in 2011. With the central spire being one of the more notable features in need of repair, the house's official website stated that the building would not be able to reopen. This statement was later amended to "Closed Permanently".



(Rex Brown / Flickr)

That same year, the Oklahoma Office of Historical Preservation received an anonymous phone call from a man threatening to bulldoze the building. Local news station “News 9” suspected this to be Bob Bavinger, the now owner of the house and son of Eugene and Nancy and went to investigate. Upon arrival however, they were welcomed with gunfire.

Speaking of the building's fate, the younger Bavinger told the Norman Transcript in 2011 that there was an ongoing conflict with the University of Oklahoma over the home's ownership and restoration. He said that demolition “was the only solution that we had, we got backed into a corner.”



(Rex Brown / Flickr)

Come August 2012 though, the website of Bavinger House issued a statement saying: "The House will never return under its current political situation." Four years further on April 28 2016, Caleb Slinkard in the [Norman Transcript](#) reported "all that is left of the Bavinger House is an empty clearing." For those who never had a chance to visit the building, a video walkthrough is available [here](#) courtesy of [Skyline Ink](#).

[Bruce Goff](#) [Oklahoma](#) [Organic Architecture](#) [Tensile Structures](#)

0 Comments

Sort by



Add a comment...

 Facebook Comments Plugin

facades  **MIAMI**
Jan 26+27, 2017 Register Today

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Removal

Property Name: Bavinger, Eugene, House

Multiple Name: Bruce Goff Designed Resources in Oklahoma MPS

State & County: OKLAHOMA, Cleveland

Date Received: 1/13/2017 Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: 2/28/2017 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: OT01001354

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 2/28/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: The property has lost those characteristics for which it was originally listed by virtue of its complete demolition.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Remove from the National Register.

Reviewer: Paul Lusignan Discipline: Historian

Telephone: (202)354-2229 Date: 2/28/2017

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.