

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Wright, Robert Llewellyn, House

and or common

2. Location

street & number 7927 Deepwell Drive N/A not for publication

city, town Bethesda N/A vicinity of Eighth Congressional District

state Maryland code 24 county Montgomery 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
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<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 Mrs. Robert L. Wright

street & number 7927 Deepwell Drive

city, town Bethesda N/A vicinity of state Maryland 20817

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Rockville state Maryland 20817

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust
Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1985 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

7. Description

M:29-44

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>N/A</u>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Number of Resources

Contributing	Noncontributing	Number of previously listed
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings	National Register properties
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites	included in this nomination: <u>0</u>
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> objects	Original and historic functions
		and uses: residential
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> Total	

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The Robert Llewellyn Wright House is a two-story concrete-block structure located near Bethesda in suburban Montgomery County, Maryland. Designed by architect Frank Lloyd Wright, the house is composed of intersecting and concentric segments of a circle, or "hemicycles." Its basic form comprises two intersecting arcs, resulting in a configuration reminiscent of a ship's hull. The house is sited on a sloping lot, overlooking a stream. The north facade faces up the slope and holds the entrance; the south side, overlooking a wooded ravine, is almost entirely defined by large casement windows and plate-glass doors, serving a semicircular terrace and two second-floor balconies. Exterior and interior woodwork is Philippine mahogany, and many of the furnishings are Wright-designed.

For General Description, see Continuation Sheet No. 1

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Wright, Robert Llewellyn, House
Montgomery County, MD.

Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page

1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The Robert Llewellyn Wright House is a two-story residence designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1953. It is sited on a wooded slope overlooking Cabin John Creek in suburban Bethesda, Montgomery County, Maryland, on the edge of a mid-twentieth-century residential development which is primarily characterized by conservative Colonial-influenced dwellings.

The house is typical of Wright's later residential designs in that its plan is based upon segments of a circle, or "hemicycles" in the architect's term. The basic form of the building is defined by two intersecting arcs, resulting in a configuration resembling a ship's hull. The north wall defines an arc of approximately 70 degrees; the south wall comprises an 85-degree segment. A circular form intersects the arc on the north side and houses the kitchen, bath, plumbing, heating, and ventilation facilities. A semicircular terrace extends from the south side. In contrast to these circular elements, the elevations emphasize horizontal lines both in the overall composition and in the treatment of surface materials.

The building rests on a smoothly finished poured concrete slab with subterranean footings. Red "Colorundum" pigment was mixed with the concrete, and the slab - which was left exposed as the surface for the ground floor - is scored with arcs and radiating lines reflecting the unit system on which the house was designed. The arcs, which center on a point south of the house, have radii whose lengths are multiples of three feet; the radiating lines are drawn on 7-degree intervals. The walls are constructed of concrete block; vertical joints are finished flush, while horizontal joints are deeply-raked.

The north (entrance) facade faces up the slope, away from the ravine. It is approached by a curving drive terminating in a broad, graveled court (see site plan). This elevation is two stories in height; its overhanging flat roof is defined by a cornice with a fascia of lapped Philippine mahogany boards. The recessed entrance is roughly centered at ground level, consisting of a solid mahogany door surmounted by a plate-glass transom. To the right of the entrance, the circular utilities core forms a tower, breaking the cornice and rising about three feet above the roof line. The curving wall of this core forms the right side of the entrance recess; to the left of the door, a mitred plate-glass window located high in the wall lights a small lavatory. An angled planting box projects below the lavatory window. A series of vertical fixed windows at the ground floor level of the utility core lights the kitchen; two of these

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Wright, Robert Llewellyn, House

Continuation sheet Montgomery County, Maryland Item number 7

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

openings are carried up to the second story. Philippine mahogany is used for all exterior woodwork, including door and window frames and siding. A series of small windows runs below the overhanging fascia, to the left (east) of the utility "tower," consisting of vertical casements alternating with groups of three small fixed horizontal lights stacked one atop another. The east end of the north facade is sheathed in lapped boards on the upper story, and terminates in a mitred plate-glass window.

The south elevation, overlooking the wooded ravine, features a semicircular terrace across the western half; the terrace has a retaining wall of concrete block, with a pattern of openings and protruding blocks worked into the upper courses. On the first story, eight plate-glass doors open onto the terrace, and a band of large casement windows continues across the eastern half of the facade. A recessed balcony is centered at second-floor level, and a large curved platform is cantilevered out from the west end; the lapped-board sheathing of their parapet walls extends across the facade. The two balconies are served by plate-glass doors, and a continuous ribbon of casement windows runs below the overhanging lapped-board cornice.

The main entrance door opens into a low-ceilinged hall, with the doorway to the workspace on the right (west) and a narrow passage on the left leading past a small lavatory and coat closet to the stair. Opening to the south from the entrance hall, the living room occupies most of the ground floor space, which is entirely open except for the intrusion of the circular workspace enclosure on the northwest. The broad expanse of glass in the south wall creates a strong orientation toward the terrace and beyond. Other focal points are the fireplace, set into the south wall of the workspace; a dining area at the west end of the building; and the east end of the living room, which is lined with seating and cabinets designed by Wright. Masonry remains exposed on the interior walls; ceilings are finished in buff-tinted, sand-textured plaster, and all interior partitions and cabinetwork utilize Philippine mahogany plywood.

The upper floor comprises three bedrooms opening off a passage which runs from the stair at the east, along the northern wall, and turns south at the central core. The eastern half of the circular core houses a bathroom. The master bedroom, opening off the southern extension of the passage, occupies roughly the western half of the floor. It incorporates both dressing and sleeping areas, and features its own balcony off the west end; it also has access to the southern recessed balcony through the

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

dressing area. A modification of the original plans allowed for a master bath in the north segment of the utilities core. A smaller bedroom shares the south balcony with the master bedroom. At the east end of the floor, the third bedroom is lighted by a band of windows facing south, with a mitred window at the east corner. All the bedrooms have built-in cabinets, shelving, tables, bed platforms and other furniture constructed of Philippine mahogany to Wright's designs. Flooring on the upper story is hardwood, ceilings are plastered, partitions are of mahogany plywood, and the concrete block is expressed as the interior surface of the masonry walls. The interior of the balcony parapets are finished with lapped boards in a manner similar to the exterior facia.

Comparison of the original working drawings and the house as built shows some slight divergences from Wright's conception. The north segment of the circular utility core was apparently intended to be open a full two stories above the ground floor workspace; as noted above, plans were changed to insert a master bath in this space on the second floor. The north facade of the utility "tower" is shown in the plans with three vertical window openings rising from the ground floor to the cornice, rather than two; in construction, the central opening was eliminated above the ground floor. The height of the balcony parapets, and the overall height of the house were reduced slightly. A carport was planned to extend north from the utility core; this was not realized, and a low wall was substituted.

The entrance to the curving drive which approaches the house is marked by a low wall, constructed of concrete block laid in the same manner as the house. This wall incorporates a mailbox and a Wrightian metal sculpture. The grounds were landscaped by Lloyd Wright, son of the architect, in 1960.

8. Significance

M:29-44

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1953; 1957-1958 ~~XXXXX~~ **Builder/Architect** Frank Lloyd Wright, architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criteria: B, C
 Applicable Exceptions: G
 Significance Evaluated: state

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The Robert Llewellyn Wright House is significant for its association with Frank Lloyd Wright, who designed the house in 1953 for his sixth child. The building exemplifies the "hemicycle" phase of the architect's late work in its plan, based upon concentric and intersecting segments of a circle. Although it is less than 50 years old, the Wright house is exceptionally significant in representing the last stylistic phase of the architect's career; Wright designed only a dozen hemicyclical houses between 1941 and 1957. Furthermore, this is the only building of its type in Maryland, and one of only two Wright-designed structures in the state (the other, the Joseph Euchtman House of 1940 in Baltimore County, exemplifies Wright's earlier "Usonian" form).

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT:

Frank Lloyd Wright designed the Robert Llewellyn Wright House in 1953, as the residence for his sixth child and family. The architect worked from a plan of the sloping, wooded building site, and did not actually visit the house until after its completion. The house was constructed in 1957-1958; Robert Beharka, a Taliesin fellow, was assigned to supervise the construction. Beharka had also served as supervisory architect for another of Wright's houses, the Martin House (1952) in nearby McLean, Virginia.

According to Storer's authoritative catalog of Wright's work, only eleven residences were executed in the hemicycle mode. (An early 1941 hemicyclical design, for the Lloyd Burlingham House in El Paso, Texas, was never realized.) These houses, and a handful of institutional buildings including the Guggenheim Museum, represent the final stylistic phase of the architect's career.

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Wright, Robert Llewellyn, House
Montgomery County, Maryland

Continuation sheet

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Heinz, Thomas A. Frank Lloyd Wright (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1982).

Kaufman, Edgar, and Ben Raeburn, eds. Frank Lloyd Wright: Writings and Buildings (New York: Meridian Books, 1960).

Storer, William Allin. The Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright: A Complete Catalog (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1974).

interviews: Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Wright, 2/85
Mr. Robert Beharka, 12/85

working drawings in possession of the owners; copies on file at
Maryland Hall of Records, Annapolis, MD

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION/JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated property, approximately 2 acres, comprises the resource within the setting which played an integral part in its design. Boundaries are depicted on the attached plot plan.

9. Major Bibliographical References

M:29-44

See Continuation Sheet No. 5

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approximately 2 acres

Quadrangle name Rockville, MD-VA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	8	3	1	2	3	5	0	4	3	1	9	6	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet No. 5

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 Peter E. Kurtze, Assistant NR Administrator

organization Maryland Historical Trust date February 18, 1985

street & number 21 State Circle telephone (301) 269-2438

city or town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

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  date 6-25-86

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

ACHS SUMMARY FORM

1. Name Robert Llewellyn Wright House
2. Planning Area/Site Number 29/44
3. MNCPPC Atlas Reference Map 20
E-7
4. Address 7927 Deepwell Drive, Bethesda

5. Classification Summary

Category building
 Ownership private
 Public Acquisition NA
 Status occupied
 Accessible no
 Present use private residence
 Previous Survey Recording M-NCPCC Federal State X County X Local
 (Title and date: Inventory of Historical Sites - 1976)

6. Date 1957
7. Original Owner Robert Llewellyn
Wright
8. Apparent Condition
- a. good
- b. unaltered
- c. original site

9. Description

The plan of this structure is based on two intersecting arcs, resulting in a boat or football shape. A superimposed circle forms a tower that contains the fireplace and chimney, kitchen and upstairs bathroom. The roof is flat. The basic materials of the house are concrete block walls, Philippine mahogany (siding, window and door frames, trim, cabinets) and glass (windows and doors). There is a cantilevered balcony off the master bedroom. The living room has a unique circular fireplace with a masonry canopy. A small circular terrace off the living and dining room features a small pool in the shape of the house plan. Wright designed the built-in furniture as well as some free-standing furniture and several lamps. His signature -- a bright red square ceramic tile with his initials -- is attached to the entrance. The total area of the house is about 1,800 square feet.

10. Significance

This is one of only two houses in Maryland designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, the 20th century's most influential architect. Built for his son, Robert Llewellyn Wright, it is one of the last group of houses he designed. The house is an important example of Wright's design philosophy: not only does it illustrate his breaking away from rectangular into circular and curved forms, but it contains examples of his detailing and furniture designs as well. Its construction in 1957 was supervised by a Taliesin apprentice, Robert Baharka, who lived with the Robert L. Wrights while overseeing construction. Baharka interpreted Wright's working drawings for the workmen and developed details, making changes where required.

11. Date researched and researcher 2/79 William Baltzer Fox, AIA
12. Compiler Gail Rothrock
13. Date Compiled 2/79
14. Designation Approval
15. Acreage 2 acres

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Robert Llewellyn Wright House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 7927 Deepwell Drive

CITY, TOWN

Bethesda

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Robert Llewellyn Wright

Telephone #: EM5-2287

STREET & NUMBER

7927 Deepwell Drive

CITY, TOWN

Bethesda

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20034

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 1764/178
Folio #: 2425/565

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland 20850

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE M-NCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE

1976

— FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland 20855

7 DESCRIPTION

M:29-44

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The plan of this structure is based on two intersecting arcs resulting in a boat or football shape. There is a superimposed circle forming a tower that contains the fireplace and chimney, kitchen and upstairs bathroom. All interior partitions are located on pre-established radial or circumferential lines.

The basic materials of the house are concrete blocks, concrete, Philippine mahogany and glass. The second floor and roof are framed of 2 x 10 joists at 16" on center bearing on masonry. The roof is flat with built up roofing. The first floor is red concrete scored with circumferential and radial lines.

The house was laid out by building two platforms in the woods and stretching radial lines from points on the platforms, circumscribing the exterior wall arcs until they intersected at two points, thus defining the perimeter of the structure. The dimensions are 65 feet from end to end and 24 feet at the widest point. The total area of the structure equals about 1,800 square feet.

The size of the structure was reduced to two thirds of the original design. A large mushroom shaped terrace and a carport, both part of the original design, were never built.

The exterior of the house has a base of concrete masonry units. The masonry walls are slightly battered and one side is pierced by openings with fixed glass set into the masonry and operable sash. The upper part of the building has horizontal mahogany siding lapped to affect a reverse batter. The horizontal siding emphasizes the curved form of the house. There is a cantilevered balcony off the master bedroom.

There is a large living and dining room, kitchen, one half bath downstairs, and three bedrooms and one and one half baths upstairs. A small basement area below the circular kitchen contains the mechanical equipment for the hot air system. A light air conditioning system was provided to keep the house dry. The wooded site retains a large amount of moisture.

A small circular terrace off the living and dining room has a small pool shaped like the house plan. The rail around the terrace is concrete masonry pierced with openings so the site can be seen when sitting inside the house.

All the built-in furniture and some free standing furniture including several lamps was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. The furniture is designed to complement the basic form of the structure. Mirrors were added to the small dining area by the architect to visually extend its dimensions. All rooms in the house including the bedrooms have built in furniture.

The living room contains a unique circular fireplace with a masonry canopy about 5'-6" above the floor. The hearth is a continuation of the concrete floor. A circular iron grate is made of concentric iron rings on 6" legs. The smoke chamber and smoke shelf are exposed to the fire box and the circular damper is located at the top of the circular flue and is operated by a chain.

Indirect lighting, invented by Frank Lloyd Wright, is found only in one of the small bedrooms.

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 checked="" 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

1957

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Frank Lloyd Wright

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, considered to be the most influential architect of the Twentieth Century, for his son Robert Llewellyn Wright.

Frank Lloyd Wright, who worked under the great Nineteenth Century architect, Louis Sullivan, broke away from the classical and traditional forms of architecture early in his career and began to create a tradition of his own. His work was brought to the attention of European architects in the famous Wasmuth edition of "The Early Work of Frank Lloyd Wright," published in Berlin, in 1911. Mies Van der Rohe indicated that this work had a great deal of influence on the architects of the Bauhaus School who in turn influenced much of today's architecture.

The Robert Llewellyn Wright House is one of only two houses designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in the State of Maryland, the other being the Joseph Euchman House in Baltimore, built in 1940.

The property is a two acre, heavily wooded, steeply sloping site, bordering Cabin John Creek Park. It forms one side of a ravine with Cabin John Creek at the bottom. The house is sited half way down the slope in among the trees. The windows, balconies and terrace take advantage of the beauty of the ravine overlooking the creek. The site is landscaped to blend in with the natural terrain.

Construction was started in 1957, taking about one year to finish. A Taliesin apprentice, Robert Beharka, was sent to supervise construction and act as general contractor. Beharka, now a practicing architect in Los Spanos, California, lived with the Robert Wrights, and was on the job daily during construction. His main job was to interpret the working drawings for the workmen and develop details as needed, including making changes as required. Beharka did some of the construction work himself, including altering the design of a fixed kitchen table to fold and slide into the cabinet-work and then building it himself.

This is one of the last group of houses designed by Wright. During this period he was breaking away from rectangular forms and was using circular and curved forms more and more, although circular schemes were used in earlier work. The house is a good example of Wrightian design, detailing and furnishing. It is characteristic of a Frank Lloyd Wright house adhering to his well known philosophy of design.

At the entrance to the house is a bright red square ceramic tile with Frank Lloyd Wright's initials scratched into it. This is the signature of the artist on a true work of art.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Robert Llewellyn Wright and Elizabeth Wright.
House Beautiful, October 1959, Vol. 101, No. 1, Entire issue
devoted to Frank Lloyd Wright.

Drexler, Arthur, The Drawings of Frank Lloyd Wright published for the
Museum of Modern Art by Horizon Press, New York, 1962.
CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 11 -- Holly Hill Subdivision

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Wm. Baltzer Fox, AIA, Architect

ORGANIZATION	DATE
Sugarloaf Regional Trails	February 1979

STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
Box 87	926-4510

CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Dickerson	Maryland 20753

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

M: #29-44
1607975704

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM

for the

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:
Robert L. Wright House
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Frank Lloyd Wright House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Deepwell Drive
CITY OR TOWN:
Bethesda
STATE: Maryland COUNTY: Montgomery

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Robert L. Wright
STREET AND NUMBER:
Deepwell Drive
CITY OR TOWN:
Bethesda STATE:
Maryland

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Montgomery County Courthouse
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN:
Rockville STATE:
Maryland

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

M:29-44

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed (Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncolored <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site (Check One)
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE.	
<p>The house is set on a wooded hillside overlooking Cabin John Creek. It is an almond-shaped, two-story structure with alternating layers of block, glass and curved mahogany bands. The terraces and open, lighted areas are concentrated on the west (creek) side. A two-story block tower on the east contains the kitchen. (See sources for further description.)</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

M:29-44

B. 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) 1956

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 checked="" 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 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 unique—having been designed in the inimitable style of the famous architect. It was designed for his son, the present owner. (See source notes.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- 1) A.I.A. GUIDE TO THE ARCHITECTURE OF WASHINGTON, D.C. (1965), p. 176.
- 2) "Living in a Frank Lloyd Wright House..." WASHINGTON POST, June 2, 1974.
- 3) MONTGOMERY COUNTY SENTINEL, 8/21/75.
- 4) Various architecture books, Frank Lloyd Wright sketches, etc.

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreege Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC DATE: 4/23/75

STREET AND NUMBER:
8787 Georgia Ave.

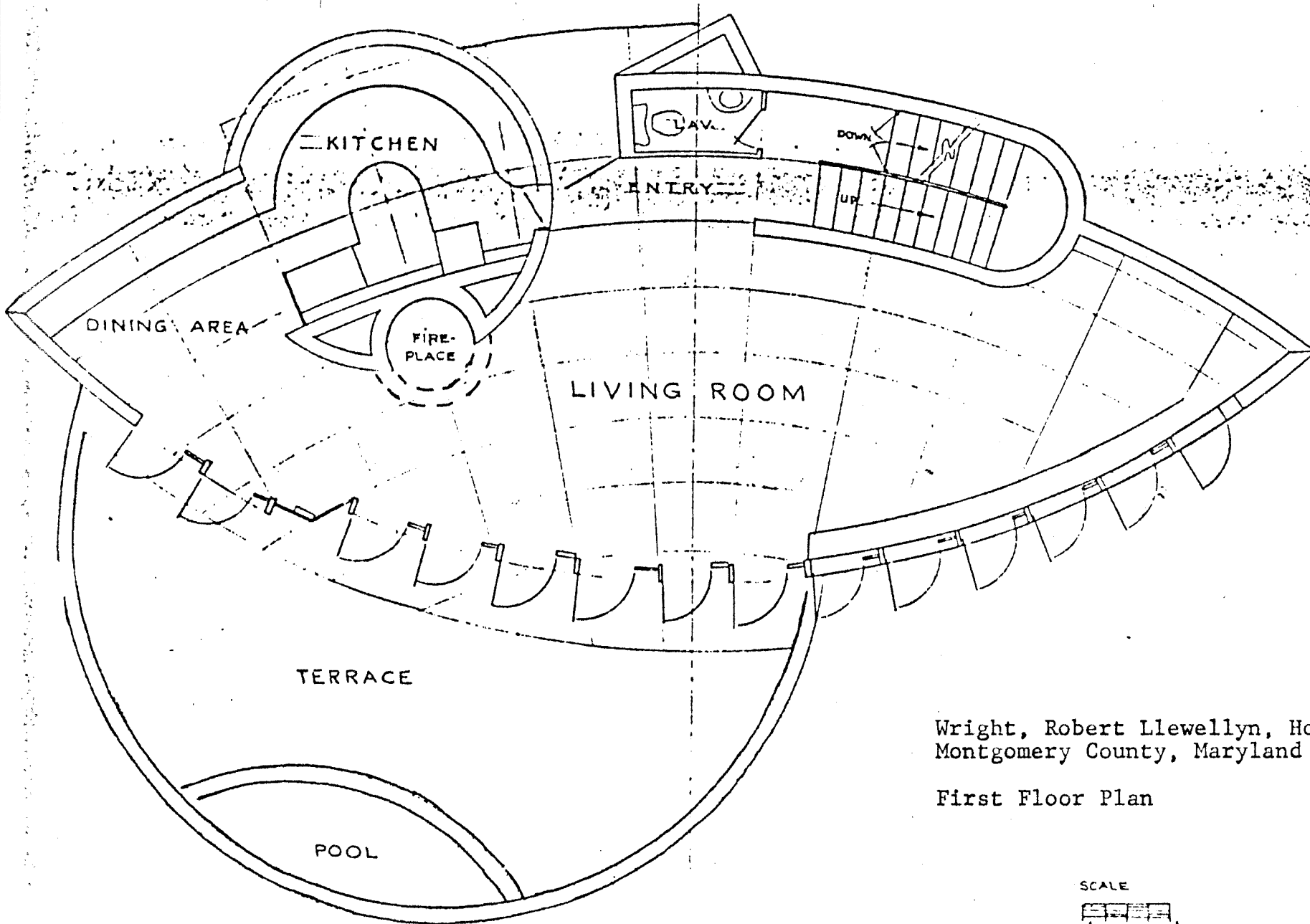
CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring STATE: Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National State Local

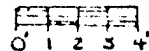
Signature _____



Wright, Robert Llewellyn, House
 Montgomery County, Maryland

First Floor Plan

SCALE



M:29-44

M:29-44

DEEPWELL DRIVE

S 22° 50' 24" W
41.99'

67° 00' 00" W
273.20'

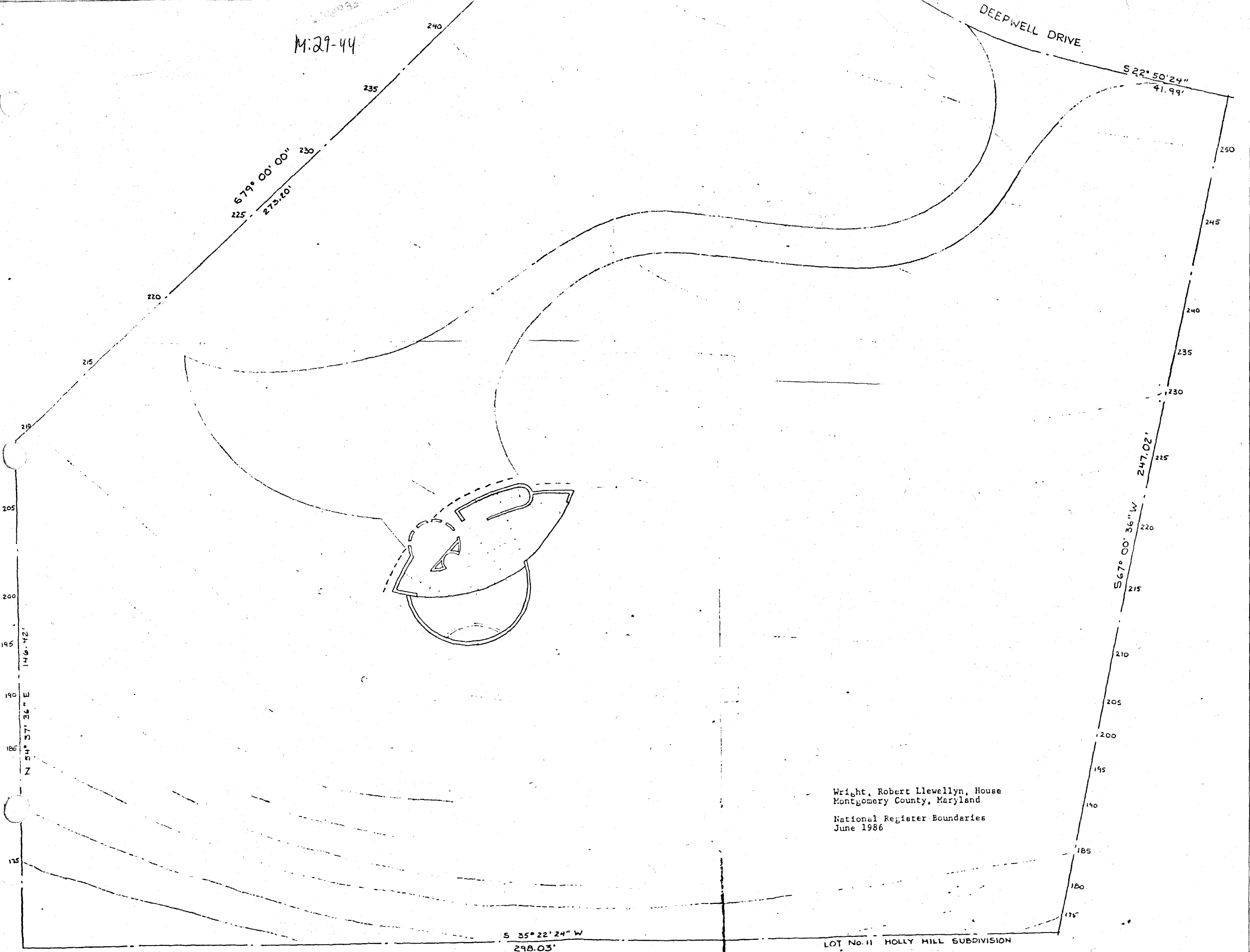
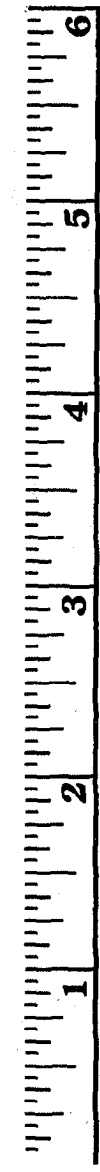
247.02'

S 67° 00' 36" W

S 35° 22' 24" W
298.03'

LOT No. 11 HOLLY HILL SUBDIVISION

Wright, Robert Llewellyn, House
Montgomery County, Maryland
National Register Boundaries
June 1986



M:29-44

Rockville Quad

Easement

PLAT No 2239

WILLIAM HITE

CURVE TABLE

No.	Radius	Chords	Dist. Chords	Area	Center Distance	Chords	Dist. Chords	Area	Center Distance
1	100.00	100.00	100.00	15708.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	15708.00	100.00
2	200.00	200.00	200.00	62832.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	62832.00	200.00
3	300.00	300.00	300.00	141372.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	141372.00	300.00
4	400.00	400.00	400.00	251328.00	400.00	400.00	400.00	251328.00	400.00
5	500.00	500.00	500.00	392700.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	392700.00	500.00
6	600.00	600.00	600.00	565512.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	565512.00	600.00
7	700.00	700.00	700.00	770784.00	700.00	700.00	700.00	770784.00	700.00
8	800.00	800.00	800.00	1008528.00	800.00	800.00	800.00	1008528.00	800.00
9	900.00	900.00	900.00	1278672.00	900.00	900.00	900.00	1278672.00	900.00
10	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1582224.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1582224.00	1000.00
11	1100.00	1100.00	1100.00	1920288.00	1100.00	1100.00	1100.00	1920288.00	1100.00
12	1200.00	1200.00	1200.00	2292864.00	1200.00	1200.00	1200.00	2292864.00	1200.00
13	1300.00	1300.00	1300.00	2700960.00	1300.00	1300.00	1300.00	2700960.00	1300.00
14	1400.00	1400.00	1400.00	3144576.00	1400.00	1400.00	1400.00	3144576.00	1400.00
15	1500.00	1500.00	1500.00	3623712.00	1500.00	1500.00	1500.00	3623712.00	1500.00
16	1600.00	1600.00	1600.00	4138368.00	1600.00	1600.00	1600.00	4138368.00	1600.00
17	1700.00	1700.00	1700.00	4688544.00	1700.00	1700.00	1700.00	4688544.00	1700.00
18	1800.00	1800.00	1800.00	5274240.00	1800.00	1800.00	1800.00	5274240.00	1800.00
19	1900.00	1900.00	1900.00	5895456.00	1900.00	1900.00	1900.00	5895456.00	1900.00
20	2000.00	2000.00	2000.00	6552192.00	2000.00	2000.00	2000.00	6552192.00	2000.00
21	2100.00	2100.00	2100.00	7244448.00	2100.00	2100.00	2100.00	7244448.00	2100.00
22	2200.00	2200.00	2200.00	7972224.00	2200.00	2200.00	2200.00	7972224.00	2200.00
23	2300.00	2300.00	2300.00	8735536.00	2300.00	2300.00	2300.00	8735536.00	2300.00
24	2400.00	2400.00	2400.00	9534384.00	2400.00	2400.00	2400.00	9534384.00	2400.00
25	2500.00	2500.00	2500.00	10368768.00	2500.00	2500.00	2500.00	10368768.00	2500.00

ENGINEER'S CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the plan shown herein is correct; that it is a subdivision of part of the land conveyed by O. Hamilton Collier and George George Collier, his wife, to Henry H. Glass, Jr. and Davidson Caffery Glass, heirs at common by deed dated 27th day of November 1941, and recorded in the Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland, in Liber 611 of Page 155, and that streets named hereon, and any other matters hereon have been placed as indicated.

Date: August 25, 1948.

DEDICATION

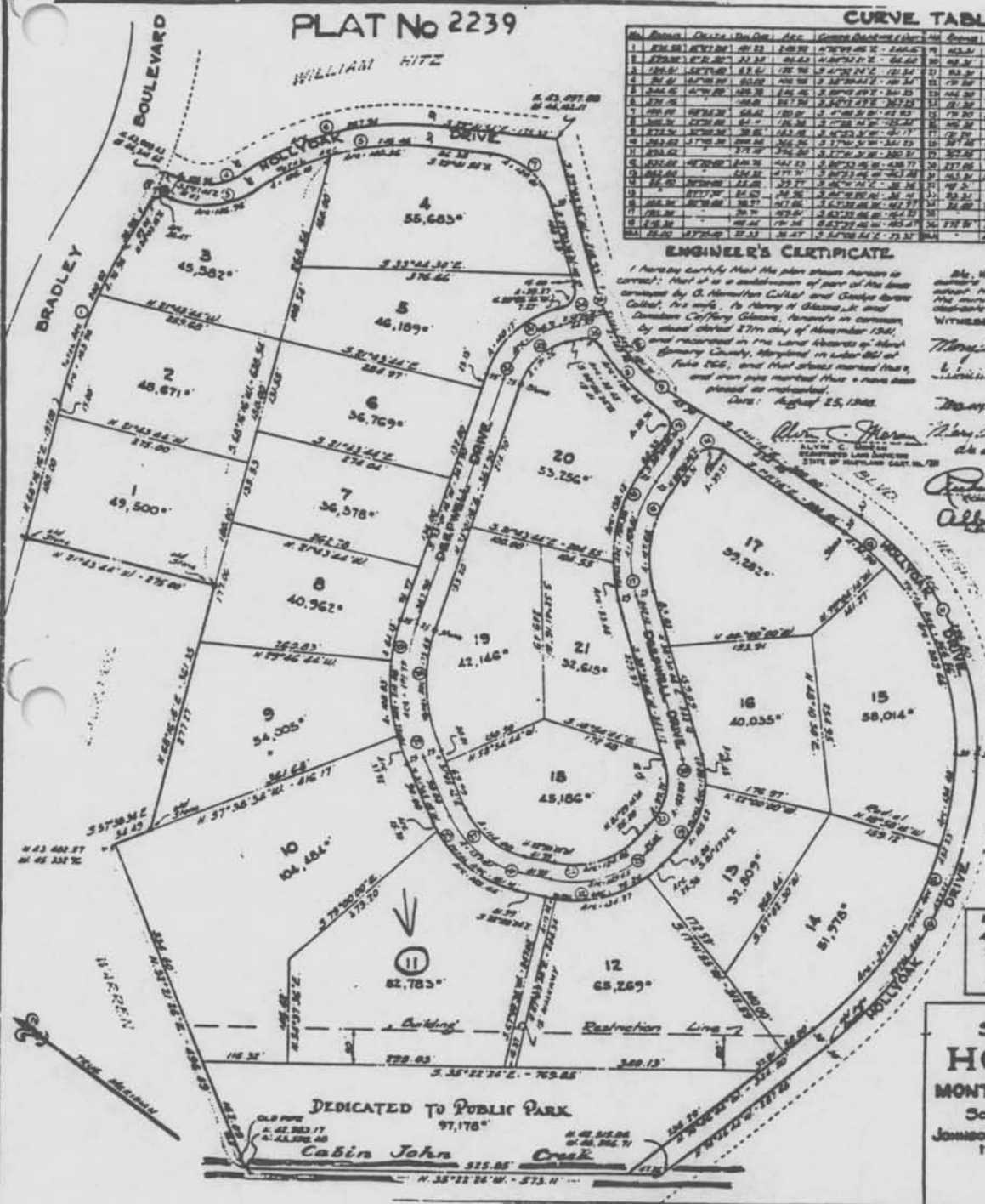
We, Henry H. Glass, Jr. and Davidson C. Glass, owners of the property described herein, hereby dedicate the part of said property described herein to the public use as a public park, and hereby agree to place on record the plan of said dedication.

Witness: _____ Date: August 25, 1948.

Henry H. Glass, Jr. _____
Davidson C. Glass _____

Witness: _____

Albany B. Baine, A-22-48
Notary Public
Montgomery County, Md.



THE MARYLAND HISTORICAL CAPITAL PARK & PLANNING COMMISSION

Approved: SEPT. 3, 1948

James J. Hines, Chairman
John F. Dickler, Secretary

WASHINGTON SUBDIVISION DISTRICT

Approved: SEPT. 15, 1948

SUITABLE FOR WATER AND SEWER CONDUITS WITHOUT COMMITMENT AS TO INSTALLATION

Harry H. Shaw, Secretary

SUBDIVISION of
HOLLY HILL
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD.
SCALE 1"=100' AUGUST 1948.
JOHNSON & WILLIAMS, CONSULTING ENGINEERS
1227-19th STREET N.W.,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

ROBERT LLEWELLYN WRIGHT HOUSE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY

EASEMENT EXHIBIT NO. A, Page 2 of 37

SIGNED ORIGINAL ON FILE WITH THE M.H.T.

Subdivision Plat

SCALE:
PREPARED: MOB 6/99

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

GRANTOR

GRANTEE

M:29-44

EXHIBIT B
ROBERT LLEWELLYN WRIGHT HOUSE
Montgomery County, Maryland

REAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

Being all that lot or parcel of land, designated as Lot # 11 in the Subdivision of Holly Hill, dated August, 1948, as surveyed by Johnson & Williams, Consulting Engineers, which is recorded in Plat Book 34, Plat No. 2239, one of the Land Records for Montgomery County, Maryland.

Being the same property conveyed by Deed dated September 9, 1992 and recorded November 16, 1992 in Liber 10840, folio 321 in the Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland.



Maryland
Department of
Housing and
Community
Development

Michael O. Bourne
Easement Administrator
Maryland Historical Trust

100 Community Place
Crownsville, Maryland 21032-2023
410-514-7633 • 1-800-756-0119
Fax: 410-987-4071
bourne@dhcd.state.md.us
<http://www.dhcd.state.md.us>

M: 79-44

Click here for a plain text ADA compliant screen.



Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
 Real Property Data Search

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[New Search](#)

Account Identifier: District - 10 Account Number - 00865496

Owner Information

Owner Name: WRIGHT, THOMAS L ET AL TR **Use:** RESIDENTIAL
Principal Residence: YES
Mailing Address: 7927 DEEPWELL DR **Deed Reference:** 1) /18891/ 200
 BETHESDA MD 20817 2)

Location & Structure Information

Premises Address: 7927 DEEPWELL DR **Zoning:** R200 **Legal Description:** HOLLY HILL
 BETHESDA 20817

Map	Grid	Parcel	Sub District	Subdivision	Section	Block	Lot	Group	Plat No:	Plat Ref:
GP21				1			11	81		
Special Tax Areas			Town Ad Valorem Tax Class							
			42							
Primary Structure Built			Enclosed Area	Property Land Area		County Use				
1957			1,814 SF	82,783.00 SF		111				
Stories	Basement		Type			Exterior				
2	NO		STANDARD UNIT			BLOCK				

Value Information

	Base Value	Phase-in Assessments		
		As Of 01/01/2002	As Of 07/01/2003	As Of 07/01/2004
Land:	261,390	301,390		
Improvements:	191,350	220,430		
Total:	452,740	521,820	498,792	521,820
Preferential Land:	0	0	0	0

Transfer Information

Seller: WRIGHT, ELIZABETH K ET AL TR **Date:** 03/15/2001 **Price:** \$0
Type: NOT ARMS-LENGTH **Deed1:** /18891/ 200 **Deed2:**
Seller: **Date:** 11/16/1992 **Price:** \$0
Type: NOT ARMS-LENGTH **Deed1:** /10840/ 321 **Deed2:**
Seller: **Date:** **Price:**
Type: **Deed1:** **Deed2:**

Exemption Information

Partial Exempt Assessments	Class	07/01/2003	07/01/2004
County	000	0	0
State	000	0	0
Municipal	000	0	0

Tax Exempt: NO
Exempt Class:

Special Tax Recapture:

* NONE *

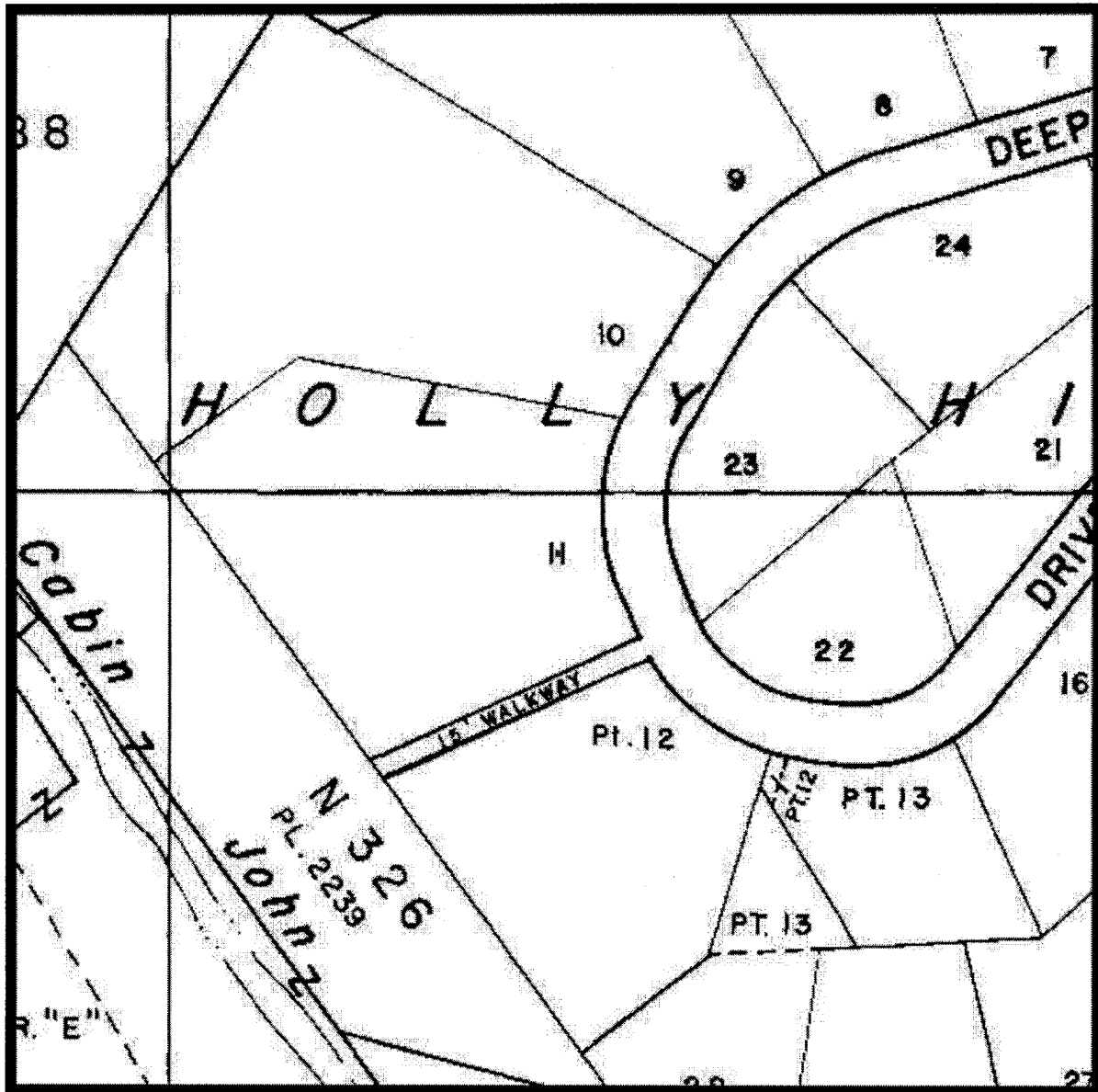
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Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
Real Property Data Search

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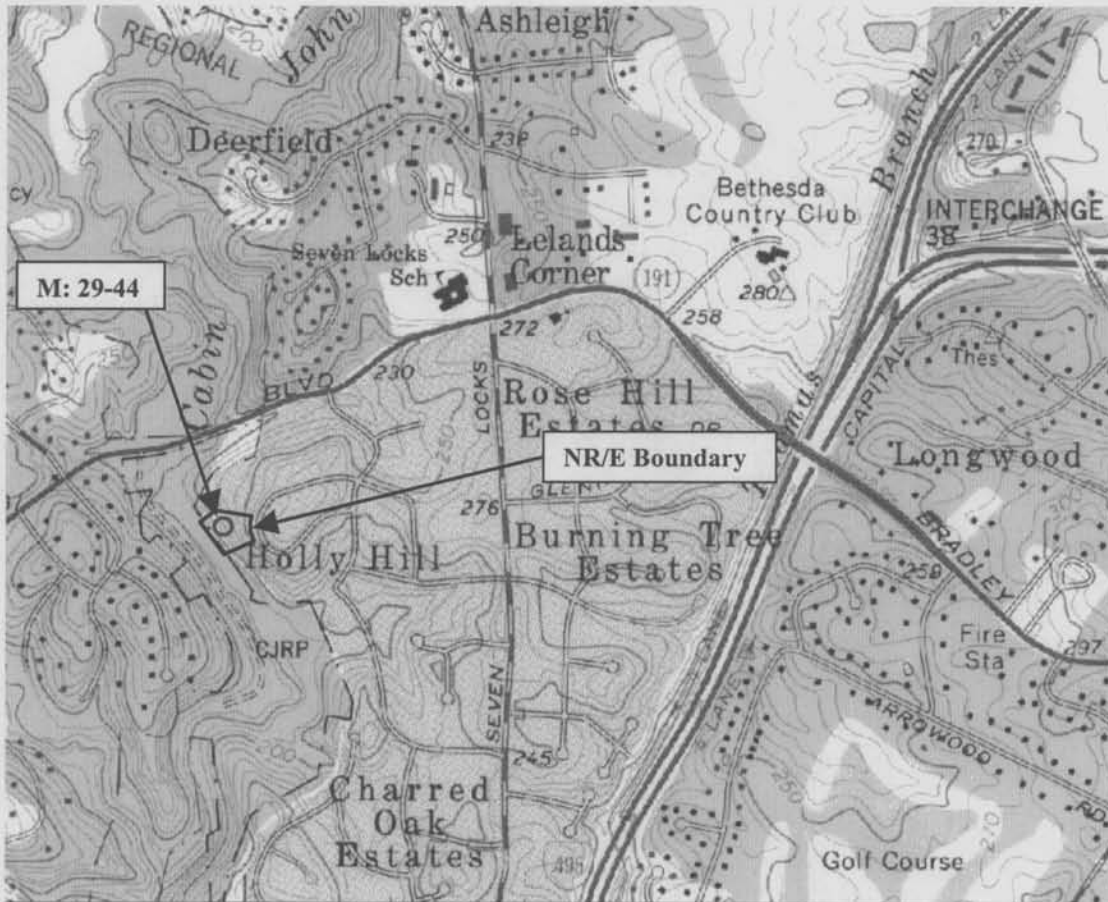
District - 10 Account Number - 00865496



Property maps provided courtesy of the Maryland Department of Planning ©2001.

For more information on electronic mapping applications, visit the Maryland Department of Planning web site at www.mdp.state.md.us/webcom/index.html

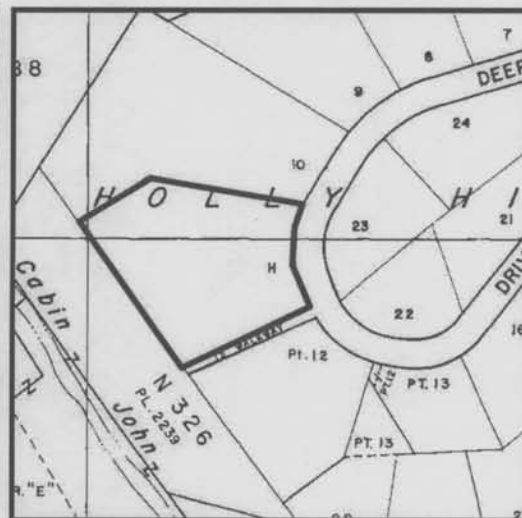
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 Robert Llewellyn Wright House
 7927 Deepwell Drive, Bethesda
 Rockville Quadrangle



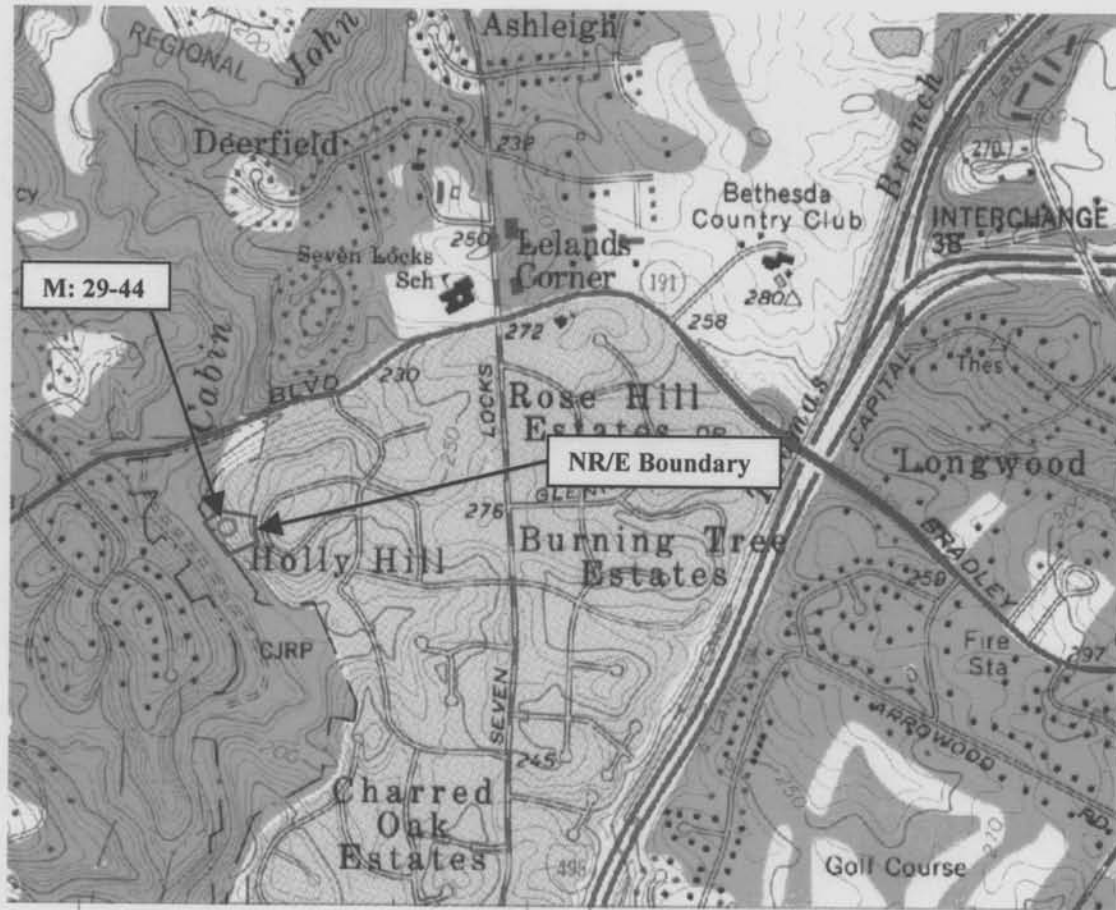
1993-94 Aerial Photo



Tax Map GP21



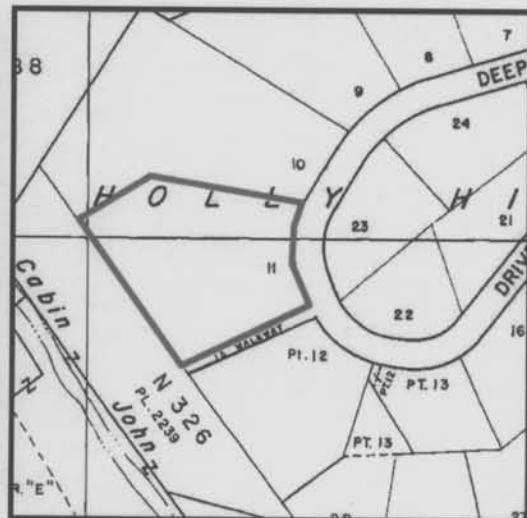
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 Robert Llewellyn Wright House
 7927 Deepwell Drive, Bethesda
 Rockville Quadrangle



1993-94 Aerial Photo



Tax Map GP21



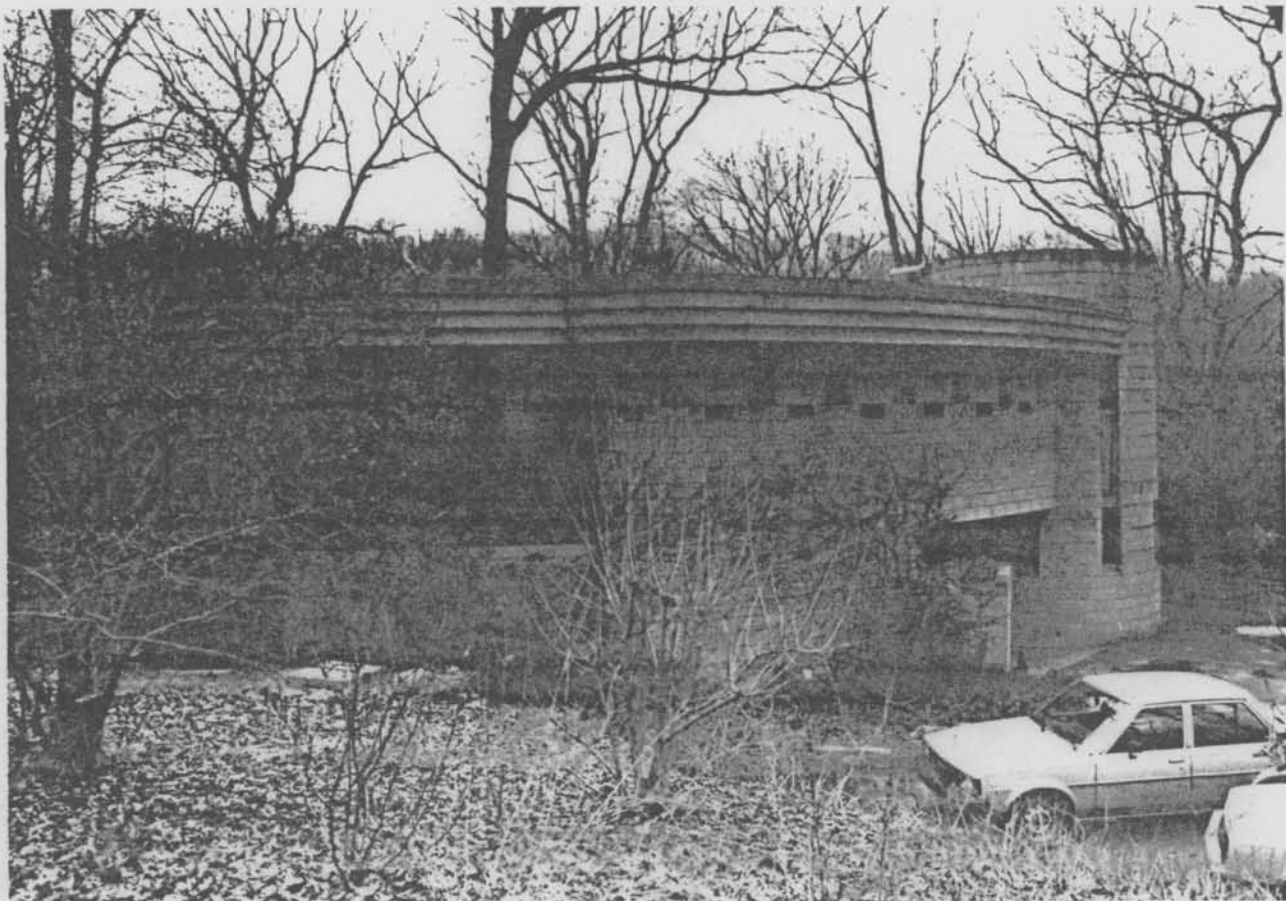
M:29-44



Wright, Robert L., House
Montgomery County, Maryland
photo by Peter Kurtze, February 1985
negative at Maryland Historical Trust
north facade
#1 of 12

Wright, Robert L., House
Montgomery County, Maryland
photo by Peter Kurtze, February 1985
negative at Maryland Historical Trust
view from northeast
#2 of 12

M: 29-44



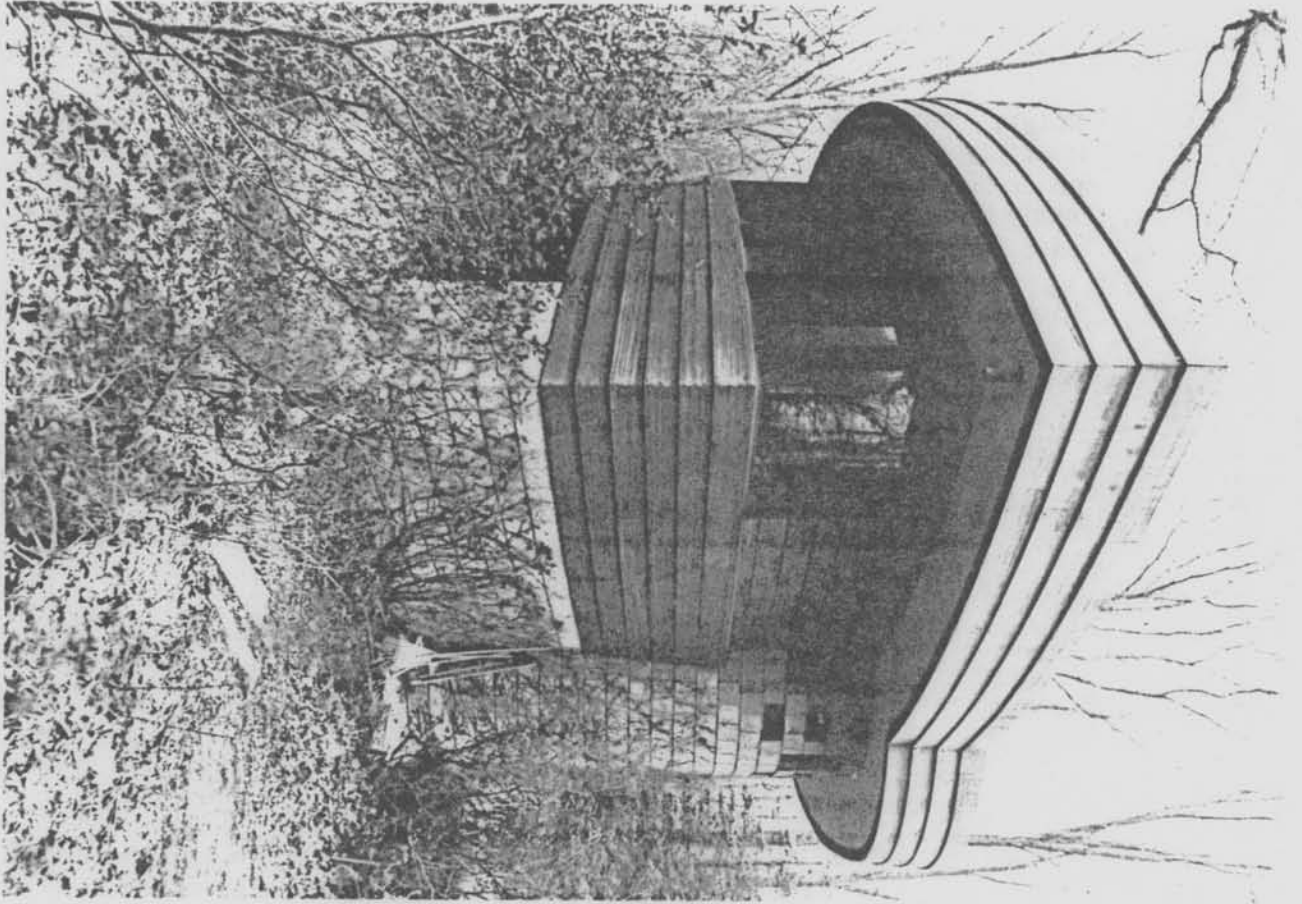
Wright, Robert L., House
Montgomery County, Maryland
photo by Peter Kurtze, February 1985
negative at Maryland Historical Trust
view from northeast

#3 of 12

Wright, Robert L., House
Montgomery County, Maryland
photo by Peter Kurtze, February 1985
negative at Maryland Historical Trust
view from southeast

#4 of 12

M:29-44



Wright, Robert L. House
Montgomery County, Maryland
photo by Peter Kurtze, February 1985
negative at Maryland Historical Trust
east end showing mitered window

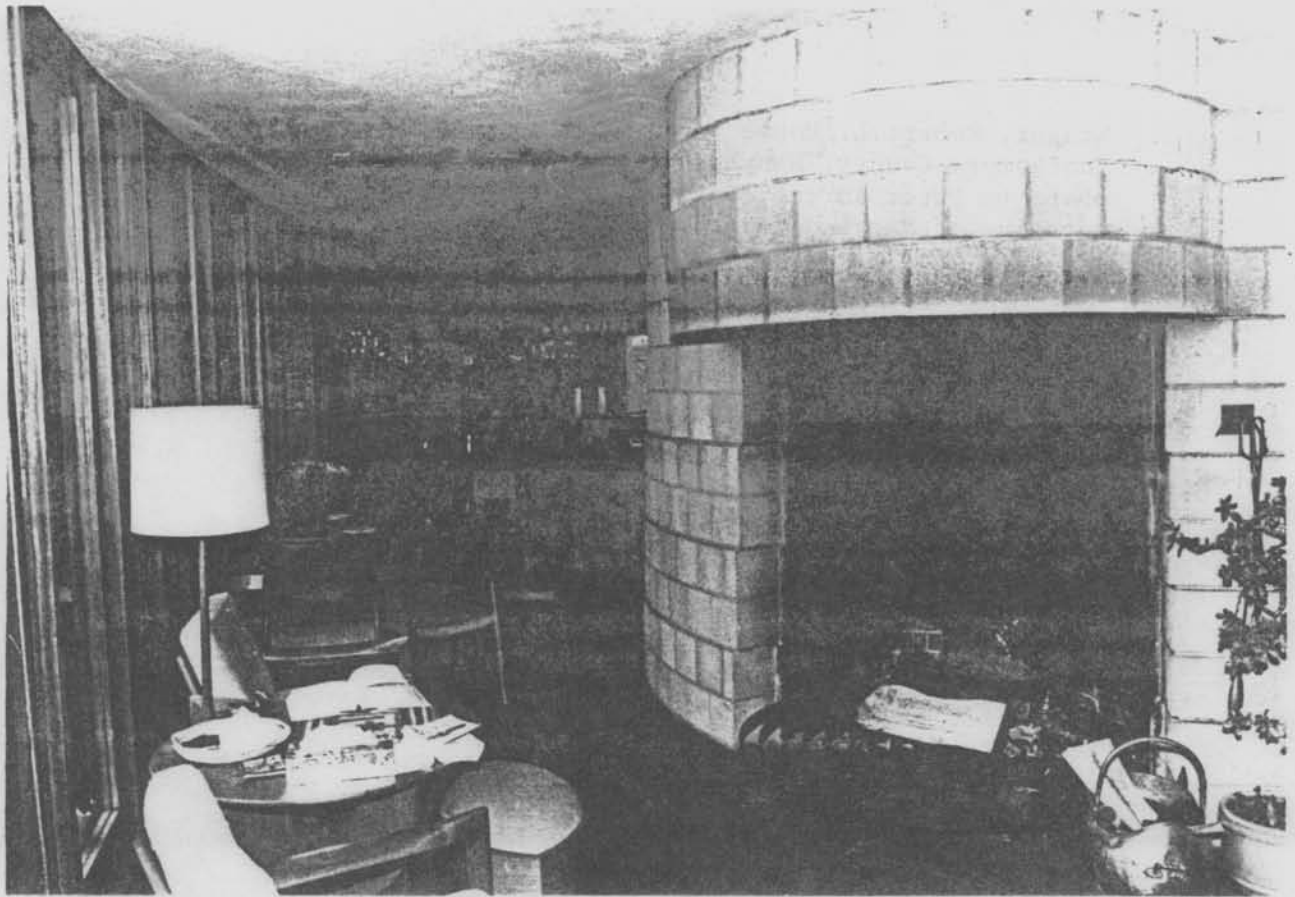
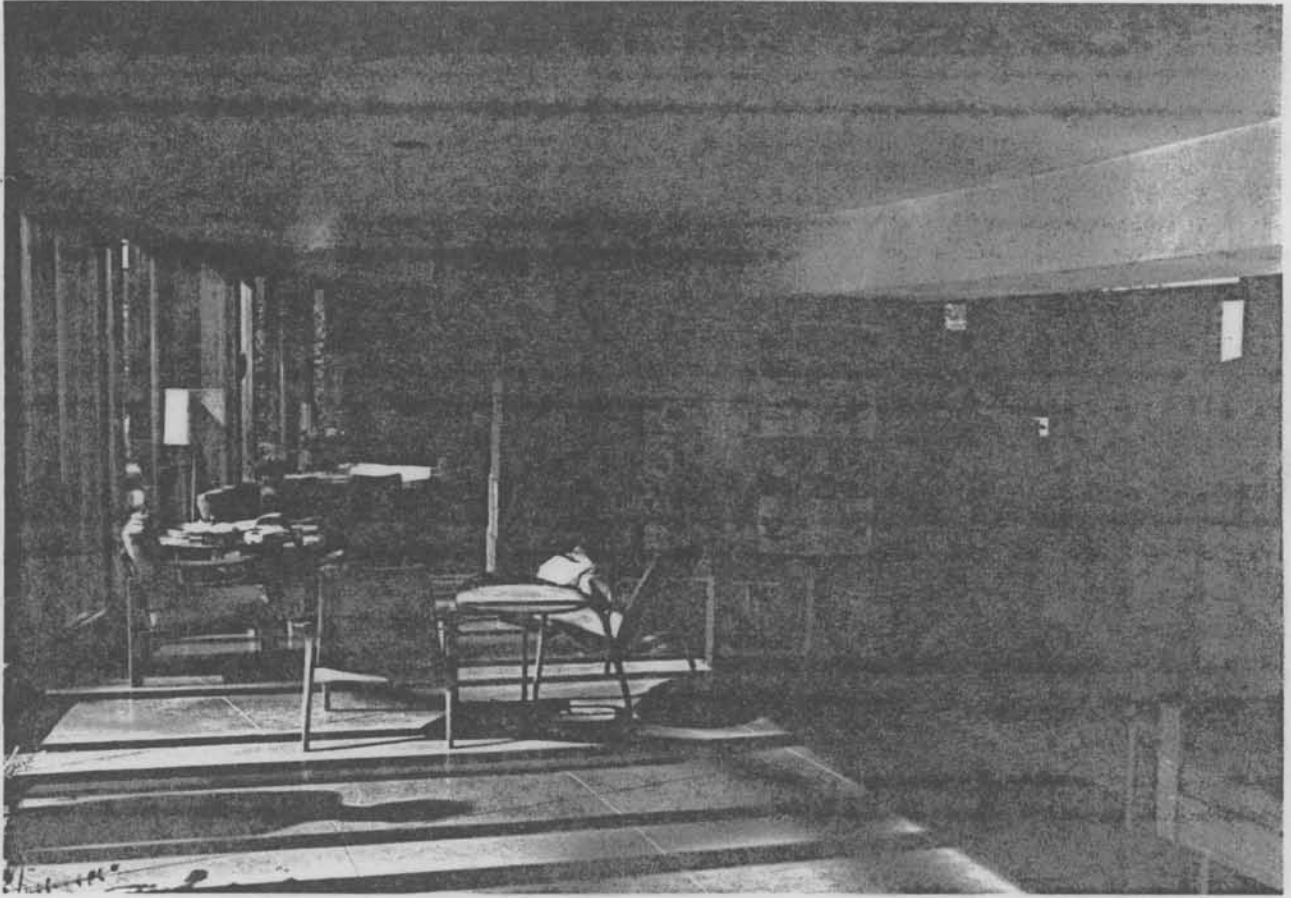
#5 of 12

Wright, Robert L., House
Montgomery County, Maryland
photo by Peter Kurtze, February 1985
negative at Maryland Historical Trust

living room, facing east

#6 of 12

M:29-44



Wright, Robert L., House
Montgomery County, Maryland
photo by Peter Kurtze, February 1985
negative at Maryland Historical Trust

living room, facing west

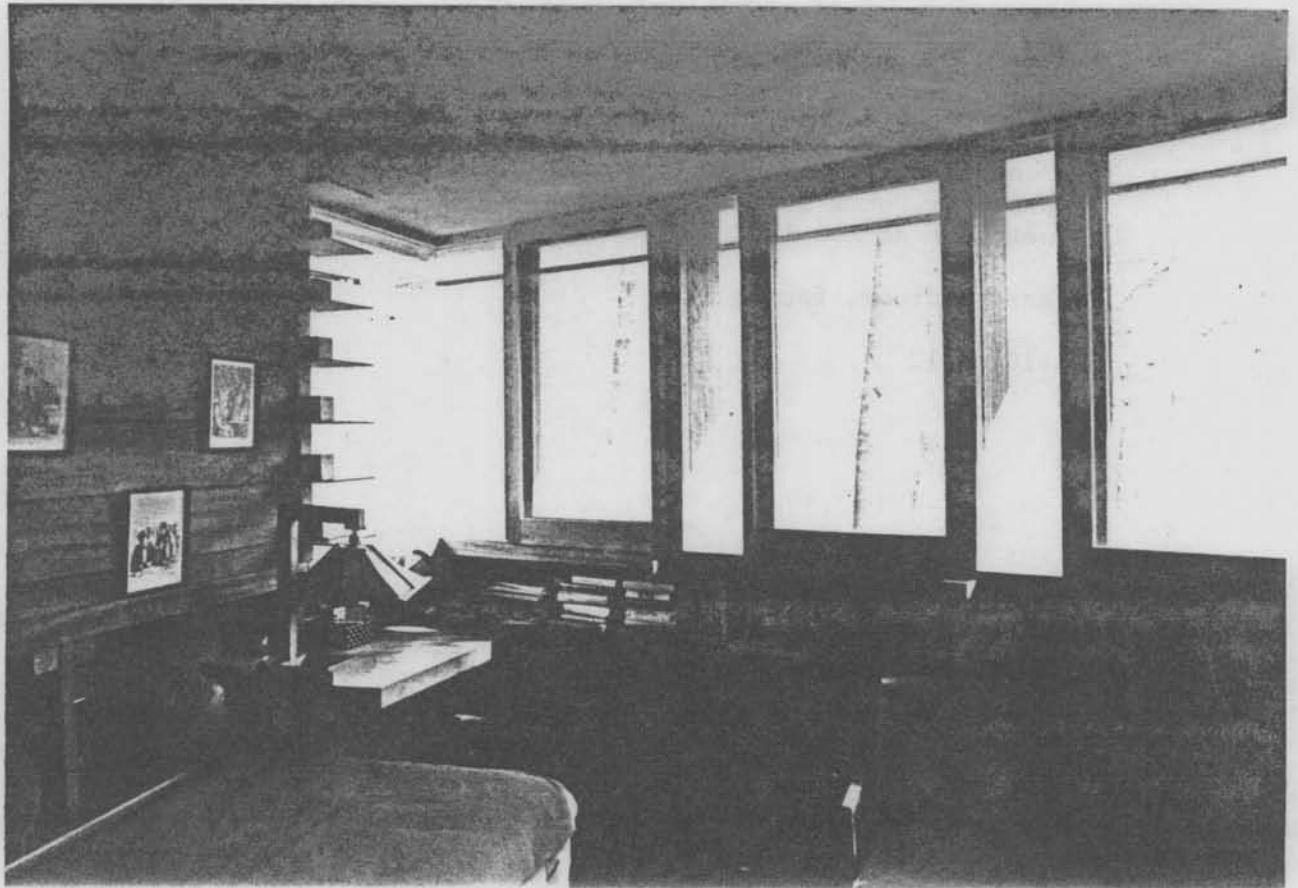
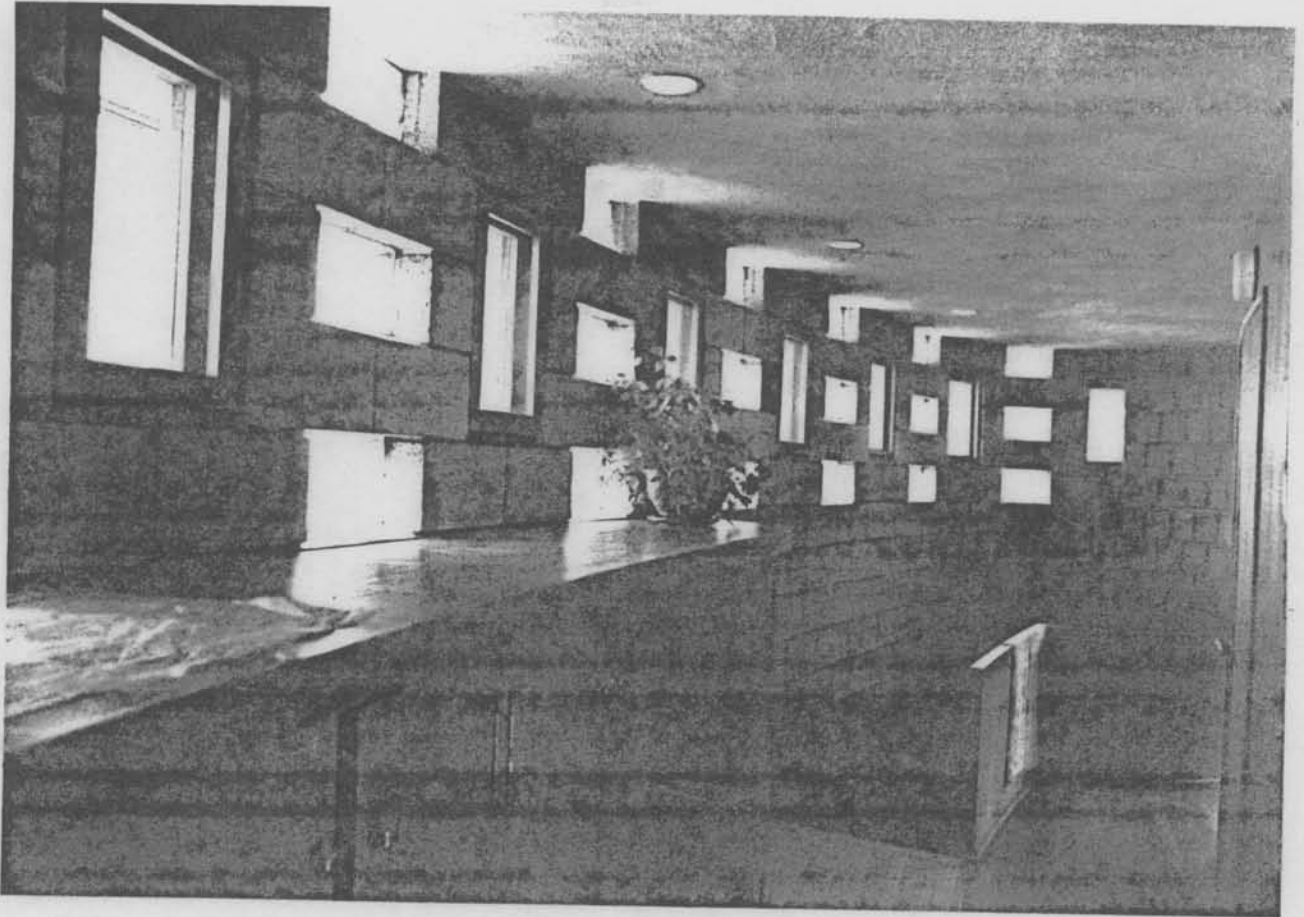
#7 of 12

Wright, Robert L., House
Montgomery County, Maryland
photo by Peter Kurtze, February 1985
negative at Maryland Historical Trust

hearth and dining area, facing west

#8 of 12

M:29-44



Wright, Robert L., House
Montgomery County, Maryland
photo by Peter Kurtze, February 1985
negative at Maryland Historical Trust

second-floor hallway, facing east

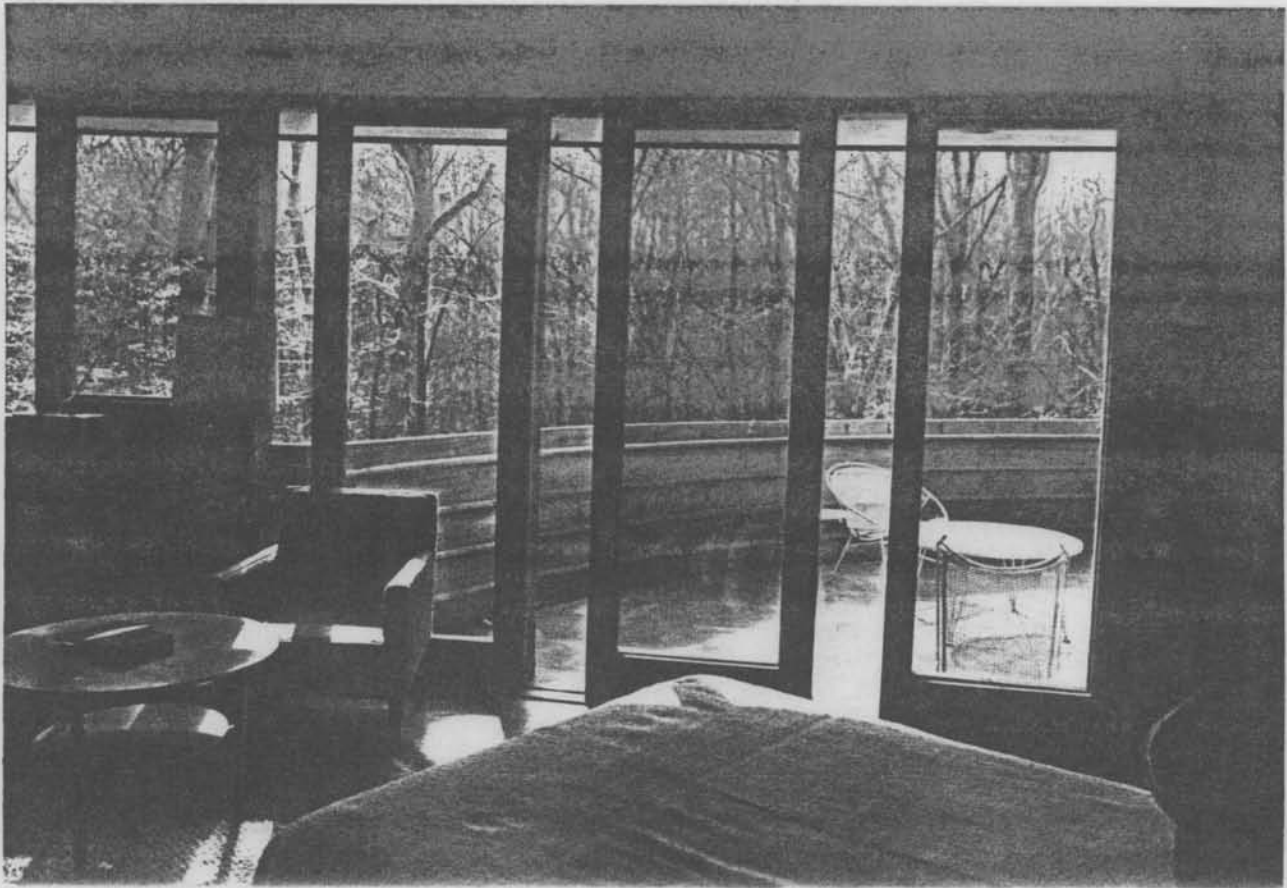
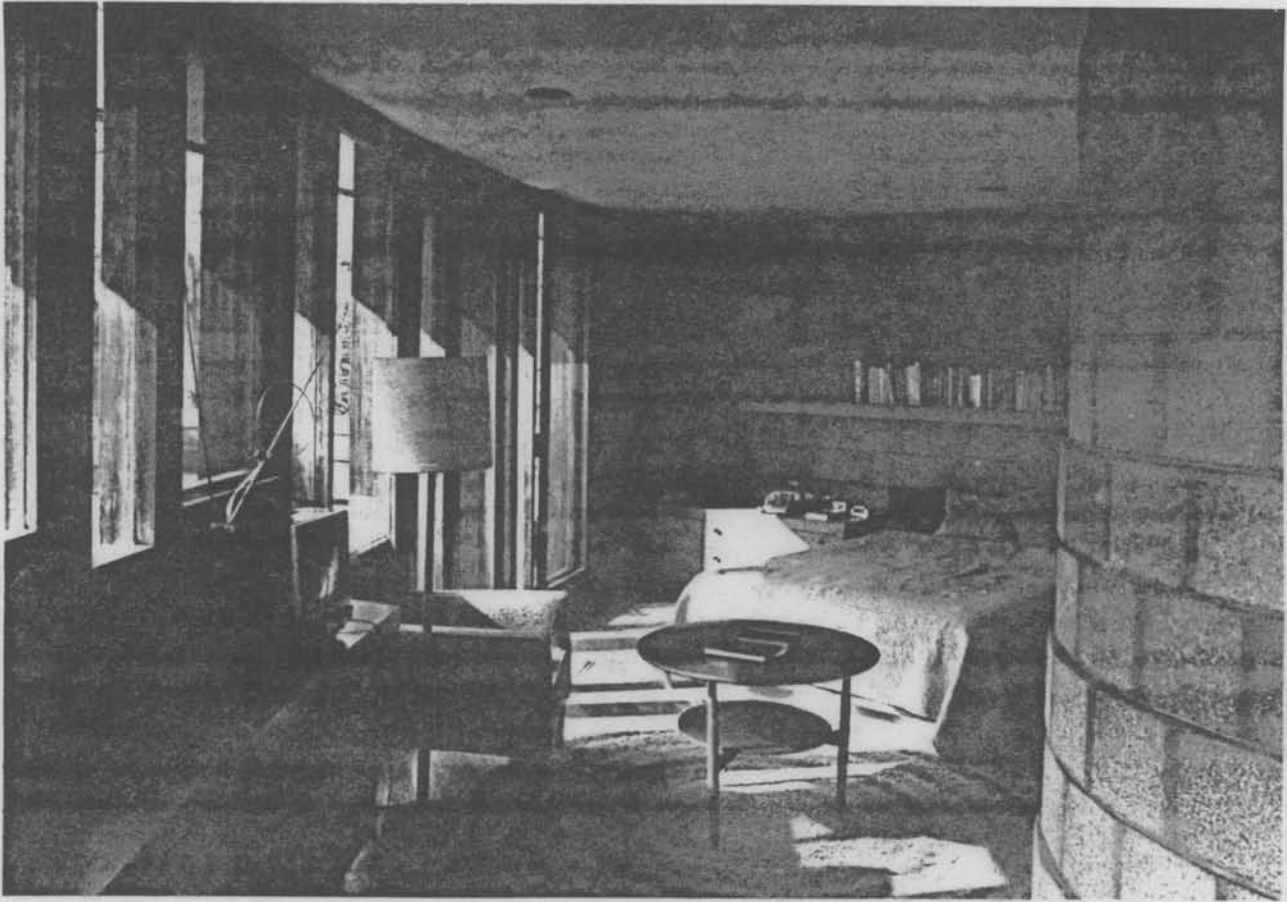
#9 of 12

Wright, Robert L., House
Montgomery County, Maryland
photo by Peter Kurtze, February 1985
negative at Maryland Historical Trust

east bedroom, facing east

#10 of 12

M:29-44



Wright, Robert L., House
Montgomery County, Maryland
photo by Peter Kurtze, February 1985
negative at Maryland Historical Trust

master (west) bedroom, facing northwest

#11 of 12

Wright, Robert L., House
Montgomery County, Maryland
photo by Peter Kurtze, February 1985
negative at Maryland Historical Trust

balcony off master bedroom, facing southwest

#12 of 12



#29-44

NAME FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT HOUSE

LOCATION 7927 DEEDWELL DR BETHESDA, Md

FACADE SE

PHOTO TAKEN: 4/23/75 MOWYER