

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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

Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio

AND/OR COMMON

Oak Park House and Studio

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

428 Forest Avenue (Home)

951 Chicago Avenue (Studio)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Oak Park

VICINITY OF

6th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Illinois

Cook

## 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<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 checked="" 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

Mrs. Dawn Goshorn, President, The Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio Foundation

STREET & NUMBER

Forest Avenue at Chicago Avenue

(312-848-1976)

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Oak Park

VICINITY OF

Illinois 60302

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER

118 North Clark Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Chicago

Illinois

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Resources, Oak Park

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Municipal Building, Euclid Avenue and Lake Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Oak Park

Illinois

75

## 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		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The design of the house is that of a triangular prism set on a low rectangular stone base--the pyramidal shape of many of Wrights early houses perhaps show his interest in the picturesque (the great sloping gable roof) but it also had a rugged individualism to those who lived in Oak Park. "The plan shows more compartmentation than those of his later houses, and experiments in fluid space, where they occur, are either hesitant or derivative. Polygonal bays and inglenooks were the stock-in-trade of the Shingle Style with its delight in whimsies--yet they are features that Wright is to incorporate again and again in his plans of the 1890's. There is something prophetic, however, in the relationship of sitting room, inglenook and dining room in the Oak Park House and in the tendency of these rooms to break forth from the core of the house as extruded inner volumes, demanding expression on the outside. This tendency is echoed by the advancing terrace with its low parapet, and picked up again by the pronounced overhang of the second story."<sup>1</sup>

The plan was simply divided--an entry, large living room, dining room and kitchen with bedrooms and bath above. Constant additions and changes were made until finally "the Studio" was built in 1895. One door in the house connected to the Studio. The exterior, built of the same stone is low and flat covered with shingles and brick details, it harmonies with the earlier house. Eaves and cornices mask the higher rooms. The entrance porch of brick and terra cotta ornament is placed to lead you subtly into the interior--space is manipulated in the outside walls and porch to prepare one for the building or inside spaces.

"The plan of the Studio is a long stride toward Wright's ultimate goal of free-flowing interiors. There are few partitions, the various functions being defined by bearing walls, chimneys, and other isolated supports...the library is semi-detached and reached by a passageway lined with books. Interior trim is heavy, bold and dark. Skylights here and there, long, plain rectangular openings, emphasize the main directions of the plan, and are leaded in tight and intricate geometrical patterns."<sup>2</sup> The male Atlantics are the work of Richard Bock as well as the amusing secretary birds guarding the exterior piers.

The central studio space was surrounded by a balcony where designers and draftsmen worked--talents such as Marion Mahony and Walter Burley Griffin. In the years from 1900-1909 the Studio was humming, commissions poured in, and Wright's reputation was established. The Prairie House was conceived on

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<sup>1</sup>Manson, Grant; Frank Lloyd Wright to 1910, Reinhold, New York 1958, p. 44

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., 91-92

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 1889, 1895, 1898

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959)

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The early phase of Frank Lloyd Wright's very long and brilliant career centered around his Oak Park home and Studio--what Grant Manson has called Wright's First Golden Age. When Wright left Wisconsin for Chicago in 1887, he settled in Oak Park and as a result the Chicago suburb became internationally known. This complex of buildings, built, rebuilt and added to was the center from which his practice grew and from where he formulated his ideas for the "Prairie Style." It is also where he began his family life.

Oak Park in 1887 was rural--there were no streets on his property, only a small Gothic cottage where his mother was to live for many years. Within easy commuting distance of the Loop, this rough-woods site was to be transformed into a home and finally a studio-office and residence. In 1909, Wright left the complex for Europe abandoning his home and architectural practice. He never returned to his studio on Chicago Avenue although he designed several Oak Park houses in 1911 and 1913 but after that he did no more work for Oak Park Village. In those early years he evolved the Prairie houses (low horizontal structures with massive, overhanging roofs)--a new style in modern architecture.

The first house was modest and seemed to hug the ground, had a steep roof (rather than the hipped-Prairie roof). It has many of the qualities of the picturesque Queen Anne style both in plan and elevation but at the same time it showed imaginative use of space inside and a respect for nature (it was known locally as "the house with the tree through the roof.") In the small house Wright planned the famous "Bootleg houses" that produced his break with Sullivan in 1893. That year he added the large second floor play room. Soon he designed and built the workshop on Chicago Avenue, separating his living and professional quarters--connected yet apart. Other changes and additions were made to accommodate both a growing family and architectural staff.

After the amazing series of designs that had firmly established his reputation as a great living architect, Frank Lloyd Wright in his fortieth year abandoned his life and work and left for Europe. This complex in the northern suburb of Chicago represents the first phase of a career that grew even more spectacular in the next decades.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Andrews, Wayne, Architecture, Ambition and Americans. New York, Harper, 1955

Boston. Institute of Modern Art. Frank Lloyd Wright; a Pictorial Record of Architectural Progress. Boston, 1940.

Chicago. Art Institute. Burhna Library of Architecture. Buildings by Frank

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 6	43, 3, 6, 3, 0	4, 6, 3, 8, 12, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The West 205' (except street) of lot 20 in Block 2 in Kettlestring's addition to Harlem, a subdivision of the North northern part of the NW 1/4 of Section 7, Township 39, Range 13 East of the Third Principal Meridian, in Cook County, Illinois.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Carolyn Pitts, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey - National Park Service

DATE

7/28/75

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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CONTINUATION SHEET

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the drawing boards in the high octagonal drafting room along with their details--glass, wood work and furniture. Most important probably was the wonderful flexibility of these interiors and the respect for the site, on the plains or the hills that Wright understood so well.

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Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio , Illinois

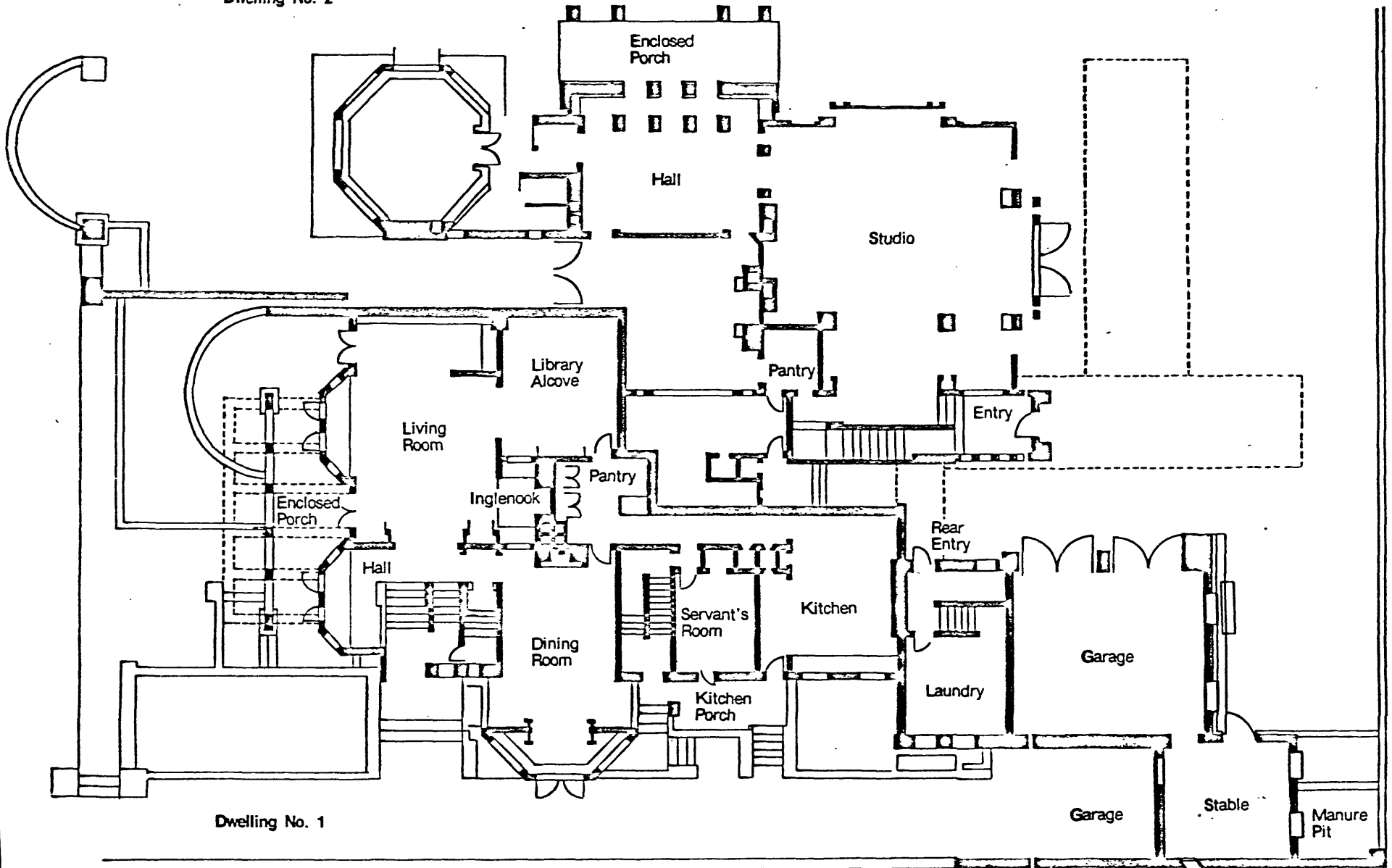
CONTINUATION SHEET

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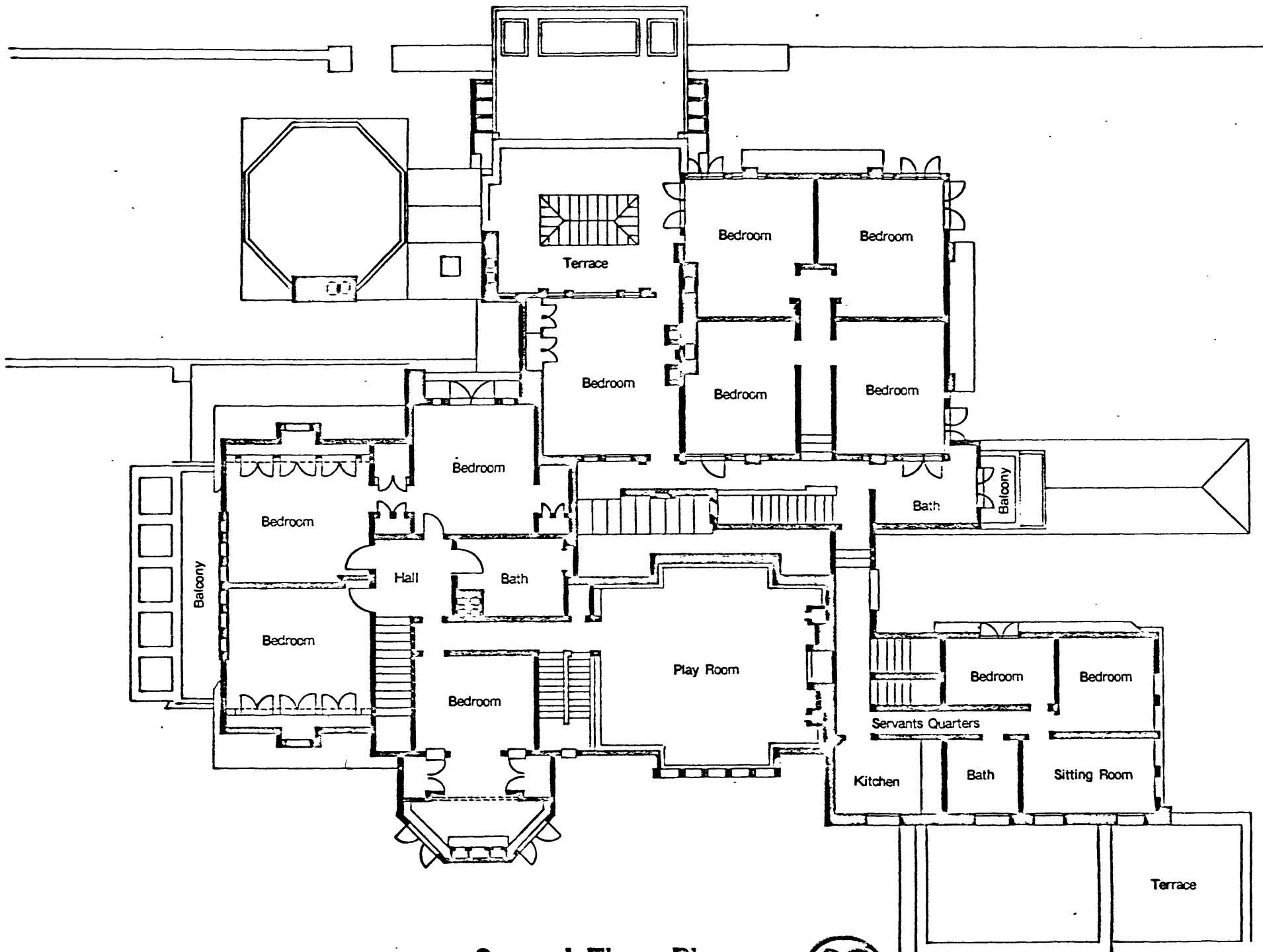
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Dwelling No. 2



Dwelling No. 1

# Ground Floor Plan



Second Floor Plan

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