

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

EMIL BACH HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

7415 North Sheridan Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Chicago

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

9th

VICINITY OF

STATE

Illinois

CODE

COUNTY

Cook

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

COMMERCIAL

PARK

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

MILITARY

OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Blinder Building Corporation

STREET & NUMBER

One First National Plaza - Suite 3200

CITY, TOWN

Chicago

VICINITY OF

STATE

Illinois

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Cook County Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

County Building, 118 North Clark Street

CITY, TOWN

Chicago

STATE

Illinois

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Illinois Historic Structures Survey

DATE

October, 1972

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Glessner House, 1800 South Prairie Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Chicago

STATE

Illinois

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

DESCRIPTION

The Emil Bach House is located at 7415 North Sheridan Road in Chicago. It is situated in a block of mixed houses and apartments. Although facing west toward Sheridan Road, the entrance to the house is on the east side. Reaching the entrance involves following a circuitous walk on the south side leading between brick walls and through an open area that Wright called the garden court.

This building was planned as a two-story and basement, single-family residence and is currently being used as such. When originally built, the east facade of the house had a clear view through the back of the lot to Lake Michigan. To take advantage of this, the original plan included a porch at the rear of the first floor with a sundeck over it. When buildings were erected between the house and the lake, which blocked the view, the owners enclosed both the porch and sundeck. The enclosing was done mainly with glass so that the resulting rooms blend with the rest of the facade in a way reasonably sympathetic to Wright's original aesthetic intent. Minor alterations include the removal of a built-in seat next to the living room fireplace and a built-in counter in the dining area. Also, the servant's room was converted into a second bathroom.

Excluding the porch and sundeck, the basic plan of the structure on the first floor is square. From the entry of the house, steps lead up to a hallway that communicates with the living room on the left and straight ahead with the kitchen. The stairs to the second floor rise between partition walls part way along the corridor. Visually a part of the living room is the dining room which merges with the living room on the west side where a large bay window projects from the body of the house. This arrangement permits an easy flow of traffic from kitchen to dining room to living room while still providing a separate dining area.

The stairwell is a most distinctive and attractive feature in that there Wright made a very creative use of limited space while gaining a maximum of light. In using a minimum amount of space for the stairs, Wright was able to maximize the size of the second-floor rooms. The stairwell is trimmed in wide pieces of dark wood. The fairly steep steps lead to a small landing from which the stairs continue to the second floor. A glass door leading up to the sundeck from the landing provides illumination of the hall during the day. It is lit by Wrightian-designed lamps after dark.

The second floor contains three bedrooms and two baths, one of the latter made from the servant's room. All of the rooms are trimmed in the same dark wood used in the rest of the house and they seem to require only a limited amount of furniture because of the absence of blank white walls. Besides the beds, what furniture there is was designed for an exact place in each room. This is also true of a dining table and chairs in the dining area on the first floor.

In the upper floor Wright broke away from the cubic form of the first floor by using cantilevered bay windows. This allows a great

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

amount of wall to be opened up by rectangular casement windows. Thus cantilevering shades the lower floor in summer and also makes an interesting and complex visual composition out of a small and relatively boxy residence.

HISTORY

The Emil Bach House was commissioned for by Emil Bach in 1915. Bach was then one of five shareholders, all brothers, of the Bach Brick Co., Inc., located at 2647 Montrose Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. He immigrated to Chicago from Germany with his parents and five brothers in 1883. It was then that his father, William Bach, started a pottery. The pottery, first called W. Bach Pottery, became Bach & Sons, Inc., in 1895. In 1905 it became Bach Brick Co., Inc. Besides being the patentee of the closed top kiln burning patent, the company progressed so that it was producing 200,000 bricks in an eight-hour day. After William Bach died in 1912, the six brothers continued to run the brick company under the leadership of one brother, Frederick, who died a few years later. Emil Bach and his four other brothers then continued to control the business.

Emil Bach was moderately successful in his business career. In this way he was similar to the other clients attracted to the architect Frank Lloyd Wright in the decade from 1915 to 1925. Wright, born in 1867, left the University of Wisconsin in 1887 and came to Chicago. In Chicago he studied and worked under Louis Sullivan, a member of the Chicago School of architecture. Then in 1893 Wright set up his own practice in Oak Park, Illinois. Wright became famous as an architect of private residences and as the leader of the Prairie School of architecture of which his Robie House is a memorable example.

The Bach House belongs to a series of very geometrical cubic designs with overhanging flat roofs. The first was the Gale House in Oak Park of 1909. It was followed by the Balch House, Coonley Kindergarten, Bogh and Bach Houses, all designed after Wright's return from Europe in 1911.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

PREHISTORIC
 1400-1499
 1500-1599
 1600-1699
 1700-1799
 1800-1899
 1900-

ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
 ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
 AGRICULTURE
 ARCHITECTURE
 ART
 COMMERCE
 COMMUNICATIONS

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

COMMUNITY PLANNING
 CONSERVATION
 ECONOMICS
 EDUCATION
 ENGINEERING
 EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
 INDUSTRY
 INVENTION

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
 LAW
 LITERATURE
 MILITARY
 MUSIC
 PHILOSOPHY
 POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

RELIGION
 SCIENCE
 SCULPTURE
 SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
 THEATER
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES 1915

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Frank Lloyd Wright

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

As an example of a late Prairie School house by Wright just as his style was changing to the expressionistic manner of his Japanese years, the Emil Bach House is especially important. Of the few houses of its type with cubic masses and slab roofs, it is the only one standing in Chicago. Its uniqueness and high artistic merit, plus the fame of its architect, assure the Bach House an important place in the annals of historic architecture.

Finally, the house stands as proof of the hard work and success of the German immigrants to Chicago. With the economic contribution and aesthetic standards of men like Emil Bach, Chicago was thus made a more prosperous and attractive city.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Eaton, L.K., Two Chicago Architects and Their Clients: Frank Lloyd Wright and Howard Van Doren Shaw, 1969, pp. 51-57.
The Book of Chicagoans, 1917, ed. by A.N. Marquis, p. 26.
 Hitchcock, Henry-Russell, In the Nature of Materials, 1887-1941, the Building of Frank Lloyd Wright, 1973, pp. 3-15; 59-72.
 Twombly, R.C., Frank Lloyd Wright: An Interpretative Biography, 1973, pp.15

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Caroline G. Gregory

ORGANIZATION

DATE

5-28-76

STREET & NUMBER

447 West Webster Avenue

TELEPHONE

312-871-4980

CITY OR TOWN

Chicago, Illinois

STATE

60614

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

TITLE Director, Illinois Department of Conservation 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