

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY RECEIVED JAN 18 1978 DATE ENTERED APR 19 1979

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 Smith, Richard C., House AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 332 East Linden Street CITY, TOWN Jefferson STATE Wisconsin 53549 VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Ninth COUNTY CODE 055

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS PRESENT USE Building(s) Private Occupied Private Residence

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Richard C. Smith STREET & NUMBER 332 East Linden Street CITY, TOWN Jefferson STATE Wisconsin 53549

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Jefferson County Courthouse CITY, TOWN Jefferson STATE Wisconsin 53549

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places DATE 1974 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS State Historical Society of Wisconsin CITY, TOWN Madison STATE Wisconsin 53706

7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input 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 Smith House is a one-story house built with quarry-faced limestone laid in a random pattern, plaster, cypress, and cedar shingles. Of a roughly diamond-shaped plan, the house has a broad angle gable roof with wide eaves covering and connecting two long wings and the patio area they determine to the south. The north side of the house, facing the road, is completely of limestone, with one row of small clearstory windows placed just below the eaves. A single pier divides the roof of the car port into equal halves. A long, low limestone mass on the roof contains vents which face south and serve the kitchen area. The south side of the house, facing a golf course, is almost totally fenestrated to take best advantage of solar light and heat.

The interior consists of two wings joined by an entrance foyer. To the left of the entrance is the kitchen module and beyond this the general living area. To the right of the entry is the bedroom wing, which terminates in a car port at the end near the street.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1951

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Frank Lloyd Wright

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Richard C. Smith House is an example of the work of an internationally significant master, Frank Lloyd Wright, late in his career. It is of exceptional importance locally, in that it is the only Wright-designed building in Jefferson County, and exemplifies Wright's use of the diamond module in design. These factors combine to warrant its listing on the National Register of Historic Places even though it was built in 1951.

The Smith House demonstrates Wright's concern with the small house, first seen in his famous Usonian houses of the late 1930's. In spite of its modest scale, the Smith House incorporates many of the architectural concepts associated with Wright that served to revolutionize American residential design. These include the emphasis on long, horizontal planes parallel to the ground; completely open planning; broad roof eaves which give a sense of shelter and help integrate interior with exterior spaces; the use of wood, quarry stone, and other natural materials treated to emphasize their natural qualities; and the zoning of a lot into private and public spaces.

The diamond module used in the plan of this house was discussed by Bernard Pyron in "Wright's Diamond Module Houses," an article in Art Journal. Pyron states:

The diamond module houses of the late forties and early fifties are not great pioneering experimental designs like the oblique angle projects of the later twenties and the Hanna house. They are all of the same species, yet each is a slightly new variation of the diamond module idea. All except two or three are small, compact and modest. They seem almost conventional, and in terms of size, cost, materials, number of windows and even in the use of the open plan are not radically different from houses designed by some of the younger architects for middle class families.

But in the richness of their interior spaces, these diamond module houses are superior to houses designed by most other architects. Most architects still focus upon the walls and ceiling of a house rather than upon the interior space that is created by these vertical and horizontal planes. Wright focused upon the problem of creating interesting spaces and made the interior spaces of his domestic structures really live.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Hitchcock, Henry-Russell, Architecture: Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries (Baltimore, 1971), 446-447.
- Kaufmann, E. and B. Raeburn, Frank Lloyd Wright: Writings and Buildings (Cleveland and New York, 1960), 286-287, 304.
- Storrer, William A., The Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright: A Complete Catalog (Cambridge, 1974), 337.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.2
 UTM REFERENCES

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------|--------------|--------------|------------|------------|--------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| A | <u>1,6</u> | <u>3,5,3</u> | <u>1,3,0</u> | <u>4,7</u> | <u>6,2</u> | <u>4,2,0</u> | B | | | | | |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | | | | | |
| C | | | | | | | D | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Bounded on the north by Linden Street, on the south by a municipal park and golf course, and on the east and west by private property lines of adjacent parcels.

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

Patricia Warwick and Jeff Dean

ORGANIZATION
 Historic Preservation Division
 State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

December 21, 1977

STREET & NUMBER
 816 State Street

TELEPHONE

608/262-9504

CITY OR TOWN
 Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Richard A. Erney

TITLE Richard A. Erney
 State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 12/31/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles A. ...

DATE 4-12-79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Watson Cole* *B.O. ...*

DATE 3-13-78 4/19/79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Smith, Richard C., House
Jefferson, Wisconsin

See

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER below PAGE 1

SIGNIFICANCE -- Item 8, continued.

Not all of the diamond module houses of the early fifties were triangles or hexagons with tails on them like those discussed so far. The Richard Smith house of Jefferson, Wisconsin (1951), is wrapped around a huge oak tree which in combination with the need for privacy on a small city lot, determined the plan of this house. It consists of three wings, a living room wing parallel to and shifted back from the bedroom wing and a third short wing connecting the two parallel wings. In this house the arrangement of the interior space was influenced by Wright's solution to the privacy problem of a small city lot.

The Smith House provides testimony that Wright was still a vigorous designer at this stage of his career: he was 83 years old when the house was built. He was still integrating spatial concepts developed and elaborated much earlier in his life with contemporary needs. The Smith House is no pale imitation of earlier Usonian or Prairie School houses. It is the result of a natural and vital design evolution still underway in the mind of one of the world's greatest architects.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES -- Item 9, continued.

Wright, Frank Lloyd, The Future of Architecture (New York, 1953), 141-142
Pyron, Bernard, "Wright's Diamond Module Houses: His Development of Non-Rectilinear Interior Space," Art Journal, Vol XXI, No. 2, pp. 92-96.