

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

WASHINGTON

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Hiram Baldwin House

and/or common Baldwin-Wackerle Residence

2. Location

street & number 205 Essex Road

~~N/A~~ not for publication

city, town Kenilworth, N/A vicinity of

state Illinois code 012 county Cook code 031

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"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. & Mrs. Fred Wackerle

street & number 205 Essex Road

city, town Kenilworth, N/A vicinity of state Illinois

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cook County Courthouse

street & number 118 N. Clark Street

city, town Chicago state Illinois

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

1. Illinois Historic Structures Survey
title 2. Architecture in Kenilworth has this property been determined eligible? yes no

1. 1973
date 2. no date federal (1) state county (2) local

1. Ill. Department of Conservation, Springfield, IL.
depository for survey records 2. Kenilworth Historical Society, Kenilworth, IL.

city, town state

7. 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 date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Like the quintessential Prairie House published in Ladies Home Journal in 1901, the Baldwin-Wackerle Residence shares the principles upon which the mature prairie house is based: the flowing plan, directional lines, centrifugal plan, generous roofs, prominent overhangs, broad chimneys, reduced ceiling heights, continuous sill lines, ribbons of casements, absence of ornamentation, and the intimate liaison of house and site.

The Baldwin-Wackerle floor plan utilizes the "pin wheel" form with a dominant north-south axiality and ancillary wings for the living room and stair tower. Exterior materials are stucco with horizontal wood stripping at sill lines. Low pitched hip roofs and wide eaves extend the horizontality of the design. The various wings of the house are further extended into the landscape by garden walls with wood screens. The first floor is raised above grade; however, the house melds effectively with the landscape because the entrance occurs at grade and steps up in the interior.

As noted by G. C. Manson, the Prairie House was endlessly adaptable and capable of great variation within the essential theme. The axiality of the Baldwin-Wackerle design is punctuated by the living room wing which is centered on the hearth. Exterior curvilinear walls contain a continuous strip of casement windows on three sides. This device fully explores the possibility of a direct interior-exterior relationship, thus accentuating the sheltering quality of the roof.

This design also employs several architectural wood screens, which recall Japanese devices for separating exterior spaces. As placed at the entry, the screen creates a series of courtyards. At the side and rear, screens separate the terrace from the kitchen yard and extend the architectural form of the house into the landscape.

The interior spaces follow the original floor plan; however, the home was redecorated by the last four of its seven owners. Interior walls are unadorned plaster surfaces without stripping or other details. Second floor ceilings are low, with spaces relieved by entire walls of casement windows which give the rooms a close relationship to nature. The wood casements divided into rectilinear panes may be original to the home, although their provenance is unclear.

The present owner has embarked upon a phased restoration. The first stage included restoration of built-in gutters, new roofing and structural stabilization. Subsequent phases will include repair and restoration of wood screens and garden walls, living room restoration and exterior landscaping.

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 1905

Builder/Architect Frank Lloyd Wright

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and constructed for Hiram Baldwin in 1905, this residence belongs to the formative period of Wright's development of the prairie house. The Baldwin-Wackerle Residence exhibits the design concepts that Wright developed in forty houses spanning the period from 1901 (the Willits House) to 1906 (the Robie House). These two designs are clearly recognized as pure prototypes of the prairie house. The Baldwin-Wackerle house tends toward the latter in exterior appearance although its plan reveals the centrifugal layout of the former. The design also bears a strong resemblance in form and plan to the design Wright prepared for Ladies Home Journal, "A Home in a Prairie Town." The ideas in this prototype were actually executed in the F. B. Henderson house, 1901, Elmhurst, Illinois; in the Frank Thomas residence, 1901, Oak Park, Illinois, and the George Madison Millard residence, 1906, Highland Park, Illinois, all of which are constructed with stucco walls and stripping of rough-sawn wood. The Baldwin-Wackerle Residence is the fourth member of this quartet.

The design for the house also reveals the Japanese influence on Wright, (1905 was the year of his celebrated trip), in the use of wood screens to define exterior courtyards.

The Baldwin-Wackerle Residence is also significant within the local context of Kenilworth. It is the only Frank Lloyd Wright-designed house in this North Shore community which also contains excellent work by noted Chicago School architects as well as eclectic designers of first quality. Securing this project was no doubt considered a triumph by Wright, a solid commission for an innovative design in a village noted for its aesthetic as well as financial conservatism.

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Item number

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Additional Research

Plans of the Baldwin-Wackerle residence on file at the Frank Lloyd Wright Memorial Foundation were reviewed. They included working drawings, sketches, and details. Without photographs at the time of completion, it is difficult to ascertain how closely the plans followed these papers, because of discontinuities between various drawings. A summary of findings follows:

The important floor plan of the Baldwin House with its half circle living room remains unchanged on the first and second floors with the exception of a small two floor addition at the northeast corner and least visible from the street. Each of the rooms serves in its original function. The interior has been redecorated but not sufficiently altered to prevent complete restoration. Doors, hardware and leaded windows remain, as does the fireplace, although not every element is intact and some are covered.

The exterior facade remains essentially unchanged in material, texture and window treatment. The landscaping has been redesigned. The driveway originally extended along the north boundary of the property. When redone, several small walls and a screen were rearranged or removed and two exterior doors were relocated. Flower beds, a garden wall and garage have been altered, improved and extended at various times.

Because the Register encourages recognition and preservation of architecture significant in its local context, the Wackerle are seeking Nomination as part of the restoration process. Substantial roof work was completed according to original plans and the owner intends to continue phased restoration should the property be listed. Because it is the work of a Master Architect, exhibits a uniquely experimental floorplan in architectural treatment of the main living hall, and the exterior retains its essential integrity, the Baldwin-Wackerle residence by Frank Lloyd Wright appears to meet the criteria of the National Register Program and is duly submitted for nomination.

Submitted May 4, 1983 Bruce E. Lynch -- Architectural Conservator

9. Major Bibliographical References

BOOKS

Kilmer, Colleen Browne. Joseph Sears and his Kenilworth, the Dreamer and the Dream.
Kenilworth Historical Society, 1969.
Manson, Grant Carpenter. Frank Lloyd Wright to 1910. Van Nostrand & Reinhold Co.,

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1

Quadrangle name EVANSTON, IL

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 16 441330 4659440
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 10 (except the Northwesterly 90 feet thereof) and all of Lot 13 in Block 31 in Oxford Addition to Kenilworth said addition being a Subdivision of parts of fractional sections 27 & 28, Township 42 North, 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 N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bruce E. Lynch, Architectural Conservator

organization Building Conservation, Inc.

date January 1983

street & number Box 89

telephone (414)475-1896

city or town Evanston,

state Illinois

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 *D. J. Lynch*

title *Director*

date 6/22/83

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
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Baldwin-Wackerle Residence

Continuation sheet one

Item number 9. Bibliography Page 2

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New York, 1958.

Storer, William Allin. The Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright. M.I.T. Press, Cambridge, 1974.

MAGAZINES

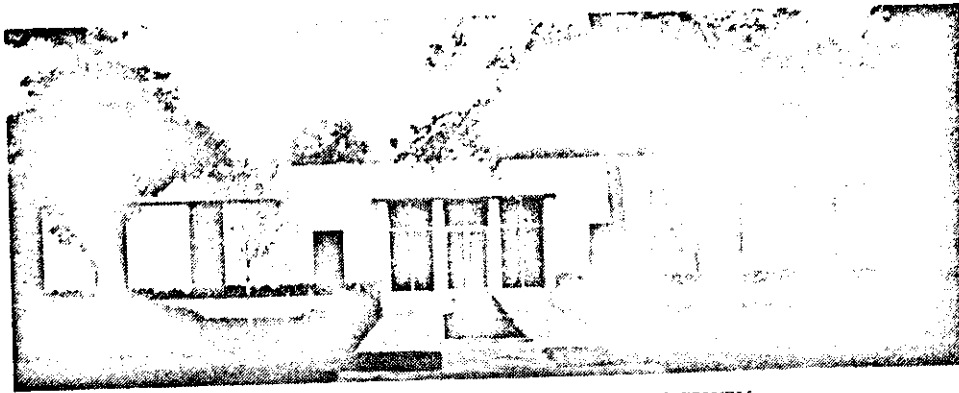
_____ : "Country Homes of the Western Plains," Home and Garden, vol. 18, p. 230-233. October, 1910.

_____ : "A Home in a Prairie Town," Ladies Home Journal, July, 1901.

Budd, Katharine C. "Bungalow in America," Architectural Record, September, 1904.

OTHERS

Report: "Buildings by Frank Lloyd Wright in Six Midwestern States." Burnham Library of Architecture, Art Institute of Chicago, 1949.



THE KENILWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
415 Kenilworth Avenue, Kenilworth, Illinois 60043
February 21, 1983

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Illinois Department of Conservation
Division of Historic Sites
c/o Keith A. Sculle
National Register Coordinator
405 East Washington Street
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Mr. Sculle:

The Kenilworth Historical Society is pleased to support Mr. Fred Wackerle's petition for recognition of his home as an authentic Frank Lloyd Wright house.

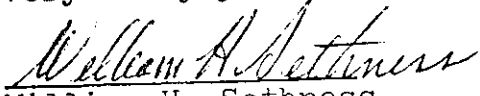
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We have been proud to have this house in our community, and having been aware of its origin for many years, are pleased that it is being considered for official status at this time.

We urge your confirmation of this nomination.

Very truly yours,


William H. Sethness
President

WHS:bsh
cc: Fred Wackerle