



**FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT
BUILDING CONSERVANCY**

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Eight Frank Lloyd Wright Buildings Inscribed on UNESCO World Heritage List

Collection of Wright-Designed Buildings Represents First Modern Architecture Designation in the U.S.

(July 7, 2019) – The World Heritage Committee, meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan, has officially inscribed *The 20th-Century Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright*, which includes eight major works spanning 50 years of Wright’s career, on the UNESCO [World Heritage List](#).

Wright is widely considered to be the greatest American architect of the 20th century, and the sites in the group inscription span his influential career. They include [Unity Temple](#) (constructed 1906-1909, Oak Park, Illinois), the [Frederick C. Robie House](#) (constructed 1910, Chicago, Illinois), [Taliesin](#) (begun 1911, Spring Green, Wisconsin), [Hollyhock House](#) (constructed 1918-1921, Los Angeles, California), [Fallingwater](#) (constructed 1936-1939, Mill Run, Pennsylvania), the [Herbert and Katherine Jacobs House](#) (constructed 1936-1937, Madison, Wisconsin), [Taliesin West](#) (begun 1938, Scottsdale, Arizona) and the [Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum](#) (constructed 1956-1959, New York, New York).

There are more than 1,000 World Heritage sites around the world, and the group of Wright sites is now among only 24 sites in the U.S. The collection represents the first modern architecture designation in the country on the prestigious list.

“This recognition by UNESCO is a significant way for us to reconfirm how important Frank Lloyd Wright was to the development of modern architecture around the world,” says Barbara Gordon, executive director of the [Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy](#), an international organization dedicated to the preservation of all of Wright’s remaining built works. *“There are nearly 400 remaining structures designed by Wright. Our hope is that the inscription of these eight major works also brings awareness to the importance of preserving all of his buildings as a vital part of our artistic, cultural and architectural heritage. All communities where a Wright building stands should appreciate what they have and share in the responsibility to protect their local—and world—heritage.”*

The eight inscribed sites have played a prominent role in the development and evolution of Modern architecture during the first half of the 20th century and continuing to the present. UNESCO considers the international importance of a potential World Heritage Site based on its “Outstanding Universal Value,” which in the Wright series is manifested in three attributes. First, it is an architecture responsive to functional and emotional needs, achieved through geometric abstraction and spatial manipulation. Second, the design of the buildings in this series is fundamentally rooted in nature’s forms and principles. Third, the series represents an architecture conceived to be responsive to the evolving American experience, but which is universal in its appeal.

Heidi Ruehle-May, Executive Director of the Unity Temple Restoration Foundation states that *“Frank Lloyd Wright described Unity Temple as ‘my contribution to modern architecture.’ The building is one of the first monumental edifices created entirely in concrete. Wright’s radical departure from traditional materials and visionary experimentation established Unity Temple’s reputation as among the most innovative structures of the 20th century. The inscription as a World Heritage Site will help introduce Unity Temple to a larger international audience, creating the opportunity for thousands to experience Wright’s architectural masterpiece while making a considerable positive impact on the Oak Park community.”*

The Wright nomination has been in development for more than 15 years, a coordinated effort between the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy, each of the nominated sites and independent scholars, with a substantial financial commitment realized through subsidies and donations, countless hours donated by staff and volunteers, and the guidance and assistance of the National Park Service. The nomination effort was spearheaded by Fallingwater Director Emerita and founding Conservancy board member Lynda Waggoner, with Fallingwater contributing support and expertise in the nomination’s preparation. The Conservancy will now coordinate the activities of the Frank Lloyd Wright World Heritage Council, chaired by Waggoner, which was established to support the responsible conservation and promotion of the eight World Heritage sites.

In 2015, the U.S. nominated a series of 10 Wright-designed sites to the World Heritage List. At its meeting in Istanbul, Turkey, in July 2016, the World Heritage Committee decided to “refer” the nomination for revisions. Over the past two years, the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy worked with the council of sites and leading scholars to revise the nomination and rework the justification for inscription.

The National Park Service submitted the Wright nomination to the World Heritage Centre in Paris on November 20, 2018, and it was reviewed and inscribed at the 2019 session of the World Heritage Committee, on Sunday, July 7 in Baku, Azerbaijan. The complete nomination document can be downloaded from SaveWright.org.

High-resolution photos of the eight sites are available for download here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/g2buxf1nk81b3yr/AADxswquCXJTZ7H-M5jc1homa?dl=0>

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About The Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy

The Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy is a nonprofit organization founded in 1989 to facilitate the preservation and stewardship of the remaining structures designed by Frank Lloyd Wright through advocacy, education and technical services. The staff and a corps of dedicated and knowledgeable board members and volunteers accomplish the Conservancy's mission through strategic initiatives that include advocating against demolition and neglect of Wright structures, providing access to expert technical conservation and restoration resources, connecting preservation-minded buyers and sellers of Wright properties, advancing original Wright scholarship through *SaveWright* magazine, and honoring those who demonstrate extraordinary efforts in stewardship of Wright's legacy through the Wright Spirit Awards.

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