

# 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 DOT  
UNIQUE SITE NO. 5230  
QUAD \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIES \_\_\_\_\_  
NEG. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR NAME: BUFFALO FRIENDS OF OLMDSTED PARKS DATE: May 25, 1983

P. O. BOX 590

YOUR ADDRESS: BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14205-0590 TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

## IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME(S): Darwin D. Martin House  
2. COUNTY: Erie TOWN/CITY: Buffalo VILLAGE: \_\_\_\_\_  
3. STREET LOCATION: 125 Jewett Pwy  
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public ☐ b. private ☒  
5. PRESENT OWNER: S.U.N.Y. Buffalo ADDRESS: Main Street, Buffalo  
6. USE: Original: Residential Present: House Museum  
7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes ☒ No ☐  
Interior accessible: Explain during visiting hours

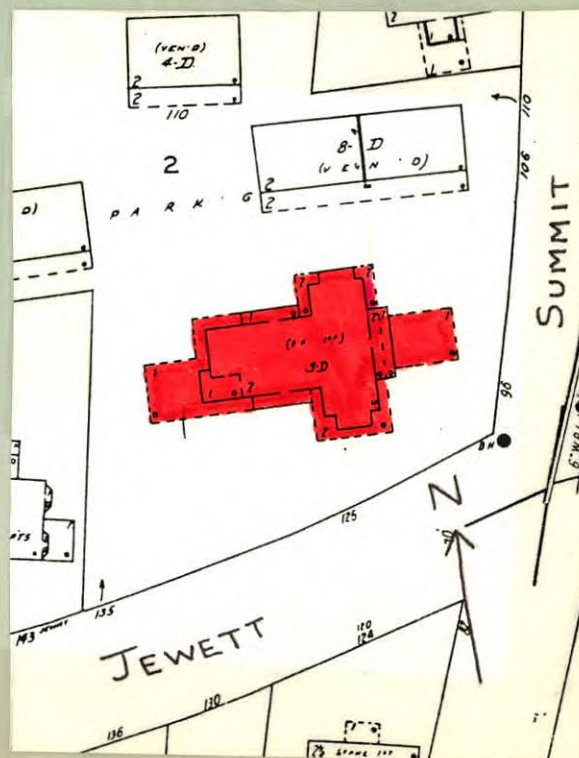
## DESCRIPTION

8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard ☐ b. stone ☐ c. brick ☒ d. board and batten ☐  
e. cobblestone ☐ f. shingles ☐ g. stucco ☐ other: \_\_\_\_\_  
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: a. wood frame with interlocking joints ☐  
(if known) 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):  
enclosed walkway at rear of building has been removed

12. PHOTO: 18-27a



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: surrounded by large shrubs and  
j. other: trees
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: This property is listed on  
(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district) the National Register along  
with the Barton House at 118 Summit and the Gardener's Cottage at 285  
Woodward. Building is situated on a large sized building lot within  
Olmsted's Parkside subdivision. House is to the east of Delaware Park  
which was designed by F.L.O. and is listed on the National Register.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):  
The complex of buildings that Frank Lloyd Wright designed for Darwin  
D. Martin consisted of a main house and four outlying buildings,  
which were unified by Wright's rigorous and consistent use of  
cruciform plans, piers and cantilevers, and other prairie house  
principles. (See attached sheet.)

**SIGNIFICANCE**

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: 1903-1906

ARCHITECT: Frank Lloyd Wright

BUILDER: \_\_\_\_\_

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: The Martin house was distinguished  
from most of Wright's other prairie style houses by its unusually large  
size and open plan. It is said that Wright was given a virtually  
unlimited budget for this commission. Jewett Parkway was originally  
opened in 1875 by Elam R. Jewett whose estate was at the southwest  
corner of Main Street and Jewett Parkway. The street followed  
Olmsted's plan for the Parkside neighborhood and can be seen on  
his 1876 map of the City of Buffalo. In 1884 Elam Jewett deeded  
the street to the City of Buffalo, "on condition that it shall be  
placed in charge of the Park Commissioners, and be by them maintained  
as a Park approach, in the same manner as the other Park approaches  
now are or hereafter may be maintained." (See attached sheet.)

21. SOURCES: Buffalo Architecture: A Guide (MIT Press, 1981).  
City of Buffalo - Park Reports, 1884  
"Olmsted's Sketch Map of Buffalo Showing the Relation  
of the Park System," 1876

22. THEME: Prairie House - Frank Lloyd Wright



## THE DARWIN D. MARTIN HOUSE

The Darwin D. Martin House, together with the George F. Barton House at 118 Summit Avenue and the Gardener's Cottage at 285 Woodward Avenue is on the National Register of Historic Places of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of Interior, as the D. D. Martin Complex. The house was erected during 1904-1906. Originally the Complex included a long pergola connecting with a Conservatory and Garage/Heating Plant (see site plan); these structures were removed in 1960. Planting and connecting walls and walks have been reduced considerably.

The widely recognized innovations and exceptional design qualities of Frank Lloyd Wright's (1869-1959) work are epitomized here in the naturalness of siting, in the graceful composition of the terraces, fenestration, roofs, and the quality, integrity, and craftsmanship of the materials employed.

A heightened sense of space is the dominant experience in this family shelter. One's awareness is constantly quickened in the simple acts of entering and of moving from one "room" to another, or in ascending to the second floor through the dynamic stairway space. A special significance of the Complex as a whole lies in the integration of all its elements, such as land, space, structure, furnishings, and detail.

Darwin Denice Martin (1865-1935) joined John D. Larkin's fledgling company in 1878. He was made a director of the giant Larkin Company, Inc. in 1892. A year later he was made Secretary of the company, a post he held until his retirement in 1925.

Besides being a progressive businessman, Mr. Martin contributed to many civic causes, education being his favorite philanthropy. He helped many young persons through college, and he and Mrs. Martin endowed a chair of mathematics at the University of Buffalo. The generosity of the Martin family is now a part of Buffalo's and the University's tradition of benefiting from the civic and institutional concern of private individuals.

Mr. Martin commissioned Frank Lloyd Wright to design the Complex in 1903, with construction beginning with the George F. Barton House. Darwin Martin was responsible for Mr. Wright's commissions for the revolutionary Larkin Building, for the residences of his business colleagues William Heath and Alexander Davidson, and for the Martin's lakeside home in Derby. The bond between Darwin D. Martin, client, and Mr. Wright, architect, was an unusually rich and enduring one.

### Brief History of the Martin House after 1935.

After Darwin D. Martin died in 1935, Mrs. Isabelle Reidpath Martin (1869-1945) continued to reside in the large house until 1937. After Mrs. Martin moved to a smaller residence for herself the house was vacant for about seventeen years. During that time inadequate maintenance and vandalism nearly ruined the house.

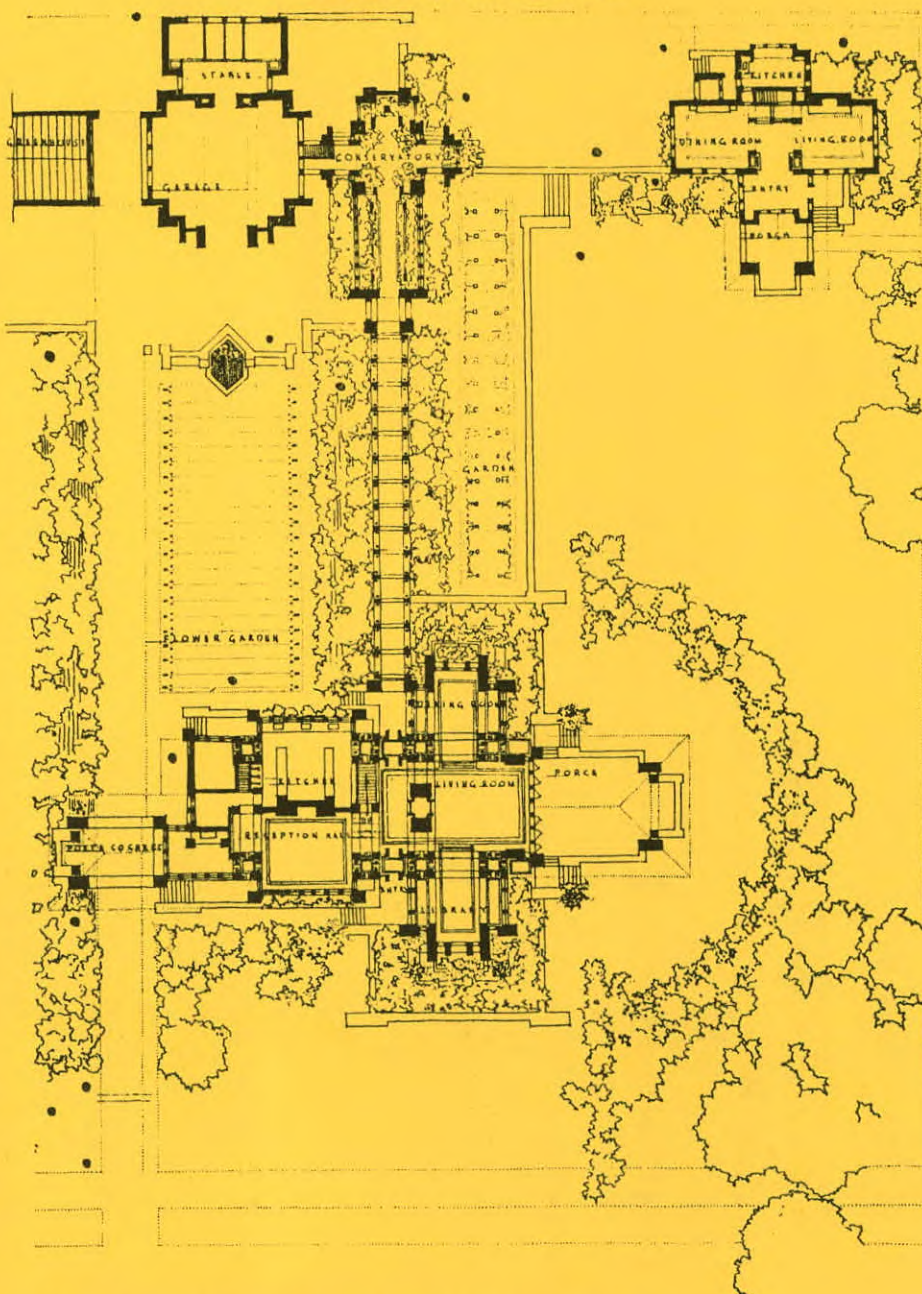
In the early 1950's the main house, pergola, conservatory, and garage were all slated to be demolished to make way for construction of apartments on the site. The buildings were saved from demolition when, in 1954, Sebastian Tauriello, architect, bought the property for his family's residence and for his architectural office. Mr. Tauriello installed new mechanical/electrical systems and made extensive repairs in order to make the house habitable again. Many of Mr. Wright's original details within the main house, e.g. glass, oak moldings, and the beautifully tiled central fireplace were either absent or beyond repair when the Tauriellos acquired the property.

After Sebastian Tauriello's death in 1965, Mrs. Ruth Tauriello sold the property in 1967 to the State University of New York at Buffalo. The university first used the house as the President's residence, which function it served until 1970. Since 1971 it has mainly housed the University Archives and the archivists' and Alumni offices. The Martin House has been frequently used for meetings of many campus and alumni groups, and for educational activities, including house tours, and scholarly work on Frank Lloyd Wright and the Martin House itself.

The Darwin D. Martin House is perceived not only as a regional asset but a work of State, national, and, indeed, international significance.

It is the goal of the Friends of the Darwin D. Martin House to restore the house and site to its original magnificence. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Darwin D. Martin Estate Plan\*



\*Except Gardener's Cottage which is directly west of "Greenhouse."



**Friends of the Darwin D. Martin House**  
**University at Buffalo Foundation, Inc.**  
**125 Jewett Parkway**  
**Buffalo, New York 14214**

I want to participate as a patron in the restoration of the Darwin D. Martin House. Please accept my donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_. Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_. Make check payable to U/B Foundation, Inc. Martin House.

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_\_

Zip\_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Bequests, gifts, or contributions to the Friends of the Darwin D. Martin House as part of the University at Buffalo Foundation, Inc. are tax deductible.

Friends of the Darwin D. Martin House  
University at Buffalo Foundation, Inc.  
125 Jewett Parkway  
Buffalo, New York 14214

**GUIDED TOURS:** On the third Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m., and by reservation. The Society of Architectural Historians/Western New York Chapter, in cooperation with the State University of New York at Buffalo Alumni Office, offers the tours of the Martin House.

For group reservations write or phone Darwin D. Martin House, 125 Jewett Parkway, Buffalo, New York 14214; (716) 831-4121.

**HOW TO GET THERE:** The Martin House is located at 125 Jewett Parkway at the corner of Jewett Parkway and Summit Avenue. The House is two blocks west of Main Street, and two blocks east of Parkside Avenue and the Buffalo Zoo entrance at Jewett and Parkside. It is easily accessible by taking the Scajquada Expressway (State Route 198) to either the Main Street or Parkside Avenue exit and then going north to Jewett Parkway.



Darwin D. Martin House (1904-1906)  
Buffalo, New York

by

Frank Lloyd Wright, Architect



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

ty - architectural

1. Name (Common and Historic) Martin House (F. L. Wright design)
- Location 2. Erie 3.  4. Buffalo  
County Town Village or City
5. Address or Location <sup>125</sup> Jewett Parkway at Summit Ave.
6. Type House 7. Subject or Theme Architecture
8. Date of Construction 1904 9. Architect (If Known) F. L. Wright
10. Builder (If known)
11. Original Owner Darwin Martin
12. Original Use Residence
13. Present Owner State University of New York at Buffalo  
Name  
Address
14. Present Use Residence of President
15. Physical Condition Excellent  
Sound residential neighborhood, one block from Delaware Park.  
Garage and attaching pergola removed 1962.
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 early prairie style,  
arranged in Latin cross style. Furniture on Wright's design also.  
Owners noted few closets, rather dark living areas. Bought by  
S. J. Tauriello in 1950's and adapted into two apartments with  
architect's office in basement. Purchased 1967 by University and  
restored to serve as President's residence.

Sources of Information: Catalog, HABS in Western New York by O. W.  
Shelgren, Jr. HABS file (copy NYSHT). Buffalo Evening News 4/9/59.  
H. R. Hitchcock In the Nature of Materials.

Photograph: Date  
I, 1-2 Oct. 1967

Direction of View  
nw, ne

Map Location:  
GS Coordinates

N  
↑



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