

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC JOHN GAULER HOUSES
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 5917
~~5919~~ - 5921 NORTH MAGNOLIA AVENUE NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN CHICAGO VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE ILLINOIS CODE COUNTY COOK CODE

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 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	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME IRVING P. LETCHINGER and JOSEPH KOVALCHIK
STREET & NUMBER 5921 N. MAGNOLIA AVENUE and ~~5919~~ 5917 N. MAGNOLIA AVENUE
CITY, TOWN CHICAGO VICINITY OF STATE ILLINOIS

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. COOK COUNTY COURTHOUSE
STREET & NUMBER 318 NORTH CLARK STREET
CITY, TOWN CHICAGO STATE ILLINOIS

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE J1755
DATE 1972-1975 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS ~~COOK COUNTY COURTHOUSE~~ Dept. of Conservation
CITY, TOWN ~~CHICAGO~~ Springfield STATE ILLINOIS

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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

Physical Description

The John Gauler Houses are located at 5919 and ~~5921~~⁵⁹¹⁷ North Magnolia Street on the east side. The 33 1/3 foot lots are adjacent to the corner lot. The houses are mirror images of each other and together form a detached duplex housing scheme. Their main entrances, on the inner side of each, share a common sidewalk. The houses are rectangular in shape with a rectangular porch projecting from the front toward the street. Their longitudinal axes are perpendicular to the street. Hip roofs of double pitch with wide overhangs at the front and back cover the houses and porches. Exterior walls are stucco trimmed with roughsawn dark-stained wood. The windows are casements stained a dark brown. Each house is sited 12 feet from the sidewalk on a stucco-covered foundation.

The interior is arranged with bedrooms and bath upstairs; living and dining rooms and kitchen on the first floor, all over a below grade basement. The entry foyer serves both the front and back doors of each house and thus opens into the living room and kitchen of each house. The character of the first floor is open with living and dining rooms interconnecting around the solid chimney and stair unit. The stairway is separated from the living room by a wooden screen. This screen forms an integral part of the molding scheme that ties the tops and bottoms of all the windows together in horizontal bands. This is a reflection of the exterior horizontal window bands. The ceiling molding produces a flat rectangular pattern that continues on the ceilings of the living and dining rooms in each house. All trim is oiled oak. The fireplace in the middle of the house has two openings, one into the living room, the other into the dining room. A horizontal molding on the walls about a foot below the ceiling passes just above the openings usually tying the wood screen and chimney to the outer walls. There are four bedrooms, all with windows contiguous to the outside corner.

The houses have only been slightly changed. Some bookcases were added by an earlier occupant who was a minister. Also, glass brick was added in place of some of the windows in both houses. The entrance of 5921 North Magnolia has been altered by moving the front door to the outermost limit of the building; and a half-bath has been added in the newly created space.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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 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 1909

BUILDER/ARCHITECT W. B. Griffin

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

After Wright, Walter Griffin was the best of the Prairie architects. Unlike Wright he had been trained as a landscape architect and usually attempted to give his buildings a well-considered siting. The Gauler Houses are thus significant for their unified composition by which Griffin tried to arrange city houses in groups that made the most effective use of valuable land.

Their design in a strong Prairie manner with geometric masses and linear articulation, and their early date, only two years after Griffin entered private practice, also make them significant architecturally.

History

The architect was Mr. Walter Burley Griffin. He was Frank Lloyd Wright's chief assistant until 1906. Griffin was a Prairie School architect who produced many important designs. The most significant was the first prize competition design for his city plan of the Capital of Australia, Canberra. Griffin designed these two houses for John Gauler who built them as speculation ventures in 1909. Gauler, who never lived in the houses, sold them as soon as they were finished in 1909 to Hen y C. Jones and George Elliot.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

~~Chicago Architectural Club Annual, 1909 and 1910~~

→ Prairie School Review, ^{VII (First Quarter, 1970)} Vol. VII, No. 1, Pages 5-13,

O'Connor, Peggy, "A Piece of Early Coffer Ceilings"

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 445220 4648720
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

D [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

not reported

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

~~JOHN JOSEPH MILLER JR.~~ *RAND SPAGAN*

JUNE 1, 1976

ORGANIZATION

~~UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS~~

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

~~2227 NORTH CLIFTON AVENUE~~

TELEPHONE

(312) 248-8228

CITY OR TOWN

~~CHICAGO~~

STATE

ILLINOIS

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

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER