

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Illinois	
COUNTY: Cook	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Frank Thomas Residence

AND OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
210 Forest Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Oak Park

STATE: Illinois CODE: 17 COUNTY: Cook CODE: 031

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify)
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments For Sale, Zoned Multiple

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mrs. John T. (Barbara) Walsh

STREET AND NUMBER:
210 Forest Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Oak Park STATE: Illinois CODE: 17

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
County Recorders office

STREET AND NUMBER:
118 N. Clark Street

CITY OR TOWN: Chicago STATE: Illinois CODE: 17

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: A Survey of Historic Resources of the Village of Oak Park, W. R. Hasbrouck & Paul E. Sprague

DATE OF SURVEY: Aug. 19, 1970 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Municipal Building

STREET AND NUMBER:
Euclid Ave & Lake Street

CITY OR TOWN: Oak Park STATE: Illinois CODE: 17

SNOITCURTSNIEES

10th Congressional District Congressman: Harold R. Collier

STATE: Illinois
COUNTY: Cook
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The residence was designed in 1901 by the architect Frank Lloyd Wright for James Rogers, a grain merchant and resident of Oak Park, who gave the house to his daughter Sue and her husband Frank Thomas as a wedding gift. They all were involved in planning the house and were evidently pleased with it and delighted in the unique qualities it possessed which caused the house to be "well known." Because of the arched entrance and hidden entrance stair, it was nicknamed "The Harem" by local residents.

This was one of Wright's first designs having no basement; all the service areas of the house, i.e., laundry, storerooms, servants' quarters, game room, furnace room, etc. were on the ground floor. The "main" floor is one story above grade level and contains a large living room, library, dining room, lavatory and kitchen. An entrance gallery connects living and dining room. There is a large front veranda and screened porch. The bedrooms are located on the "second" or top floor. There are now five bedrooms and two baths on this floor; the present master bedroom was originally two rooms and there is evidence that the bedrooms over the library were added.

The original exterior material was stucco. The Prairie School Architects Tallmadge and Watson remodelled the house in 1924. The present siding is wood shingles. There are no existing drawings of the remodelling.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1901

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The house is felt to be important because it is the first design Wright actually built in the "Prairie Style," after publishing a design for "A Home in a Prairie Town" in Ladies Home Journal in 1901.

Its pioneering features are very broad overhangs and low pitched roofs with built-in gutters. Casement windows are used throughout and there are many art glass windows especially on the main floor. The fireplaces are all handsomely designed. There are many built-in cabinets and shelves. The emphasis on the horizontal line is strong giving the house a very "modern" look for its time; the treatment of the exterior wall surfaces helps to give the house a "low" look. The house is certainly a direct predecessor of the Robie House design of 1908.

The house is presently "threatened" because of the proximity of the site to existing multi-family buildings; the zoning allows 14 apartments on the 87 foot x 160 foot lot. The house is at the south end of Forest Avenue, Oak Park's most important street of residences designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, including the Wright Home and Studio at Chicago Avenue and Forest Avenue.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Smith, N. K., Frank Lloyd Wright, A Study in Architectural Content, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1966
 Manson, Grant C., Frank Lloyd Wright: The First Golden Age, New York: Reinhold, 1958.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	41°	53'	28"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	87°	47'	48"
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"			
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .3

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Robert A. Bell, Chairman

ORGANIZATION: Oak Park Landmarks Commission

DATE: July 4, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: Municipal Building, Euclid Ave. & Lake Street

CITY OR TOWN: Oak Park

STATE: Illinois

CODE: 17

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

1. Name of Site:

Common

Historic Thomas House

2. Location:

Street and Number

210 Forest Avenue
City or Town

Oak Park
County

Cook

Zip Code

Township

Range

Section

1/4 Section

3. Classification:

Category (check one)

- District
- Building
- Site
- Structure

Integrity (check one)

- Altered
- Unaltered
- Moved
- Original Site

4. Ownership:

Status (check one)

- Private
- Public

- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- Preservation work in progress

Access to Public

- Yes
- Restricted
- Unrestricted
- No

Present Use (check one or more)

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Museum
- Park
- Private Residence
- Religious
- Scientific
- Transportation
- Other

5. Ownership of Property:

Owner's Name

Phone Number

Street and Number

City or Town

State

County

Zip Code

6. Description: Prairie school

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Deteriorated
- Ruins
- Unexposed

Is there a program of preservation underway? Yes No

ARCHITECTURE

7. Historical Themes: (check one or more of the following)

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeological Site | (Pre-Columbian) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeological Site | (Post-Columbian to 1673) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> French Influence | (1673-1780) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Frontier | (1780-1818) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Early | (1818-1850) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Middle | (1850-1900) | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illinois Late | (1900-present) | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Famous People | (give names & dates) | F.L.Wright |

8. Specific Date: 1901

Areas of significance (check one or more of the following)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (historic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (pre-historic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Military |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Music |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | |

Brief statement of significance: (include all names and dates)

Use additional sheets if necessary. Wrih House. National Register

9. Form prepared by:

Name and Title: TH Date: 6/19/75

Organization: Phone:

Street and Number:

City or Town: County: Zip Code

During the course of the Survey we often find it necessary to search for a particular site. When filling out the Survey form, please list according to the following example, published references to the site for which forms are being completed. If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly deduct from the Survey's task.

Bibliography

Robertson, Robert, Of Whales and Men. New York, Alfred K. Knopf, Inc., 1954.

