

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	

**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

Taliesin East

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER T8N, R4E, Section 30, Wyoming Township
(two miles south of Spring Green)

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Spring Green

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin

CODE

COUNTY

Iowa

CODE

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 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 type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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

Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, Mr. Charles Montooth

STREET & NUMBER

Taliesin

608-588-2511

CITY, TOWN

Spring Green

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Iowa County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Dodgeville

STATE

Wisconsin

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Wisconsin Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE

1969-72

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State Street

CITY, TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin

88

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

This complex of buildings at Taliesin represent a long period of design and building and include several important structures:

Taliesin III: The main house and studio is in the north part of a roughly triangular complex. Facing south-southwest it is U-shaped in plan and contains some living quarters, offices and large drafting rooms of Taliesin Associated Architects. Begun in 1911, Wright was working on the site until his death in 1959 but there have been no changes since that time. Built of rough surface limestone from nearby quarries, the rambling plan is romantic-even poetic: the roofs are hipped, intersecting each other-- in typical Prairie-style, rambling with the wonderful flexibility of that style. Massive chimneys rise above the dramatic heavy eaves. The house interior spaces are open and filled with light and views of the hills and valley beyond. Furnished with chairs and tables designed by Wright the impression is one of serenity. Nearby the drafting room and offices are connected by smaller utilitarian work areas attached to the house.

The Hillside Home School on the southern end of the complex was the second group designed by Wright beginning in 1902 as a boarding school and later redone to accommodate the first group of students in the Fellowship (1932). Other remodeling was done in 1952 following a fire and it contains dining rooms and an enormous drafting room. Grant Manson discusses the original building, commissioned by Wrights aunts, Nell and Jane Lloyd-Jones: "This was to be Wright's first major construction on the family land, the precursor of Taliesin and in some respects, its prototype. Characteristically, in keeping with his reverence of the place, Wright decided that Hillside School should be made of the local sandstone, in rough ashlar. Consequently, he aimed at more rugged effects than he had attempted hitherto. It was not to be any spurious rusticity, but a real communion of structure and site in the...spirit of forthrightness and hard work. He also knew that the Wisconsin River valley, with its bluffs and ravines, is more insistent than the quiet prairies of Illinois, and that a building must not only reflect but actually compete with it. Hence, the lines of Hillside School are very primal and strong.

The plan is complicated but ordered...the buildings spread out over the rolling ground with many reentrant angles, incidents, and breaks in profile and floor level, their flattened hip-roofs following without any discontinuity the rich variation in volumes which they cover. The prevailing Prairie House horizontality is dramatized by chimneys and the gleam of grouped and slotted casements. But we know it is not a Prairie House because its main feature is a series of tall, cross-shaped pavillions with two-story bays that read at once as class or assembly rooms, and the semi-

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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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 1902, 1911, 1914, 1925, 1933, 1938 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

After the first great burst of creative activity of the Oak Park years and following the tempestuous events of his private life, Frank Lloyd Wright began to build the complex in the Wisconsin hills that he would construct, alter, rebuild and occupy periodically until his death.

Wright had, at this period in his life, retreated from the professional world and had been cut off without public support. The turbulence of his private life had scandalized Americans so he removed his studio to the Wyoming Valley in Wisconsin close to the area where he had spent his childhood-- and where he could contemplate and develop the "organic" style associated with his name. The wedding of his house to the site, to "melt it into its surroundings," to use rough stone, unfinished timbers, granite floors, etc. was somewhat out of step with the early 20th century preoccupation with the new technology--steel and iron girders and ferroconcrete. (Wright was to use concrete structurally for the first time as late as 1936 in the Kaufmann house at Bear Run, Pa.)

Sigfried Giedion described vividly standing with Wright on the hill at Spring Green in 1939: "The dome of the hill was so precise in shape, especially the crown which became a low-walled garden above the surrounding courts, reached by stone steps walled into the slopes, that I asked if it had been built up in artificial regularity from below. No, it is the natural soil, Wright said, I never build houses on the top of a hill. I build them around it like an eyebrow. And I saw that it was indeed the house itself which brought into consciousness the pure curve of the ground, that in a certain sense its many-layered and unobtrusive forms gave meaning and definition to the contours out of which it rose."¹

Mrs. Wright has commented in an interview that Wright abandoned the geometric forms of his earlier houses to this first use at Taliesin of stratified limestone wherein wall and stone masses reiterate, in an abstract sense, the

¹Giedion, Sigfried. Space, Time and Architecture. Harvard University Press 1959, p. 413-414.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Eaton, Leonard K. Frank Lloyd Wright and Harold Van Doren Shaw. Horizon Press, New York 1966.
- Hitchcock, Henry-Russell. In the Nature of Materials. Duell, Sloan and Pearce, New York 1942.
- Jacobs, Herbert A. Frank Lloyd Wright, America's Greatest Architect. Harcourt, Brace and World, New York 1965.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	7,3,8	6,0,0	4,7,8,1	2,0,0	B	1,5	7,3,8	6,0,0	4,7,7,9	6,0,0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING	
C	1,5	7,3,7	5,0,0	4,7,7,9	5,5,0	D	1,5	7,3,7	5,5,0	4,7,8,1	1,5,0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING	

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

State Highway on Route #23 on the East and South Wisconsin River on the North. West bound of Section 30 on the west.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Carolyn Pitts, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey - National Park Service

DATE

7/29/75

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street NW.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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public nature of the buildings is revealed. The application of the dynamic, free-flowing Prairie House plan to the function of a school was a revolutionary thing, looking forward to today's pinwheel and fragmented solutions of the same problem."¹

The Midway Farm Buildings between Taliesin III and the school were largely constructed in 1938 and are much more utilitarian--largely of wood. The farm was originally to be worked by student-architects but now tenant farmers tend the land.

In 1895 Wright designed the famous windmill he called "Romeo and Juliet." He discussed this 60 foot tower of wood with horizontal battens at length in his Autobiography. "The windmill is a very practical mechanism which raised water faithfully for decades, but it is also a beguiling piece of abstract design whose section closely resembles a modern airfoil. It contains a circular staircase. Fused to the basic octagon of the structure is a diamond-shaped spine upon whose oaken core the metal wheel at the summit is mounted--the basic shape dealt with the problem of wind resistance."²

There is also nearby a small cottage that Wright built for his sister, Mrs. Andrew Porter, called "Tan-Y-Deri" (1907). Today it houses apprentices and architects. The dam in the valley on the north was built in 1945 and a garden and pool at the house were added in the 1950's.

¹Manson, Grant: Frank Lloyd Wright to 1910, Reinhold Publishing Company 1958.
p. 130-133

²Ibid., p. 93.

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manner in which the native stone is found in the quarry. The complex was named for a third-century Welsh poet--the name means "shining brow" and it presumably suggested itself to Wright because the complex was on the brow of a beautiful oak-studded hill. The first house-studio (Taliesin I) was built in 1911 where he was then living with Mamah Cheney--suddenly in August a servant ran amok and set fire to the house and murdered Mrs. Cheney and seven others. The new house rose in 1915 (Taliesin II) which burned in 1925 and the house and studio that stands today was begun in the late 1920's. The other buildings in the complex are Hillside Home School (1933), Midway Farm Buildings (1938) and Hillside Playhouse (1952).

Although his career was in an eclipse during these years, two events brought him to the attention of Europe and Japan respectively: the publication of a large volume in 1910 in Germany of his work and a smaller 1911 work which European architects respected and understood and in Japan, the commission for the Imperial Hotel of 1914. But for some of these middle years he had the time to work and rework this beautiful house and farm where gathered the staff of disciples that became the Taliésin Fellowship (1932) that survives today. William Wesley Peters, now chief of Taliesin Associated Architects, was a member of the original group. Today they follow the established schedule of travelling to Wisconsin each Spring and returning to Taliesin West in Scottsdale, Arizona for the winter.

Wright was not only one of the most important architects America produced but he was a prophet and preacher as well. Taliesin is fully representative of his theories and taste, an existing site where he spent many of the years of his life.

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Manson, Grant. Frank Lloyd Wright to 1910. Reinhold Publishing Co., New York
1965.

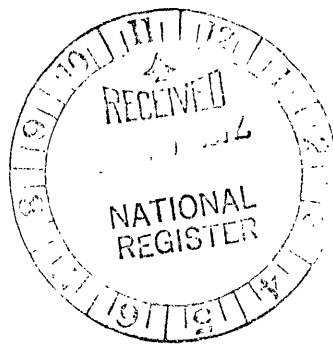
Wright, Frank Lloyd: Architectural Forum. January 1938.

Wright, Olgivanna. Frank Lloyd Wright: His Life, His Work, His Words.
Horizon Press, New York 1966.

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N43° 08' 50"
W90° 04' 28"

N43° 08' 50"
W90° 03' 17"



W I N S I N
R I V E R

TO SPRING GREEN
TWO MILES.

TALIEGIN OWNERSHIP

COUNTY HWY

TALIEGIN DAM

TALIEGIN III

W E R R Y
C R E E K

STATE HWY 23

NORTH

ROMEO & JULIET #
TAN-Y-LERI

MIDWAY FARM GROUP

HILLSIDE HOME SCHOOL

N43° 07' 58"
W90° 04' 27"

N43° 07' 58"
W90° 03' 17"

T A L I E S I N

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IONA COUNTY
SPRING-GREEN VICINITY

OCT. 12, 1972
NO SCALE.

W12