

BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
NEW YORK STATE PARKS AND RECREATION
ALBANY, NEW YORK (518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
029-40 DO7
UNIQUE SITE NO. 5649
QUAD _____
SERIES _____
NEG. NO. _____

YOUR NAME: Debra A. Mattice DATE: August 7, 1984
YOUR ADDRESS: 37 Congress, Bflo 14213 TELEPHONE: (716) 884-5899
ORGANIZATION (if any): City of Buffalo - Division of Planning

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME(S): Davidson House
- 2. COUNTY: Erie TOWN/CITY: Buffalo VILLAGE: _____
- 3. STREET LOCATION: 57 Tillinghast Pl
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public b. private
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: Jules Constant ADDRESS: 57 Tillinghast Place, Bflo
- 6. USE: Original: Residence Present: Residence
- 7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes No
Interior accessible: Explain By Permission

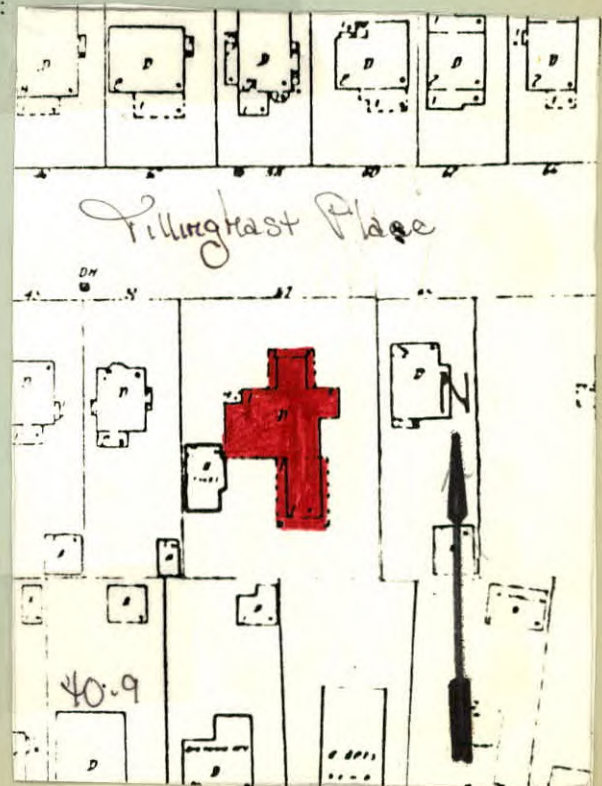
DESCRIPTION

- 8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard b. stone c. brick d. board and batten
e. cobblestone f. shingles g. stucco other: _____
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: (if known) a. wood frame with interlocking joints
b. wood frame with light members
c. masonry load bearing walls
d. metal (explain) _____
e. other _____
- 10. CONDITION: a. excellent b. good c. fair d. deteriorated
- 11. INTEGRITY: a. original site b. moved if so, when? _____
c. list major alterations and dates (if known): _____

12. PHOTO: 40-9a



13. MAP:



14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known b. zoning c. roads
 d. developers e. deterioration
 f. other: _____
15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:
 a. barn b. carriage house c. garage
 d. privy e. shed f. greenhouse
 g. shop h. gardens
 i. landscape features: _____
 j. other: _____
16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):
 a. open land b. woodland
 c. scattered buildings
 d. densely built-up e. commercial
 f. industrial g. residential
 h. other: _____

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

This building located in the center of a long curvilinear east-west block is situated on a large size building lot within Olmsted's Parkside subdivision. Single family residences, c. 1915, American Four Square, Craftsman, with moderate size front lawns line this street. The grounds of the Buffalo Zoological Society are located one block to the south.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):

Two story Prairie Style . Wide spreading eaves of low pitched hip roof. The plan of house is T shaped with free spatial flow between the living areas. This structure low to the ground and horizontal with windows arranged in continuous bands under the roof eaves. Leaded glass windows with delicate geometrical patterns.

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: 1908

ARCHITECT: Frank Lloyd Wright

BUILDER: _____

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

Outstanding example of a Frank Lloyd Wright designed Prairie house. In the Albright-Knox Art Gallery's Henry-Russel Hitchcock's Architectural Exhibition, 1940, Hitchcock wrote; " The finest Wright house in Buffalo is of wood rather than of masonry and has therefore a lightness and articulation which the others lack. The cross shaped plan is here more boldly developed so that all the chief rooms have three exposures while the two story living room has the height so frequently lacking in Wright's interiors."

The house was designed by Wright for a Larking Co. executive, Walter Davidson, who joined the company in 1906 and left both the company and the house in 1913 in order to establish the Davidson Shoe Company. The stuccoed wood construction and colorless glass are indicative of a relatively modest budget. City

21. SOURCES: Atlas of the City of Buffalo. 1894, 1915. (See Continuation Sheet)
 City of Buffalo-Department of Building Permits: Building Plans (E-20) 1908.
 Buffalo Courier Express, September 18, 1966, pg. 4.
 Buffalo Evening News, August 9, 1959, pg. 31.

22. THEME:

Residential architecture associated with Parkside development
 Prairie Style

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CONTINUATION SHEET: PARKSIDE DEVELOPMENT SURVEY

SHEET #: 1

Building Address: 57 Tillinghast Place

Public Buildings Inventory Code #: 40-9a

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Item 20 (continued):

permits, Buffalo, NY lists the cost of the home at \$6,000. The unobtrusive exterior of the house gives little indication of a two-story cathedral-like living room illuminated by a huge bay window at the east end of the room and by the clerestory windows along the north and south walls. West of the living room the house divides into two stories, which are in turn divided into multiple floor levels. Spatial grandeur is cleverly played off the intimacy, while even the smallest of spaces is opened up through Wright's use of banded window sequences.

Additional rooms were added to the garage in the 1930's in a manner that closely follows the style of the original house except for the arched passageway that leads through to the back yard.

Item 21 (continued):

Buffalo Architecture: A Guide. @ 1981 pg. 206

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5649-0072/88
029-40-0021

NEW YORK STATE HISTORIC TRUST
STATEWIDE SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

architectural

- 1. Name (Common and Historic) Davidson House (F. L. Wright)
- Location 2. Erie County 3. Town 4. Buffalo Village or City
- 5. Address or Location 57 Tillinghast Place
- 6. Type House 7. Subject or Theme Architecture
- 8. Date of Construction 1905 9. Architect (If Known) Wright
- 10. Builder (If known)
- 11. Original Owner Walter Davidson
- 12. Original Use Residence
- 13. Present Owner Dr. H. M. Murphy
Name

Address
- 14. Present Use Residence
- 15. Physical Condition Excellent
Sound residential neighborhood, near Nichols School and Delaware Park.
- 16. Surveys
- 17. Future Action
- 18. Surveyed by W. H. Glover O. W. Shelgren Jr. Oct. 1967
Date Surveyed

History and Significance: Example of Wright's prairie style.

Considered by Henry-Russell Hitchcock to be finest of Wright's

Buffalo houses (in Catalog of Albright Art Gallery photo exhibit 1940).

Wood frame, stucco, leaded glass.

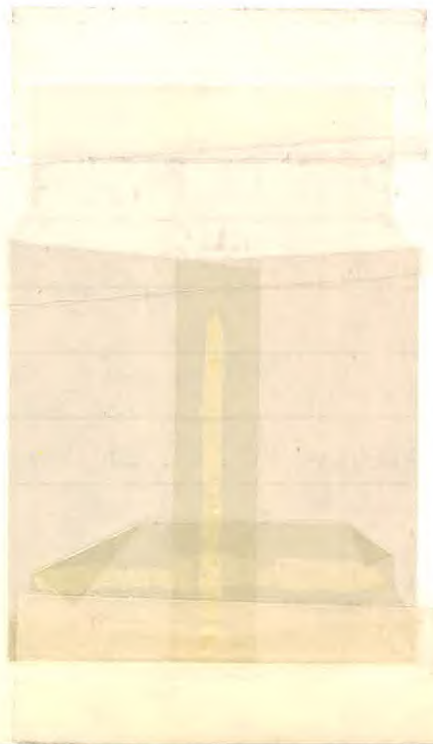
Sources of Information: _____

Dr. H. M. Murphy

Photograph: Date
I, 4 Oct. 1967

Direction of View
SW

Map Location:
GS Coordinates



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